

# COLLAGE BUTTERFLIES

Featuring artist Abdoulaye Konaté



Abdoulaye Konaté, *Métamorphose de papillon*, 2017, textile,  
85  $\frac{7}{8}$  x 72  $\frac{7}{8}$  inches, Tang purchase

## LOOK

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**The Tang Museum is dedicated to art and ideas. All art can spark new ideas and inspire creativity!**

- 1. Look closely** at Abdoulaye Konaté's *Métamorphose de papillon*, pictured on the previous page. What do you notice? What colors, shapes, and patterns do you see? What materials do you think the artist used? How do you think it was put together?
- 2. Reflect:** This is an example of a textile artwork, which means it was made by cloth or fabric. How are textiles used in everyday life? The artist dyed his own fabric and sewed them together to make this large artwork. The colors he used are specific to the region where he lives. What colors and designs would you choose for your own textile piece?

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

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Artist Abdoulaye Konaté (pronounced Ab-doo-lay Koh-nah-tay) lives and works in Bamako, the capital city of Mali, a country in western Africa. His textiles often explore society, nature, history, cultures, and religions of Africa.

## MAKE

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**Art Projects—feel free to be flexible with these ideas!**

**Suggested Materials:** Pencil, Felt/fabric, magazines, newspapers, colored pencils, markers, cardstock paper, construction paper

**Collage: Butterflies and Migration**

1. Gather fabrics like felt or use colored paper in your favorite colors and cut them into long strips similar to the pieces of fabric in Konaté's artwork.
2. Take a piece of paper, in the color of your choice, and fold it in half horizontally.
3. Draw the outline of a butterfly wing, with the folded edge as the "body" of the butterfly.
4. Keep your paper folded and cut along your drawing. Unfold—now you have a butterfly with two wings!
5. Using your pre-cut strips of fabric or paper, glue down the tops of the strips, leaving the bottom of the fabric or paper free. You can glue them from left to right just like Konaté's artwork!
6. Once you have all your strips glued, add embellishments and decorations. Where will this butterfly travel? What adventures will it take?

## LEARN MORE

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The title of this work, *Métamorphose de Papillon*, is in French, the official language of Mali. It translates in English to "metamorphosis of the butterfly." The artist created an abstract image of a butterfly through color and shape. Can you see the butterfly? Does the circle at top look like a head? Do you see its body? How about the wings? For Konaté, the butterfly symbolizes both fragility and transformation, and he uses ribbons to refer to costumes worn by musicians from Mali.

## SHARE

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Take a photo of your work and post it on social media with the hashtag **#TangAtHome** **#ArtWithTheTang!**

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**For more art-making activities, check out:**  
<https://tang.skidmore.edu/education/tang-at-home>

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