

The Courtauld

Create your own colourful pinwheel inspired by Boudin



↑ Eugène Louis Boudin (1824-1898), *Deauville*, 1893, oil on canvas, 50.8 cm x 74.2 cm, ©The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust)
Deauville | The Courtauld Gallery Collection Online



In this holiday themed activity you will be making a pinwheel inspired by Eugène Louis Boudin's painting of the blustery seaside at Deauville, France. Boudin was born in Honfleur, a port town in Normandy, where the river Seine (flowing from Paris) meets the sea. It is known for its colourful boats and wooden houses. His father was a sea captain and Boudin would have been very familiar with all of the different activities going on around the beach and harbour. In his mid-twenties he won a scholarship to study in Paris and visited the famous art galleries there, but was encouraged by artist friends to paint directly from nature and returned to the coast.

Boudin would take small wooden panels to the beach and work quickly to capture the weather at a particular moment. Most artists were still trained to work indoors at this time, but Boudin said that 'three brush strokes from nature are worth more than three days in the studio'. He encouraged Claude Monet (1840-1926) to work in a similar way. Big and bright skies often feature in Boudin's paintings.

A Closer Look

Before making your pinwheel, use the questions below to think about the experience of visiting a beach and what it would be like to make a painting there.

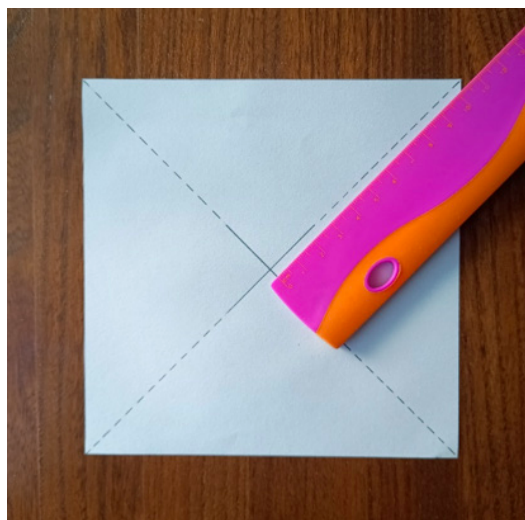
- What kind of activities (work or leisure) can you see in Boudin's painting?
- Have you ever been somewhere like this? What would you do at the beach?
- What types of buildings would you expect to see at the seaside?

- What is the weather like? How can you tell?
- What equipment would you need to make a painting on the beach?



Materials

- A square of paper (14.5 x 14.5 cm works well)
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils
- A ruler
- A large paper drinking straw
- A single holepunch tool*
- A long paper fastener



Step 1: Draw your artwork

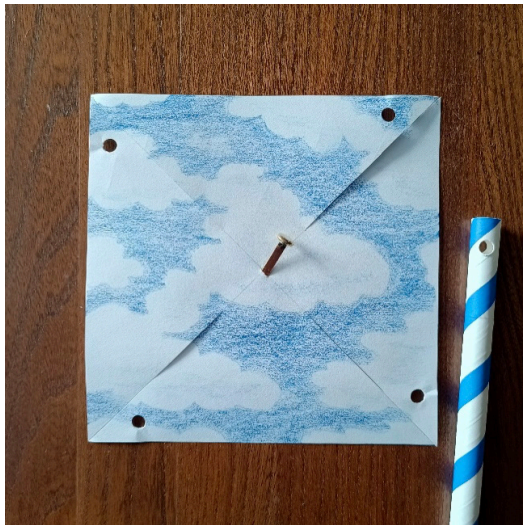
Draw diagonal lines to connect opposite corners of your square. Use a dotted line until you get to about 2.5cm from the centre. This will remind you not to cut too far later on.

Think about your favourite holiday or somewhere you would like to visit. What colours come to mind? What sights and activities are you thinking of? Is it somewhere bright and hot? Alternatively, there are lots of relaxing spaces in towns and cities, including parks, canals and nature reserves.

You could try making your picture outdoors, just like Boudin. Do not worry about drawing in pencil, just build up your picture with bold and colourful marks. Add a picture to both sides of the paper.



* If you do not have a holepunch, you could ask an adult to use something sharp and round, like a knitting needle, to make the holes.

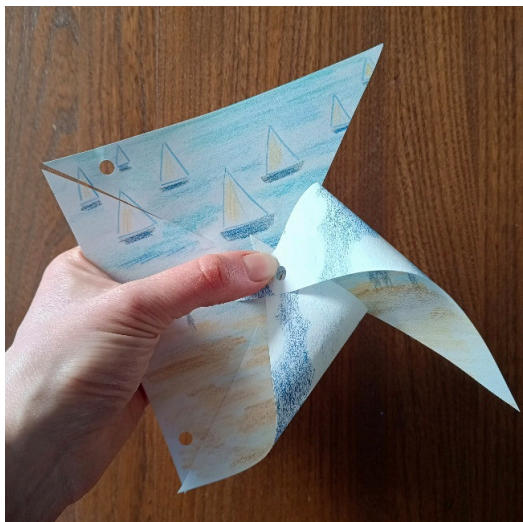


Step 2: Assemble your pinwheel

Carefully cut along the dotted lines you drew earlier. Remember to leave the solid bits of line.

You will have four triangles that are joined at the middle. Use the holepunch to make single holes on every left (or every right) corner of each triangle.

Push the paper fastener through the middle of the square to make a small slit. Also make a hole all the way through the top of your straw using the holepunch.



Carefully fold the corners of your triangles so that all of the holes overlap in the centre.



Secure the sails of your pinwheel with the paper fastener and also push this through the hole in the straw. You may need to loosen this to allow the pinwheel to turn freely.

Take your pinwheel outside on a breezy day and enjoy the effects of your spinning artwork!

Additional artworks

The Beach at Gravelines | The Courtauld Gallery Collection Online

Antibes | The Courtauld Gallery Collection Online

Saint Tropez | The Courtauld Gallery Collection Online