

Birder's Paradise at The New Library of Birmingham,

Launched September 2013.

As part of the launch of the new Library of Birmingham building in 2013, Anna Francis and Andrew Branscombe were commissioned by Capsule as part of the Discovery Season – a four month programme of dynamic events, activities and performances for residents of and visitors to Birmingham on the theme of Discovery, celebrating the opening of Library of Birmingham, the largest public library in Europe.

This ambitious season saw total audiences of 1.2 million people and included work by 469 artists with 57 new commissions, 113 performances and 183 workshops.



Image: Performance proposal image of Birder's Paradise.

Exhibition information: Artists Anna Francis and Andrew Branscombe have created a series of bird sculptures that are placed throughout the Library of Birmingham. Each bird has a particular literary reference including the Roly Poly Bird from Roald Dahl's *The Twits* or the paperback cover of Daphne De Maurier's 'The Birds'. Visitors are encouraged to take their binoculars and explore the Library to spot each of the birds.

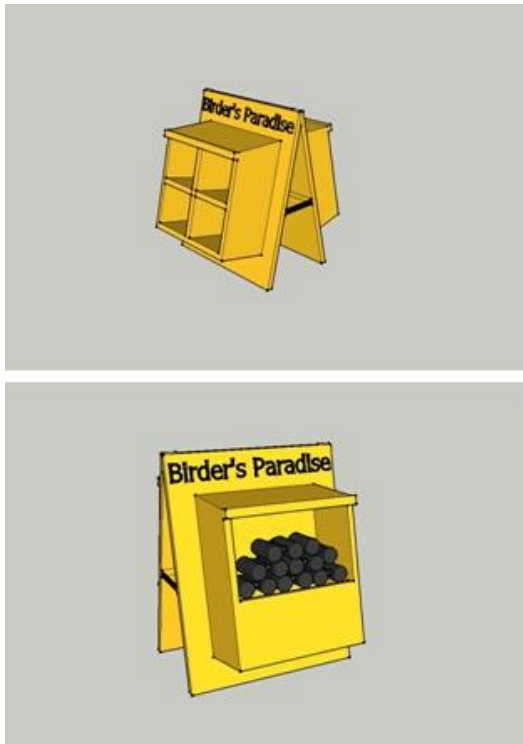


Image: Left - Birder's Paradise Information stand proposal sketch. Right - installed information stand within the Library of Birmingham.

The commission consisted of a series of Perspex bird sculptures, themed to talk about links between birds and books. The sculptures were hidden around the library, and a trail activity created. The commission also included a series of performance workshops related to birds and aimed at creating space to explore the new building.



The Love Birds from Daphne Du Maurier's The Birds.



Image: Installed sculpture within the library.



Image: Anna Francis leads a tour of the library with bird spotters.