

DIY

IT'S LIVE!
in Queensland



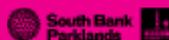
BRISBANE FESTIVAL

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

Principal Partner
sunsuper



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



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Florentijn Hofman



Introducing Messengers of Brisbane

Although conceived prior to the global COVID-19 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 give 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 also be colourful. 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 life 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.

Six giant Gouldian Finches will fly into Brisbane to spread messages of hope this September. Created by internationally renowned artist Florentijn Hofman and brought to life by Brisbane's Urban Art Projects, these spectacularly coloured birds invite us to look up and smile.

Perched atop iconic Brisbane locations in the inner-city river area, Messengers of Brisbane can be viewed on a leisurely stroll, bike ride, or even from a CityCat.

Learn more about this endangered species through workshops and activities at Queensland Museum and on our website @ brisbanefestival.com.au

Winged Wonder

Difficulty / Easy
Time / 25 Minutes
Space / Indoors or Outdoors
Ages / 2+ (Parental guidance needed for steps that require scissors)

Materials needed /
Printer, paper, glue,
cardboard, scissors

Grab your glorious wings and imagine your body has become that of a Gouldian Finch. Observe your natural surroundings. Are you happy, excited, annoyed or scared about what you see? Where will you nest and what is there to eat? Dwindling finch numbers have been partly attributed to human encroachment into their habitats. Land clearing has a significant impact, subsuming the trees the birds make their homes and nest in and the grasses they feast on. According to the Department of Environment and Science, the Southern subspecies of the population of Black-throated Finch has contracted by approximately 80 per cent of its former extent over the last 20 years. Coal mine activities are planned for Queensland's Galilee Basin, an important Black-throated Finch habitat. Further habitat destruction caused by mining, expanding farmland and overgrazing, inappropriate fire regimes, feral animals and exotic grasses add to stresses on the species.

However, actions are being taken to halt the decline in finch numbers. There are recovery plans in place. You can help out at a local level, too, by reaching out to community conservation groups such as the Australian Conservation Foundation or the Queensland Finch Society to volunteer your time or get informed.



See an inspiring display of 20 live finches fly about an aviary at Queensland Museum to celebrate Brisbane Festival. You can also take a step back in time and get an extraordinary insight into John Gould and Elizabeth Gould's *The Birds of Australia*, a book not usually seen as a part of the museum's rare book collection. Make sure you visit during the festival. More information at qm.qld.gov.au

Step 1

Print template and 12 copies (approx. 45 feathers per wing for a set that fits a toddler.) Feel free to mix and match from the template options. Alternatively use found materials, recycled paper or even real feathers (make sure you find them on the ground not on a live bird please.)



Step 2

Find some cardboard and cut 2 pieces roughly the length of your or your child's arms. Cut a slight angle in the top to mimic a birds wing. As a starting point, for a toddler a shape of 180mm high x 400mm wide works well.



Step 3

Cut a u shape (being sure to leave the fourth side attached as this will create the handle) in the direction of travel roughly 1/3 of the way down the wing. This will be pulled up and used for a handle, so make sure you make it hand holding size.



Steps continued on next page →

Step 4

Glue on feathers one at a time on your first wing working your way up from the bottom and slightly overlapping as you go to cover any gaps. Any glue will do, but a hot glue gun is a great way to speed up the process and ensure a stronger hold.



Step 5

Fold over any extra bits or trim off with scissors and repeat the same process for the other wing.



Step 6

You are ready to fly, give them a try and let your imagination run wild but please remember to stay on the ground, these things are good but not that good!



Alternate

Try using some other materials for the feathers! Grab found objects, nature or up-cycle some old material even. Or use the blank templates and go hard on a colouring session. Use the same steps but add your own flair when it comes to the feather steps.



Hints

A glue gun is great for quick and strong sticking. Maybe think about making a bird hat while you are at it! Also, parents you are going to want to have your camera ready as these things are super cute on the kiddos.



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!



