

Project: Hyacinth Macaws



This was a wedding commission for an animal-loving couple whose favourite movies was 'Rio'- a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox animated movie featuring blue/ hyacinth macaws.

Being unfamiliar with both the movie and the birds, the project began with a lot of research for me. I filled a huge board with photos of all aspects of the birds and began to work from those. The orchids and arum lilies were inspired by the bride's bouquet. The perch was offered from above- literally- as a large apple box grows over my studio and sheds sticks year round.

I first made the birds, feather by feather. I then screwed them together and to the perch and then filled in around them with flowers until the whole piece achieved a balance. The only thing that did not quite go to plan was burning my first arum lily-it rolled off its wadding tube and onto the scorching metal tray below.

The bride and groom loved their commission, which occupied the centre of the bridal table on their special day. They are still happily married.