Thaumatrope

The thaumatrope (turning wonder) is a simple type of moving image. It consists of a piece of cardboard with two different images—say, a cage on one side and a bird on the other. When the card is spun at high speed on the attached strings, the two images seem to fuse to create one image—a bird in a cage.

Thaumatrope
1840s
Mary W. Alsop
American, active 1840s
Twelve watercolors on paper with string
Each 3 x 3 in.
Lent by the Richard Balzer Collection, Watertown, Massachusetts