



# Stephen Cripps

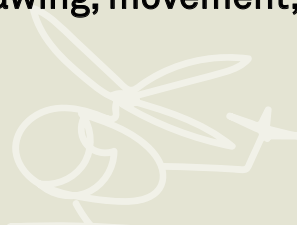
Stephen Cripps was a British artist who lived between 1952 – 1982. He experimented with sculpture, performance, sound, film, and music. He was obsessed with fire and even trained as a firefighter so he could legally handle fireworks.

He created what he called '**Performing Machines**' – moving sculptures usually made from salvaged machinery, scrapped metal, and found objects. He built things that would destroy themselves, explode or make a loud noise.

## Designing

Many of his designs were given titles but never made. Here are a few examples. Can you come up with a drawing, movement, or sound for each one?

Dance for Jets and Helicopters



Exploding Chocolate Cake



Exploding Train Set



Underwater Ballet



**Performance Art** – artworks created using movement or actions made by the artist or other participants. The performance can take place in front of a live audience or be watched as a recording. It might look a bit unusual sometimes but may get you to think about things differently!



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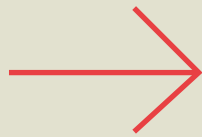
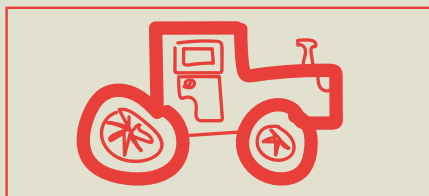


## Deconstruct and distort

Instead of making art, some artists experiment with breaking art. They might rip, burn, cut, tear or destroy something they've made to create something new.

Stephen Cripps did this a lot. He was interested in activating all your senses when you watched his performances. He once exploded a chocolate cake where the audience was hit by the particles of cake crumbs as well as the smell of smoke and the sound of the explosion.

## Distort Image Game



- Find an image from a magazine, newspaper. Make sure to use an image you don't mind folding.
- Image side up, fold in as many ways as possible to distort the picture.
- Ask someone to guess what they think it is.

## Some Questions

Making art from recycled materials can help us limit waste, but is it possible to make an environmentally friendly artwork?

Should artworks last forever?

What might you create now for people to see in 100 years time?

