

Aerospace Design, The Art of Engineering

The Art Institute of Chicago



Wind tunnels are large tubes with air moving inside and are used to copy the actions of an object in flight. Researchers use wind tunnels to learn more about how an aircraft will fly. NASA uses wind tunnels to test scale models of aircraft and spacecraft. Some wind tunnels are big enough to hold full-size versions of vehicles. The wind tunnel moves air around an object, making it seem like the object is really flying.

Struck by the similarity between Brancusi's "Bird in Flight" and NASA's wind tunnel models, the Collaborative conceived of a national traveling exhibition celebrating the aesthetics of

aerospace engineering. Cosponsored by the Art Institute of Chicago and NASA, the show explored how aviation and space flight design has given rise to the streamline idiom that is so prevalent in American culture. Museum venues included: Museum of Flight, Seattle; Pratt Manhattan Gallery, Museum of Idaho; Springfield Museum of Art; Octagon Museum, Washington, D.C. and many more.

