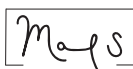


# FLYING PUPPETS



We will make a flying singing creature using bamboo and sound makers! In this project we will explore making an armature, we will color and draw, we will play with movement that mimics flight and we will create a hanging sculptural system inspired by mobiles.



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## TIPS

-Depending on the age of the students, you might want to spend some class time working on tying simple knots so that the kids can attach the strings to the puppets themselves.

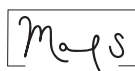
-Make sure to use plenty of glue and tape so that the puppet stays together when activated.

-Work on plastic especially during the gluing stage, this will ensure that the puppet peels off easily after being drenched in glue.

-Attach sound makers to the puppet AFTER the puppet is activated and videoed. The sound makers will sound beautiful when the puppet is hanging, but will fall off when students are playing with their puppet.

## MATERIALS

- watercolor paper
- black writing utensils
- tempera sticks
- roll of white paper, butcher paper works OR bulk fabric
- 3 pieces of bamboo
- masking tape
- scissors
- twine or string
- armature wire
- thin wire
- painters plastic
- black pipe cleaners
- white glue
- noise makers (chimes, bells, binder clips, paper clips, recycling, old spoons)
- colored wooden beads



# QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

What would you do if you could fly?

## RESOURCES

These are all sources that have inspired us! Google them and see what inspires you and your class.

### The history of kites

([www.kite.org/about-kites/history-of-kites/](http://www.kite.org/about-kites/history-of-kites/))

Chinese artist, **Xu Bing**, and his beautiful flying Phoenix sculptures

**Poncili Creación** No gods only flowers

**“mobiles”** in sculpture (Alexander Calder, Man Ray, aeolian harps, etc.)



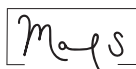
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# WARM UP



We're going to be creating flying puppets in this project, and a lot of flying creatures have feathers. So, to warm up we're going to think about feathers and play with patterns.

Make sure you have a few pieces of thick paper (like watercolor paper) and a variety of drawing instruments like markers, crayons, colored pencils, chalk or charcoal. To begin, we'll just be using the color black.



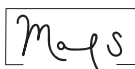
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WARM UP, cont'd.

