

Exploring Visual Art and Sound: Creating Your Own Sound Maker

This activity will guide you in creating a sound maker inspired by Stanton Macdonald-Wright's *Arm Organization*.

Time: 30 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy

Messy level: Low



Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Many artists throughout history have been inspired by music. Stanton Macdonald-Wright's works, this painting included, compared color to music and were among the first abstract paintings in American art. If this work of art could make music, what do you think it would sound like?
2. What kind of music do you like to listen to?
3. Do you like to dance and move to music? When you look at this work of art, what kind of movement do you see?

To view a hi-res image of the work, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).



Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- 1 latex balloon
- Coffee tin or paint tin
- Decorative tape
- Decorative paper
- Markers
- 1 regular-sized rubber band
- Rice, beans, or beads

Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home where you can make art and get a little messy.
2. Place a handful of rice, beans, or beads into the tin.
3. Snip the narrow end of the balloon off so that it will stretch over the top of your tin.
4. Use decorative tape to secure the edge of the balloon to prevent it from pulling off.
5. Decorate your sound maker with colorful paper, tape, and markers. Think of the ways Macdonald-Wright used bright and lively colors to create his painting.
6. Lastly, stretch a rubber band from the bottom of the tin to the top. When plucked, this will add another sound element.
7. Now make some noise!

**Note: If you don't have any of these materials, then get creative! An oatmeal container could take the place of your tin. A thick piece of paper could replace the balloon.*

Family Programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive generous support from the Junior League of Houston, Inc.

Learning and Interpretation programs receive generous funding from the Jerold B. Katz Foundation; Institute of Museum and Library Services; H-E-B; MD Anderson Cancer Center; Sharon G. Dies; Sterling-Turner Foundation; Houston Junior Woman's Club; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Samuel H. Kress Foundation; The Brown Foundation, Inc.; Susan Vaughan Foundation; and additional generous donors.

Stanton Macdonald-Wright, *Arm Organization*, 1914, oil on canvas, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase, 80.33.