

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

Flying Finch

Difficulty / Easy
Time / 30 Minutes
Space / Indoors or outdoors
Ages / 5+

Materials needed /
Paper, printer

Flitting upon a breeze must feel a magical thing. Sure, there are predators to be wary of and finding food is a relentless endeavour. But the freedom to fly from a foe or dash to a grassy refectory would be joyous. Do you wonder what the finches you see are thinking? You might have spotted a red-browed finch with striking eye shadow and a burst of crimson at the base of its tail, or perhaps a double-barred finch impressed you with its necklace and coat of delicate white spots. The contrasting caramels of a chestnut-mannikin may appeal more to your inner artist. Better still, invent a unique hybrid with colours, tints and patterns of your own design.



Step 1

Print out the template.



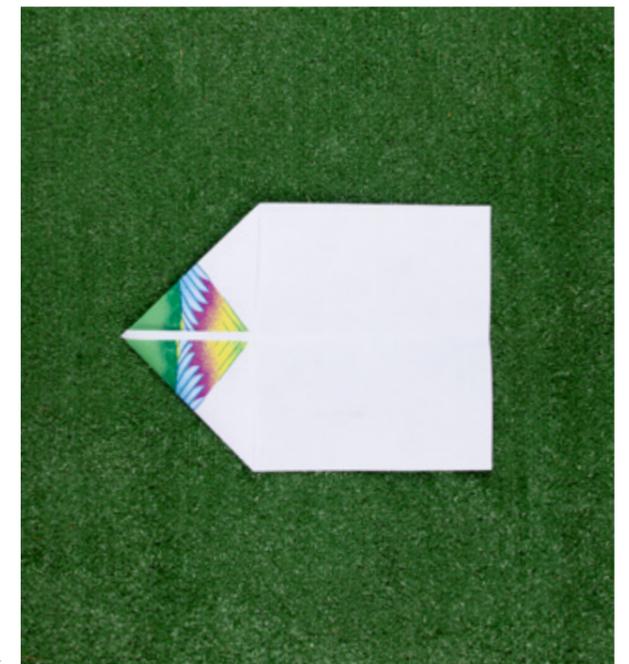
Step 2

Flip the paper white side up and then fold the paper in half lengthwise (hot dog fold). Then unfold the paper so it lays flat.



Step 3

With the paper lying flat, fold the top left and right corners 45 degrees toward the middle crease (from our previous fold in half). Note that depending on your printer, this may not exactly match the dotted line on the printed side.



Steps continued on next page →

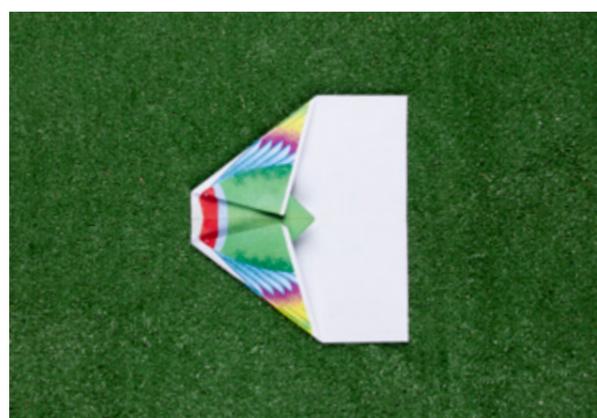
Step 4

Fold the point made by the last two folds straight down using the bottom of the triangle folds as a reference, forming a tight triangle.



Step 5

Take the upper right hand corner of the page and fold it in towards the centerline of the page about 30mm up from the point that we just folded down in the previous step. There is a circle indicator to give you an idea of roughly where this fold should land.



Step 6

Next fold the tip up along the horizontal dotted line, it should just neatly bump the two diagonal pieces of paper to the right and left, stopping it from being folded too far.



Step 7

Fold the whole page in half making sure that the small triangle we just made is on the outside of the fold. Lastly take each wing and fold down along the dotted line. You are aiming for a fold that creates a line that is lower towards the front of the plane (and the beak of the bird) and has a small incline as you move toward the back of the plane. Do the same to the other wing and you are ready to take flight!



Optional

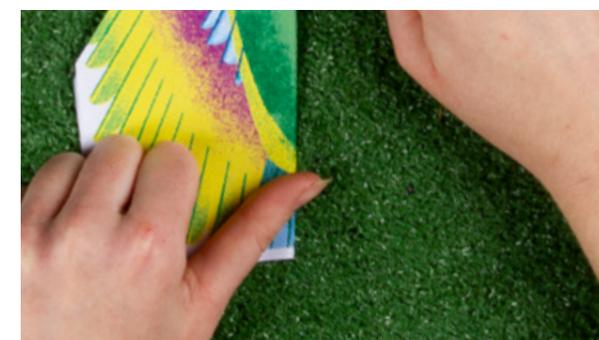
Cut the white away in between the feathers on the back of the bird to give it a more lifelike feel, plus it will still fly great!

Or follow the instructions and design your own, draw, paint or colour over the template after printing it and then follow the same process.



Hints

Fold as tight as you can using the back of your fingernail or the edge of a pen. Making slight adjustments after building the plane can massively improve your flight. Start small, e.g. bending the rear part of the wings slightly upwards will help it not nosedive. Or bending the wings slightly up into a v when holding it will improve stability.



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!