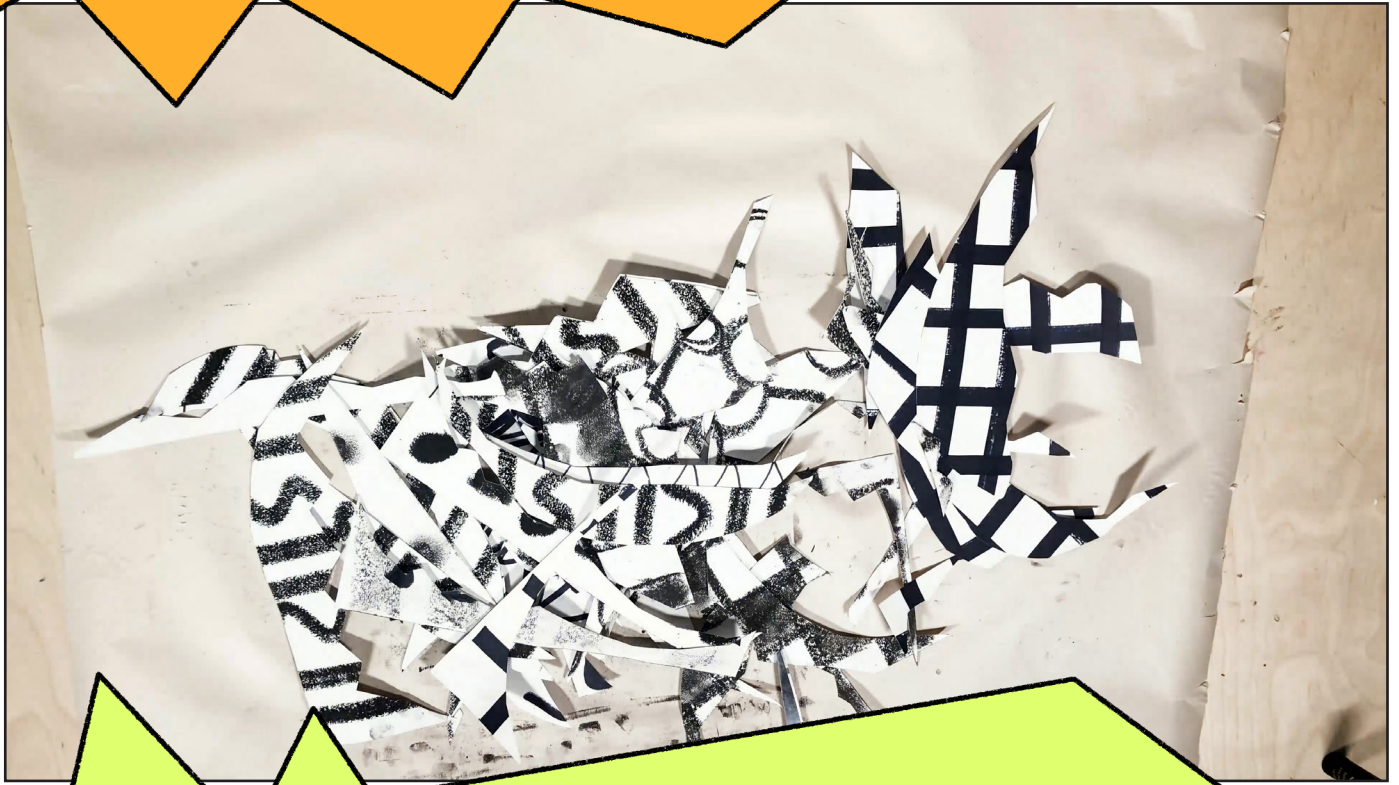


Start by designing patterns using different types of lines, dots and symbols.

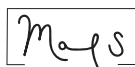


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WARM UP, cont'd.



When you've filled at least 6 pieces of paper with black and white patterns, cut them up into feather-like shapes. Gather them into a pile and keep them safe - we'll be using them later to make part of our puppet's body.

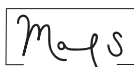


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1



Now it's time to build a frame for our puppet. Take two pieces of bamboo and lay them on top of each other to form a cross or "T" shape. Tape them together at the center where they overlap.



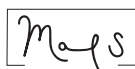
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2



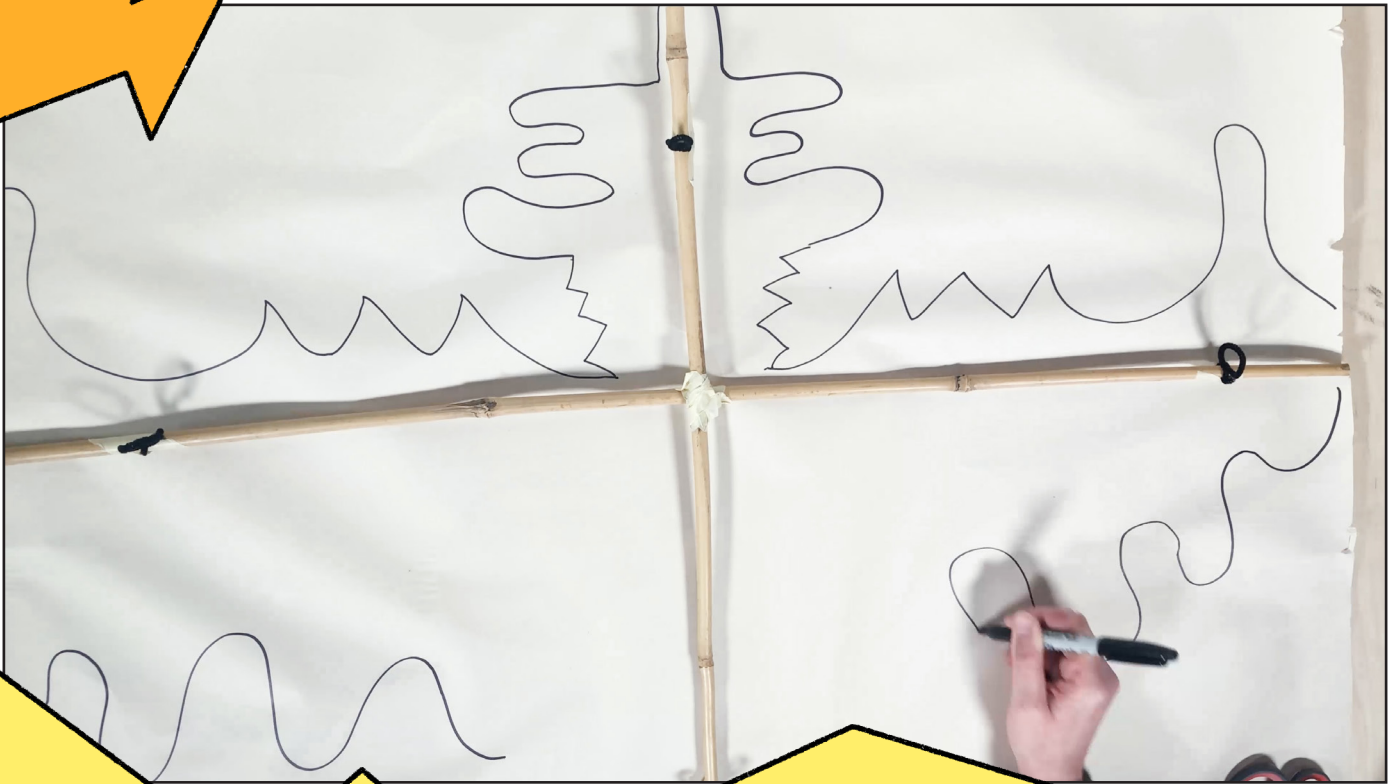
Cut your pipe cleaners in half and twist them into a circle. Attach these to the four ends of the bamboo by twisting and using masking tape. Later, we will use these loops to hang our flying creature.



