

DIY



BRISBANE **BF** FESTIVAL



Brisbane Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council

Florentijn Hofman



Introducing Messengers of Brisbane

Although conceived prior to the global Coronavirus outbreak, the artwork I developed for Brisbane Festival, *Messengers of Brisbane*, may be prophetic in its timing. This work breathes hope; hope for better days during the Festival and into the future. The distance of the works on rooftops and other high positions indicate aspiration and at the same time question our current situation of social distancing and what freedom means to every individual. The works gift aim and direction in a time where creativity is paramount and the power of imagination must be relied upon to feel a flight synonymous to the bird. The beautiful bright colours, which mimic exactly those found in the natural plume of the Gouldian Finch, encourage people to likewise be colourful, to be amazed by these remarkable creatures. The hat is a very important feature in this work. It is an extension of my practice where I've used it as a tool in many prior works. For me it symbolises celebrating life, enjoying living and being positive, especially during this period but it is also appropriate to all life situations. Being positive makes one live longer and with more quality. While birds in nature are very autonomous, here as large-scale temporary sculptures in Brisbane they will indicate connection and the arrival of a positive message.

Watching over us this September will be a series of three giant Gouldian Finches perched atop key Brisbane locations. This playful and joyous installation is the creation of internationally renowned artist, Florentijn Hofman and is exclusive to Brisbane. Perched along the inner-city river area, these beautiful birds decked out with their bright pink party hats will bring us messages of hope as they fly in for the Festival. Brought to life by Brisbane's very own Urban Arts Projects, these glorious characters will take pride of place this Festival. These birds remind us of our important freedoms as their simple message to us all is to look up and smile.

Messengers of Brisbane can be viewed by walk, bike or City Cat.

Various workshops and educational opportunities will be available to become acquainted with these endangered Australian birds. Please visit our website for further information. > brisbanefestival.com.au

Avian Art

Difficulty / Intermediate
Time / 30-60 Minutes
Space / Indoors
Ages / 5+ (Parental guidance needed for steps that require a knife)

Materials needed / String, scissors, tape, glue, paper

Gouldian finches, while mobile in their search for sustenance, generally stay close to home. They're attracted to seeding and germinating native grasses and grains such as sorghum and will move locally to find food but are not believed to be migratory. Ripening perennial seeds during the wet season can provide a delicious bounty; annual grasses are a source in the dry. Finches also forage on the ground in family groups or small flocks and normally descend upon waterholes during the first hours of morning sunlight. Where will you place your finches to float in the wind?



Step 1

Print out the template and cut along the solid black lines.



Step 2

Decorate as you wish, go to town with paint, markers, pencils, charcoal or whatever you can find! We've included some starter designs if you are tight for time or need a little creative nudge.



Step 3

Find a stick or you can use a coat hanger or something similar for your hanging bar.



Steps continued on next page →

Step 4

Cut string, twine or even a shoelace will do in a bind to the length you want it to hang. In the pictured example, the string pieces are approx. 450mm long.



Step 5

Turn all of your pieces upside down and begin to stick them on to the string at equal intervals. Example image was stuck at around 40mm apart.



Step 6

Tie these strings to the top bar and you are all set! If you want to hang this guy so that you can view it from both sides, print and cut the reverse shapes and stick to the back of the pieces previously used.



Alternative

The hanging birds would look great in felt or even clay, get creative if you have the time. Or consider digging into the genius inventor of the mobile, the renowned artist Alexander Calder and make a kinetic counter balanced homage using some of the same materials and previous steps as a starting point.



Hints

Remember to stretch the string before you stick things down as gravity will pull it all further down than you expect when it is hanging.



Printable Goodies

Print at full size on the best paper you have or if you don't have a printer no stress, just trace over the guides on the following pages with whatever you can find!



