

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

Party Time

Difficulty / Easy
Time / 15 Minutes
Space / Indoors or Outdoors
Ages / 5+ (Parental guidance needed for steps that require a knife)

Materials needed/
Printer, paper,
scissors, string

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 template and cut along all of the solid lines. Don't forget the slit and the lines the create the tab.



Step 2

Hold the hat printed side up and with the top/point of the hat pointing towards you and roll the two edges toward each other like you are buttoning up a shirt.



Step 3

Next starting with the edge furthest away from you (nearest to the bottom of the hat) slip the tab into the slot and then rotate inwards until the other end of the tab slides in. If it isn't quite working, you may need to make the cut on the side of the tab a bit longer.



Steps continued on next page →

Step 4

Next punch a small hole where the two 'x's are marked, this will be the connection point for the string.



Step 5

Cut two pieces of string or ribbon roughly 400mm long and tie a small knot on one end of each piece. The pieces might be longer if you are an adult and slightly less if you are doing it for a little one.



Step 6

Feed the string through starting from the inside so it hides your knot and get your party on!



Alternate

Use the blank template provided to paint, colour or decorate your own. You can also get creative with the string used and what goes on top of the hat.



Hints

Using slightly thicker paper will last longer if you are planning on going out in the rain.



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!









