

# bell tota



## Materials Needed:

Scissors, assorted buttons/sequins/feathers to embellish, colored construction paper, yarn, bird and wing template to trace, liquid glue, beads, ink pen, bell.

## How to do it:

1. Begin by selecting a few colors of construction paper for your bird tota. Totas are mobiles consisting of a string of brightly colored birds. They are traditionally made in northern India from fabric scraps and bells. Totas are used to ward off evil spirits.
2. Trace and cut out six birds and six wings out of the paper. You will be creating a bird sandwich with a length of yarn in between birds.
3. Add several beads to a length of yarn.
4. Lay your felt birds and wings on top of the yarn and space beads how you like them, making sure to leave a bit of yarn at the top and bottom of the tota.
5. Once you are satisfied with your bird, wing, beads and yarn layout, glue pieces together.
6. Using glue, embellish birds with buttons, sequins and feathers of your choosing.
7. Using the extra bit of yarn at the bottom of your tota, tie on a bell.
8. Lastly, tie a loop of yarn at the top of your tota and hang to ward off evil spirits.

## How this art relates to Dalí:

Dalí uses many symbols in his artwork. A symbol is an image you can read and understand without any words. A bird symbol represents freedom and, in some cultures, eternal life.

Salvador Dalí  
*Nature Morte Vivante (Still Life-Fast Moving)*,  
1956  
Oil on canvas

