

Family Art from Home

Good Luck Tota

by Radka Apostalon

Totas originated in India, where they were hung in the doorways or windows for good luck. Traditionally made of fabric, beads and bells, this one uses paper and materials found around the home. Welcome 2021 with your own Good Luck Tota hanging in the doorway!

Supplies Needed

- White Office Paper
- Scissors
- White Cardstock or Watercolor paper
- Thin Sharpie
- Watercolors or Colored Pencils, Oil pastels
- Ribbon or String
- Beads
- Hot Glue Gun and Glue Stick
- Zentangle Patterns



How to Do It

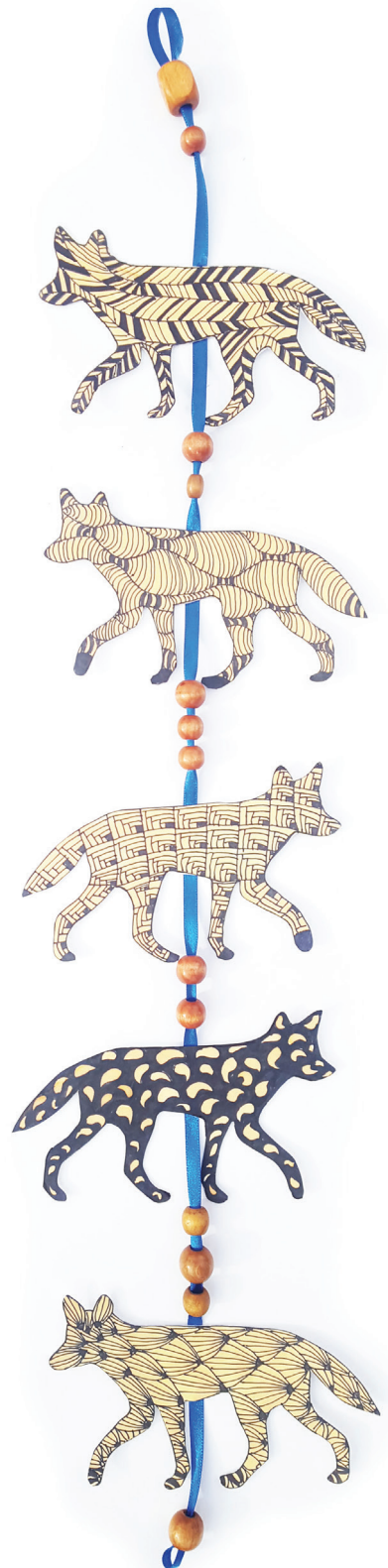
1. Select your good luck animal or symbol to guide you through 2021. The sample created features a coyote, an animal we see quite frequently in New Mexico. Coyotes are symbolized by their intelligence, wisdom and mischievousness.

2. Draw and cut five or more animals out of sturdy cardstock or watercolor paper and decorate both sides with a thin Sharpie using your favorite zentangle pattern. A zentangle is a drawing of repetitive patterns that merge while bringing calm and relaxation. See the image for some examples. Let dry.

3. If you find the cardstock surface is too uneven for the sharpie lines you can cut the images out of regular office paper, draw patterns and then glue them to the sturdier cardstock or watercolor paper.

4. Paint a watercolor wash over the patterned image. Create a wash by diluting watercolor and applying it over the intended area to create a transparent layer or background. Colored pencils or oil pastels are optional. Let dry.

5. Prepare the ribbon, the animals, beads and any other items you would like to decorate your *tota*. Glue the animals to the ribbon stringing the beads in between, perhaps attaching a bell at the string end.



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