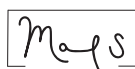
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3a



Now we're going to draw the outline of flying creatures. For this step you can use paper or fabric.



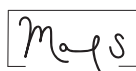
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3b



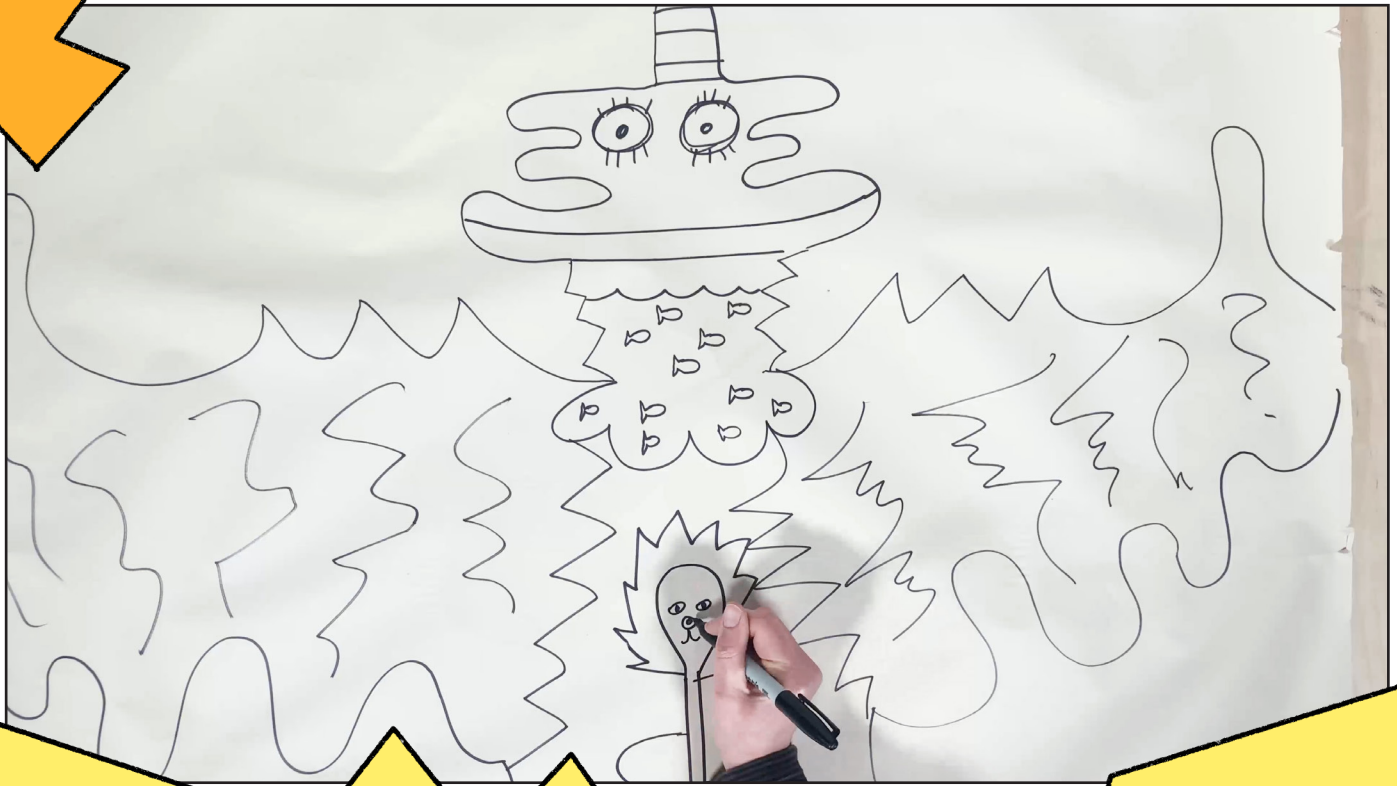
If you're using fabric, make a pattern first using brown paper, like you use when sewing. To make this type of pattern, lay the bamboo cross on a large piece of brown craft paper (or something similar) and draw the shape of your flying creature around the bamboo. You can think of the bamboo as your creature's skeleton.

