

## Family Art from Home

# Modernist Bird Mobile

by Ophelia Cornet

American Artist Charlie Harper is best known for his stylized wildlife prints and illustrations. Make a bird mobile inspired by the artist and the birds in your backyard.

### Supplies Needed

- thick paper
- skewers
- scissors
- string
- tape
- glue (Elmer's or hot glue)
- cup
- sharpie, oil pastels, markers or colored pencils
- ruler
- colored paper and foil (optional)

### How to Do it

1. Artist Charley Harper was influenced by modernism, an art form that rejects realistic depictions, instead focusing on the shapes, lines and colors that make up the work. You can see examples of his work at <https://www.charleyharperartstudio.com/>

2. Start by creating the birds for your mobile. With a Sharpie, trace circles on your paper using the bottom of the cup. The circles can be the starting point for the body, the head or both (see detail photograph)

3. Take a ruler and add lines to create the beak, the tail and any other details. Repeat on the back or simplify by filling in the shape in a single color or tracing the shape onto colored paper and attaching it to the back with glue.

4. Make three more of the same size to balance the mobile. Use oil pastels, markers or pencils to add color.

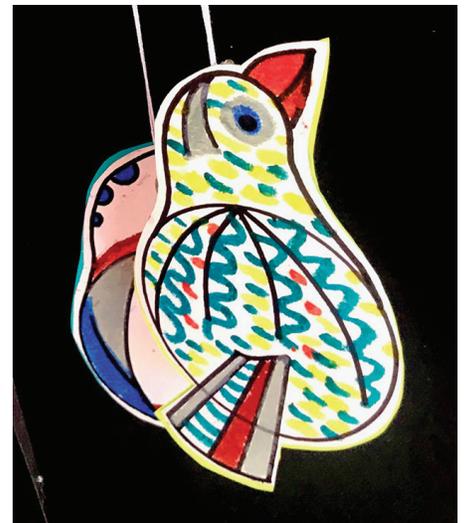
5. Create the top of the mobile by cutting out a strip of the thick paper. Form the strip into a circle and glue the edge to create a ring.

6. Cut a 4 slits in the top of the ring each across one another. Glue each skewer into the slits, bisecting the circle. Glue the two skewers together where they intersect.

7. Create the hanging loop for the mobile by cutting two long pieces of string. Knot the string at each end of the skewer. Repeat with the other skewer. Gather the remaining string together and form a loop, knotting them together to fasten the loop.

8. For the mobile, cut the 4 strings to the length of your choosing. Glue each string to the inside of the ring, below the slit. Attach the birds to the end of the string with glue.

9. Create optional foil shapes to embellish (see photograph). Make several shapes out of paper and cover them with foil. Place two foil shapes on either side of a string and glue together. Add additional strings for the shapes as desired, tying them to skewers.



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