

# Sketch

Activity Journals for Kids by Contemporary Artists  
Special Edition for 8-14 year olds and kidults

**MCA**  
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Issue 4: Autumn 2008 (Limited edition)  
**FIONA HALL: FORCE FIELD**  
Featuring activities by Fiona Hall

# FIONA HALL: FORCE FIELD

This MCA Kids' Activity Journal is for you to keep. It has drawings and activities based on artworks in the exhibition *Fiona Hall: Force Field*.

Fiona Hall is an Australian artist. This exhibition shows 30 years of her work. In her art, Fiona uses common objects and materials which you could find in your house. She changes them by knitting, carving or cutting the materials.

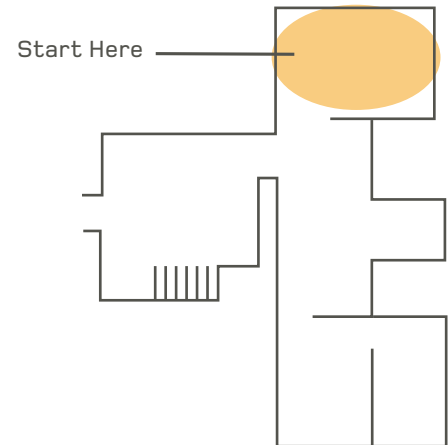
To make her art, Fiona needs to travel to other countries and talk to many people like scientists and museum workers. For SKETCH she tells us about some of the stories behind her artwork.

## LET'S EXPLORE

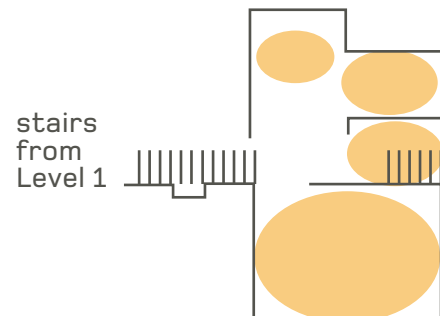
Come on a journey through *Fiona Hall: Force Field*. The exhibition starts on Level 1 of the MCA. These maps show the rooms we will be going to. To find the artworks look out for the **SKETCH** labels on the walls.

3 useful rules to remember while you are at the MCA:

1. Please make sure that you are with an adult at all times
2. Please do not touch the artworks - as they are very fragile
3. Please try to stay about a metre (3 large steps) back from the artwork



MCA Level 1



MCA Level 2

Find the video work **AMAZONICAL**

Watch the petals of the giant water lily flower open up after dark. The flower is very clever because it can turn up the heat in its centre, like warming your house in winter. That's why the beetles you can see are eager to go inside. Scientists say they have a very cosy time in there, as if they are at a nightclub for beetles!

The flower is pleased to have the beetles spend all night there as they will carry some of the flower's pollen off to another flower the next evening. So the flowers and the beetles help each other by swapping useful things. The scientist's name for this is **symbiosis**.

★ **FACT:** Did you know that the giant leaves of this water lily plant are so strong that a small child can sit on one without sinking into the water?

★ **FACT:** Not many plants can raise their temperature. All those that can, open their flowers at night.



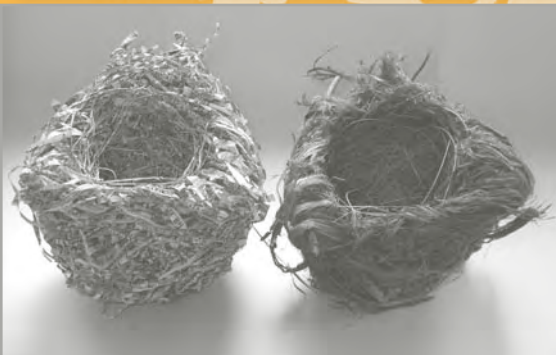
Imagine what it's like inside the giant flower. Draw yourself inside it.

## Nature and Trade

Find the work **TENDER**

You can see many different bird nests. These are all made by the artist from American dollar bills, however birds use all kinds of materials: sticks, leaves, grass, mud, moss, saliva and spider web. Some have even used paper or fencing wire. Each kind of bird makes a nest that is just right for the place where it lives, such as a forest, jungle, grassland, desert or cliff face. Their nest must keep the eggs and chicks safe from the weather and from other creatures like snakes, mammals and other birds.

Don't you think that birds are really clever to build their nests using only their beaks and feet? We are learning more about how valuable protecting our environment is. Birds and other animals need to have good places to live.



Draw a nest that is a good home for a bird. What kind of place does your bird live in?

You could make your nest design at home.

Why do you think the artist has used money to make all these nests?

Fiona Hall *Tender* (detail) 2003–05 US dollars, wire, vitrines 86 nests  
Purchased 2006 The Queensland Government's Gallery of Modern Art  
Acquisitions Fund Collection: Queensland Art Gallery © the artist



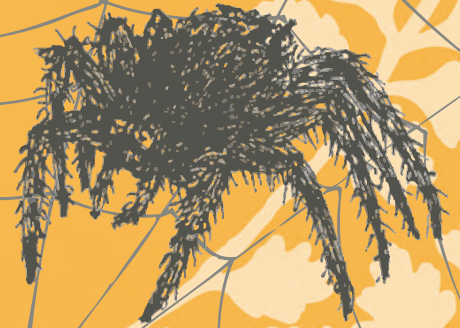
Find the video **STRONGHOLD**

You can see a **tarantula** in her home, with some of her children, having a meal and spinning a web. The name that scientists have given this kind of spider is **Phlogius crassipes**.