When you're done drawing, lift up the bamboo and cut out your shape. You can now tape this paper to a large piece of fabric, trace around the outside and remove the paper.



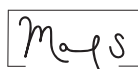
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4



When you're done drawing the silhouette, fill in the details. Draw some eyes, feathers, stripes or dots.

- you could even draw animals, plants or places on your puppet's body!



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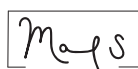
Once you've designed your puppet, it's time to color it in. You could use tempera sticks, watercolor, oil pastels, tempera paints - whatever you have will work. A combination of different materials always adds some special magic to artwork and makes the process more fun!



6



Cut out your puppet.

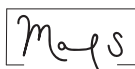


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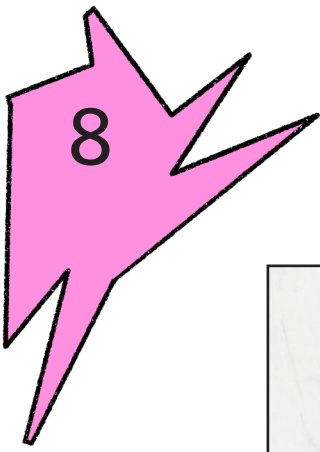
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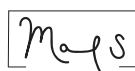
Prepare your workspace by laying down a piece of plastic. We're going to use a lot of glue, and the plastic will help protect the surface you are working on while also making sure it will peel off smoothly.



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Attach your puppet to the bamboo frame. Place your puppet's body face down on your work surface and lay the bamboo frame on top. Use masking tape to attach the frame to the paper or fabric body. Use plenty of tape in plenty of different spots!



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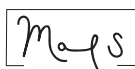
9



Apply a ton of glue all over your puppet to secure the bamboo armature to the body.



Take the black and white feathers from the warm-up project and stick them on. This will give your puppet structure and rigidity.



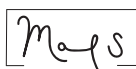
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10



Give the glue plenty of time to dry, 24 hours is ideal.



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Once dry, flip your puppet over to the colored side. Trim off any parts that you see sticking out from the back side.



Now let's add some string so that we can make these puppets fly. Attach four pieces of string, about 30 inches long, to the loops that you made with the pipe cleaners. When you've tied string to each loop, tie the four pieces together in the center. Test as you tie to make sure it hangs evenly. These four pieces of string will work together to counter-balance the puppets so they hang evenly.





Take your puppet outside and use your body to make it fly. Swoop and twirl. Run and leap. Dance and glide. Video your puppet flying.







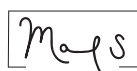
Once you are done activating your puppet, we will create a way to hang and display it. Flying creatures often make interesting sounds, so we'll need to add some sound-makers to our hanging system.

