

**O-original Art Activity:**  
**Creating Pinwheels Inspired by David  
Butler's *Airplane (Whirligig)***



David Butler, *Airplane (Whirligig)*, Mixed media, 1969.

**David Butler** was born in Good Hope, LA 1898-died Morgan City, LA 1997. He was an African American sculptor and painter. His style is epitomized by kinetic sculptures made from recycled tin or wood, which he embellished with saturated colors and geometric patterns. In addition to incorporating Christian beliefs and folk practices into his artwork, Butler also worked to bring these beliefs and practices into physical spaces to create an atmosphere of self-determination and protection in a world that was often harsh and unpredictable.

**Create a colorful pinwheel like David Butler.**

**SEE DAVID BUTLER'S *AIRPLANE (WHIRLIGIG)* IN THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AT OGDEN MUSEUM.**

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**QUESTIONS? EMAIL [EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@OGDENMUSEUM.ORG)**

**Supplies**

Color paper, Plastic straws, Paper pin fastener, Scissors, Pencils, Single hole-puncher

**Instructions**

**Note:** Complete this activity with the help of a parent or guardian as some of the steps involved need adult supervision.

**Step 1:** Choose what color paper you would like to use to create your pinwheel. Think about how those colors would look if you spin them. Will the two colors blend together to make a third color when spinning? Once you choose the colors, fold one corner of the paper(s) to form a triangle.

**Step 2:** Grab a pair of scissors and cut along the edges of the triangle, but **DO NOT** unfold the triangle after cutting it out.

**Step 3:** After cutting out the triangle, fold that triangle in half to create a fold line. So you should have 2 fold lines.

**Step 4:** Now you can unfold the triangle. Cut a small slit that is about  $\frac{2}{3}$  on the fold line.

**Step 5:** Grab the triangle and unfold it fully. You should have a square and two corners that have small cuts. Now you will repeat Steps 4 and 5 for the other corners.

**Step 6:** After cutting the other corners, use the hole-puncher to create a hole on 4 of the flaps.

**Step 7:** Grab the square and create a small hole with a sharp pencil. Then slowly continue to create a bigger hole in the center.

**Step 8:** Puncher a small hole in the top of the straw with the scissors. With a pencil slowly make the hole the same size as the hole in the paper. Please **DO NOT** use your hands as the backing support when making the hole.

**Step 9:** Grab all sides of the flaps that have a hole in it and match the holes to the center of the square. Put a paper fastener to hold all the pieces together but **DON'T** close it yet.

**Step 10:** Grab the straw with the hole and add it to the back of the pinwheel. Now it's time to fasten by pushing the paper pin backwards and you're done!