Spiders are experts at spinning webs to catch their food. Watch how the silk threads emerge from the tarantula's **spinnerets**. Different kinds of spiders build different kinds of webs.

We call the information network that you can visit on a computer the "World Wide Web". It is a good place for us to catch information.

★ **FACT:** Did you know that spider web is one of the thinnest yet strongest threads that exists? Scientists have been trying to discover the spider's secret about how to make it.



Draw a picture in the box of a web that could trap something you are searching for. It could be something you would like to eat or drink or perhaps it is a web to catch something in your dreams.

## Environment



1. Here is a map of all the countries in Gondwana millions of years ago.



2. Here is a map showing where these countries are today.

Find the work **MOURNING CHORUS**

You can see bird beaks and plastic bottles inside the glass case, and tree branches on the sides. All of these beaks belong to birds that once lived in forests in **New Zealand**.

They are related to birds and trees in Australia, because about 500 million years ago Australia and New Zealand were joined together with other countries to make one huge land that scientists call **Gondwana**.

Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions made the countries of Gondwana break up and slowly drift apart to where they are now (but you don't need to worry as it took millions of years for this to happen).

**The Gondwana map is like one big jigsaw puzzle! Can you look at the shapes of the countries in map 1 and name each one? Write each name on the country, as you see with Antarctica. Map 2 shows the names of all the countries as they are now.**

★**FACT:** Scientists say that Australia is still drifting north at about half the speed at which your hair grows!



KOKAKO



MOHO

Can you add the beaks to the bottles?



MOA



HUIA















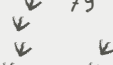












































































Look at the work **MOURNING CHORUS** again. All of the kinds of birds you can see here are now extinct in the forests of **New Zealand** where they once lived. They died out because people brought rats and other animals which hunted them or competed with them for food.



The names of all these birds were given to them by **Maori** people. The Maori were the first people to arrive and settle in New Zealand. They arrived there in canoes about 900 years ago.

Did you know that some New Zealand birds evolved to be flightless? The **kiwi**, **kakapo**, **takahe**, **weka** and **moa** all lived and built their nests on the ground. The Moa is now extinct. **Australia only has one flightless bird - do you know what it is?**

(The answer is upside down below.)

EMU

THE BIRDS VERSUS THE VERMIN									
100	99	POSSUM 	97	96	MOUSE 	94	93	FERRET 	91
FINISH 	82 	WEASEL 	84 	85 	86 	87 	88 	89 	90 
KIWI 	79 	78 	77 	76 	75 	74 	73 	72 	71 
61 	WHEKAU 	63 	64 	65 	HOKIOI 	67 	PACIFIC RAT 	69 	70 
60 	PIG 	58 	57 	56 	55 	MATUHI 	53 	CAT 	51 
41 	42 	PIO PIO 	SHIP RAT 	45 	DOG 	47 	48 	49 	HUIA 
40 	39 	38 	37 	MOHO 	35 	34 	33 	STOAT 	31 
KAKAPO 	22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	KOKAKO 	29 	30 
20 	MATIRA-KAHU 	18 	RABBIT 	16 	15 	14 	13 	12 	11 
1 START	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	MOA 	9 	10

Here is a game which you can play if you have dice and counters to move along the squares. It is called **THE BIRDS VERSUS THE VERMIN**. When you land on a bird trail  you can move up to a higher number, but if you land on any vermin trails  you must slide down. Can you escape from all the vermin and safely get to the top?



Find the work **WHEN MY BOAT COMES IN**

All of these leaves you see on the banknotes come from plants we use in our daily lives for food, medicine, clothes and timber. Each leaf is from a plant that originated in the same part of the world as the banknote it is painted on.

Some of these leaves are from plants that you or somebody in your family may use every day.

Find the leaves of the following plants:

Tomato	Fig
Rubber	Pea
Eggplant	Tea
Potato	Chocolate
Macadamia nut	Peach

Can you tell by looking at the banknotes what countries these plants first came from? Write the country next to the plant's name above.

Look closely at the banknotes. You can see that they come from many different countries, and that they all have boats pictured on them.

If you could design a banknote what things would you draw on it? What is its value? What is on the front? What kind of money is your banknote? Dollar, yuan, pesos or rupees are some names of money in different countries.

Your banknote can be for a real country, for a country on another planet, or for a place that you visit in your imagination. What would you like to buy with your banknote?

Draw it below.

## Patterns

Find the work **BREEDING GROUND**

All of these beehives are painted in **camouflage** patterns of the army uniforms of different countries. The idea to use camouflage patterns came from noticing that some animals can make themselves hard to see in the place where they live because of the patterns of their skin. For example, a leopard has spots which look a lot like splashes of light falling through leaves in the jungle.

You'll notice that all these camouflage patterns are different. Some have been designed for a desert and some for a forest.

**Draw yourself wearing a camouflage pattern that would make a good disguise. What kind of place would you want to become invisible in? The bush, the ocean, a city or outer space? Draw this in the background.**

We hope you enjoyed your visit to FIONA HALL: FORCE FIELD. Please return your clipboard to the MCA front desk on Level 1 so other kids can enjoy these activities too!

Activity Journal produced by MCA Learning © Museum of Contemporary Art 2008 Written by Fiona Hall. Contributions by Kirsten Bradley and Justine McLisky. Designed by Claire Orrell.



Circular Quay West  
Sydney Australia  
Open 7 days 10am–5pm  
[www.mca.com.au](http://www.mca.com.au)

FIONA HALL: FORCE FIELD 6 MARCH – 1 JUNE 2008

A partnership with  CITY GALLERY  
WELLINGTON  
TE WHARE TOI

arts|nsw 