Find different types of metal objects and recycling that make interesting clanky sounds. These could be old spoons, binder clips, key rings, paper clips, chimes, bells - anything that makes a sound.

15

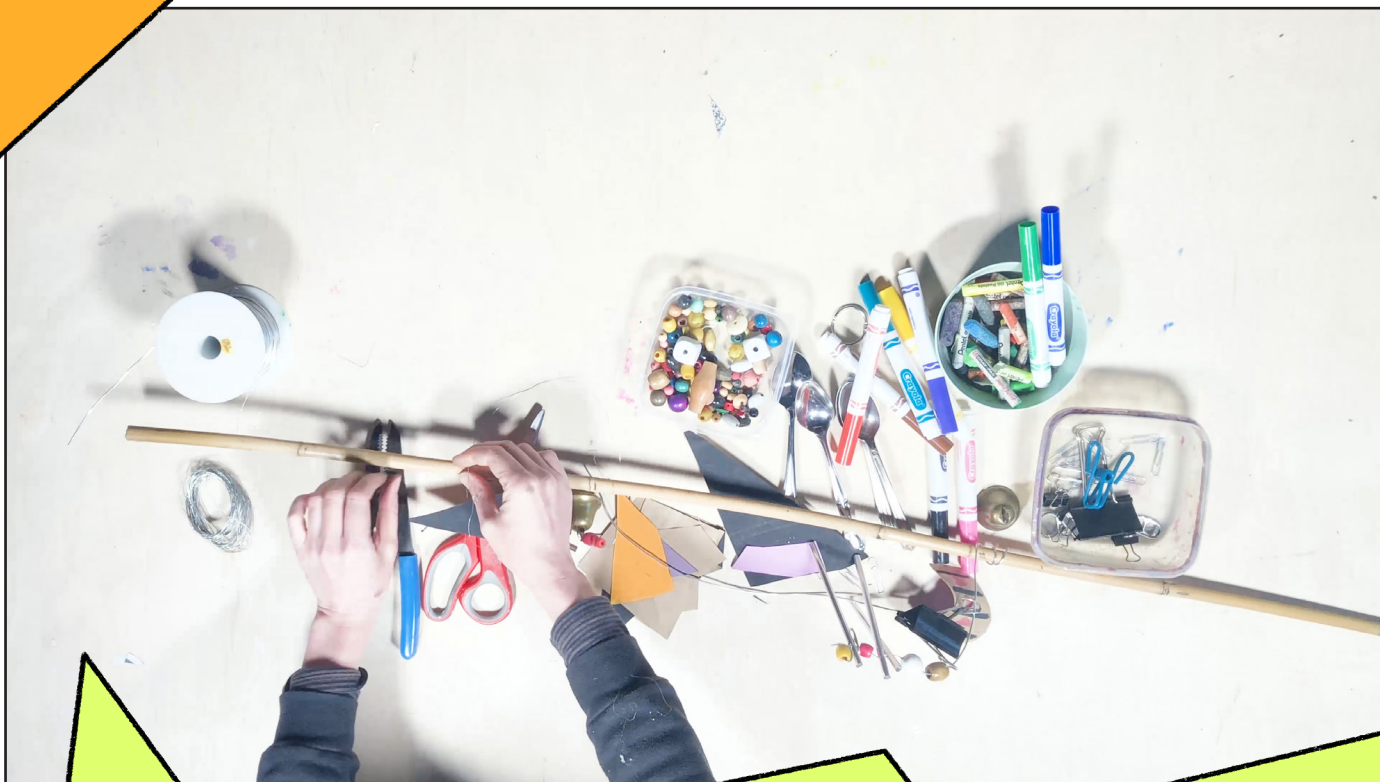


Thread these sound makers to wire, along with any embellishments such as beads or small drawings. You could draw things your puppet loves, like food, and attach them to the wire with a binder clip or simply by making a hole and threading it through.

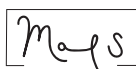


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16



Attach the wire that has the sound makers to the third piece of bamboo. Then attach your puppet to this bamboo using two pieces of string to counter-balance the sides.



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Find a place to hang and display your flying puppet and listen to the sounds it makes as it floats through the air.

