

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

Collage Creation

Difficulty / Easy
Time / 30 Minutes
Space / Indoors or outdoors
Ages / All (Parental guidance needed for steps that require scissors)

Materials needed /
Glue, paper,
printer, scissors,
old magazines,
sticks, leaves, other found objects

Gouldian finches are named for artist Elizabeth Gould, who produced an impressive catalogue of avian lithographs in the 19th century. Her work depicted Australian birds in their natural environments and was published in volumes written by her husband, British ornithologist John Gould. Unfortunately, Ms Gould did not sign many of her illustrations. Her achievements were seemingly overshadowed by those of her spouse and she wasn't often acknowledged. In fact, John Gould even assumed artistic credit for some of the [compositions](#). To access Elizabeth Gould's art, look for books attributed to John Gould in the State Library of Queensland's collections. Her representations might inspire your own creation.



Step 1

Print out the template.



Step 2

Find and cut any material for your collage; paper, fabric, wrapping paper, old magazines etc. Using the shapes as a guide, stick down various images and colours to build the bird in layers.



Step 3

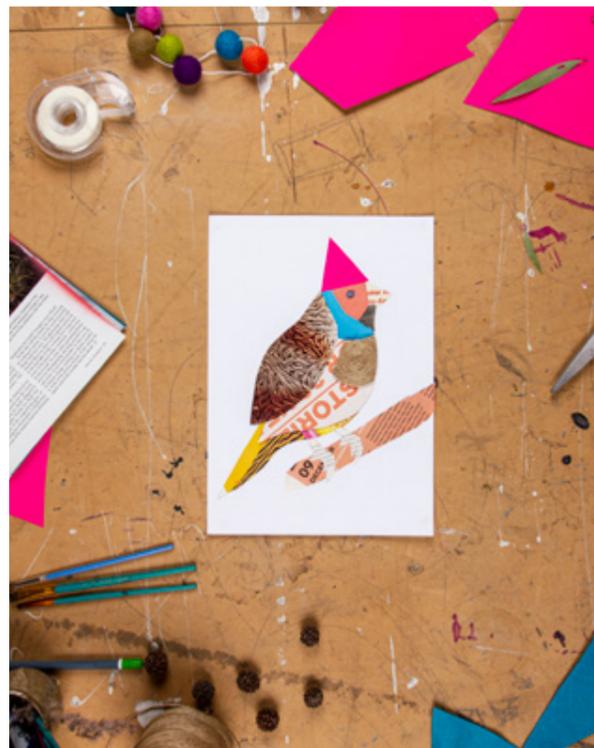
Finish the bird by pasting all the pieces down.



Steps continued on next page →

Step 4

You are all set, time to put that wonderful creation on display!



Alternate

Make your own nature collage sculpture! Using only found fallen branches, leaves, seeds and flowers create a bird composition.

Go for a nature walk and bring a bag. Grab all of the wonderful fallen materials that nature has to offer. Place all of the items on a sheet or even easier just make it right where you found it on the ground!



Hints

Remember the lines are just there as a guide, feel free to make your own creations. The more varied the sources the better when making a collage so let the serendipity begin! If you are needing a hand with cutting the shapes to the correct size, print a second copy of the template and cut out the shapes as a pattern for your materials.



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!

