

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

Potato Press

Difficulty / Intermediate
Time / 45 Minutes
Space / Indoors
Ages / All (Parental guidance needed for steps that require a knife)

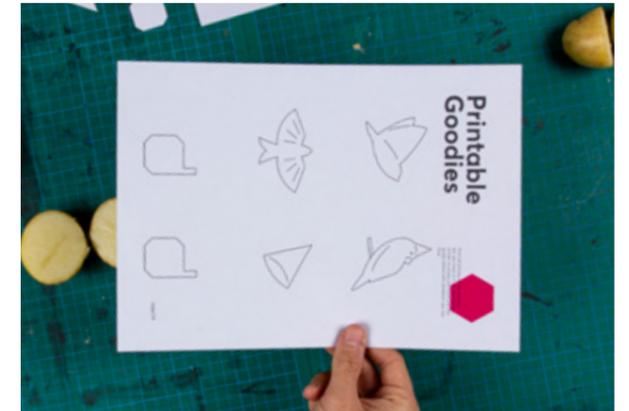
Materials needed / Potatoes, knife, paintbrush, fabric / paper

Have you ever looked at an uninteresting, brown vegetable and considered the amazing art you could create with it? A potato is not just a source of starchy carbs. They are generally cheap, available and easy to carve, excellent for stamping and prints. What other items around you might have an alternate use? Instead of throwing something into landfill, reuse it to satisfy an artsy urge. A mundane toilet roll could become a fetching spiral adornment, or an empty ice cream bucket could be embellished to become your next favourite storage container. By reducing our consumerism and upcycling goods, we generate less waste and that's always a win for the environment. Making small changes at home improves the health of our natural surroundings and goes some way to ensuring better outcomes for native flora and fauna.



Step 1

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



Step 2

Cut your potato in half and dry with a paper towel to remove some of the moisture.



Step 3

Next place the cut out template on the flat side of the potato and cut with a sharp knife along the edges of the shape pushing in your knife roughly 15mm.



Steps continued on next page →

Step 4

After all edges are cut, work your way around the circumference of the potato with a knife pushing in at least 20mm and further in spots where the template is thinner.



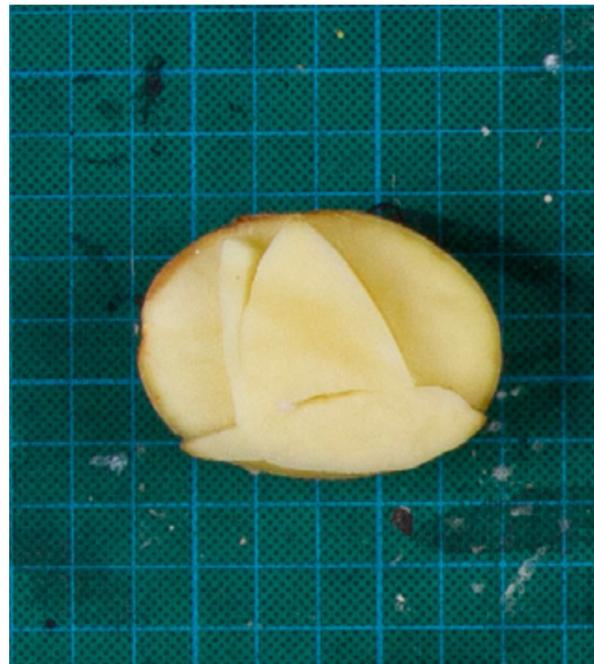
Step 5

Your shape should start to appear as the cut edges fall out, use the edge of the knife or your fingers to pry up any stubborn pieces being careful not to break off any of the more delicate features of the shape.



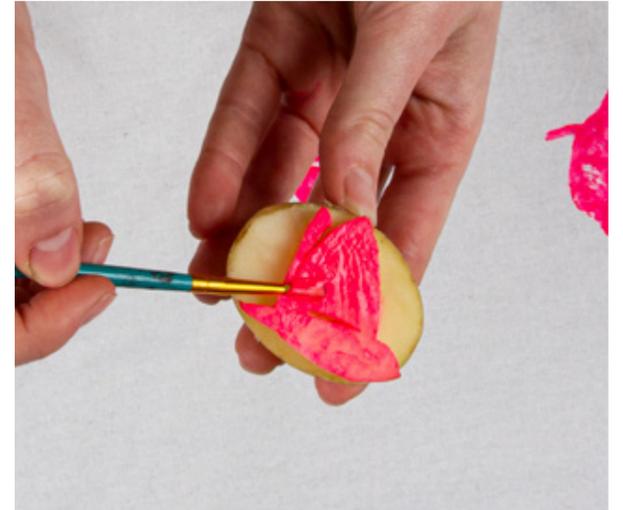
Step 6

Give it a quick dry again with the paper towel and add any little flourishes with the end of your knife. Remember any small mark or indent will leave a gap in the final print.



Step 7

Finally time to add paint. This works best by painting a thin layer on with a paintbrush aiming to get the paint only on the extruded part of the stamp. If you are extra eager, you can also do the traditional dunk and stamp method. If you are feeling crafty, try painting on multiple block colours or even blends!



Hints

Using less paint is usually better for a more consistent print. Potato stamps aren't flawless, so fabric tends to absorb the imperfections better, so go to town on a bag, shirt or old dress, but remember to test your prints first on some paper! Also a great way to make a bigger print with a few small potatoes is to do the bird in sections each section with a different half of a potato.



Printable Goodies

Print this bunch out, cut them along the solid line and get to stamping!

