



Magical Doorways Art Adventure

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MAGICAL DOORWAYS ART ADVENTURE



Kia ora koutou tamariki ma,

I'm Penny and I'm part of the awesome Corban Estate Arts Centre Education Team. While we have been in lockdown in Tāmaki Makaurau, Spring has sprung! We haven't mowed our lawn for the whole time so lots of Daisies, Dandelions and other sweet wee flowers are popping up all over the place. This time of year always reminds me of my Grandma's wild, colourful garden and her stories about fairies and other magical creatures that she believed lived in it. So, I got to thinking maybe I could make some magical creature doors on some of the trees in my garden or even put them in nearby parks for other Tamariki to find on their walks.

The materials you will need are dry fallen sticks (see instructions for size), string - this could be twine, wool or even harakere whenu (if you know how to strip it from the flax). It would be good if it was something that could eventually break down in the environment. Also, you will need a pair of scissors and anything you can find to decorate your door and the area/pathway leading up to it. This could include flowers, shells, moss, leaves and wee stones.





Step One

Find a whole lot of sticks, dry fallen ones are best and no thicker than your little finger, this is so you can snap them easily into the size you want your door to be. If you can't find fallen ones you may have to ask an adult to cut some for you with secateurs (garden scissors). You should get about 11 sticks the same size and 1 extra that is about double the size of the others (this one will be used on the left side of your door so that you can stake it into the dirt in front of your tree). You might have to go for a little walk to find some.



Step Two

Arrange the sticks with the long one on the left and take two of them and place one on the top and one across the bottom (these will be your door frame).



Step Three

Separate your frame from the rest of the sticks



Step Four

We are going to make a basic Tukutuku stitch to tie all the corners of our door frame securely.

Take the top and left side of your frame, cut a piece of string about 30cm long (this is about the length of a ruler). Place it under the bottom piece of wood and then cross the string over the top piece. Turn the pieces over and cross the string over the back to make a ladder rung (imagine the string is crossing the road). Flip back to the front and make a full cross one more time.



Now flip back over and tie a secure knot. Don't trim the string as we might use it to tie other string to later.

Step Five

Repeat step 4 on the other three corners





Step Six

Flip your frame over so that the ladders not the crosses are on the front of your frame, lay out your other sticks on top. Cut a length of string at least 4 x the width of your frame (approx 2x ruler length). Tie a double knot on the top left hand side of the frame





Cross the string across the left frame stick and tuck it behind and around the top frame stick



Keep doing this adding your sticks in as you go and pulling it tight, until you reach the end where you will tie it to extra string that is sitting there from your 1st tukutuku stitches.

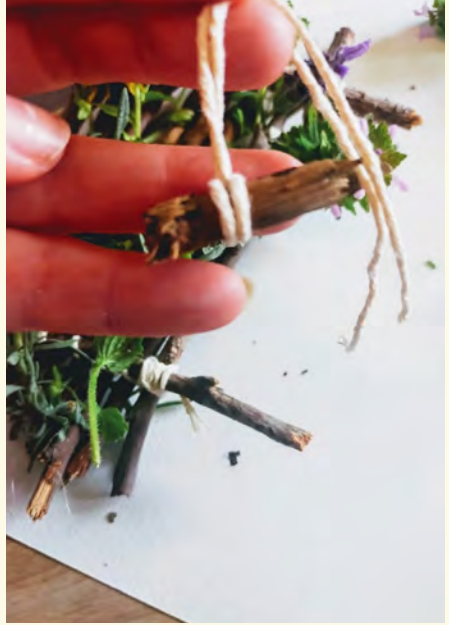


If you flip it over it will look a bit like this



Step Seven

Repeat step 6 for the bottom of your door



Step Eight

Fill in the gaps with plants, leaves, moss, anything natural! Have fun dressing your magical door, have a play, weave long stalks in and out of the door. Also, if you would like you could add a handle. Here's some pics of how I did this with a small piece of wood...you might just decide that your handle is a daisy or a dandelion







Step Nine

Find the tree for your door then poke a bit of a hole into the ground in front of tree (make sure not to hurt the tree's roots). Then poke the long stick on the frame into the hole...you will notice by doing this it also acts as a hinge so you can open and close your door (important for the magical creatures or in case you want to hide things behind them for a magical door treasure hunt!)

Step Ten

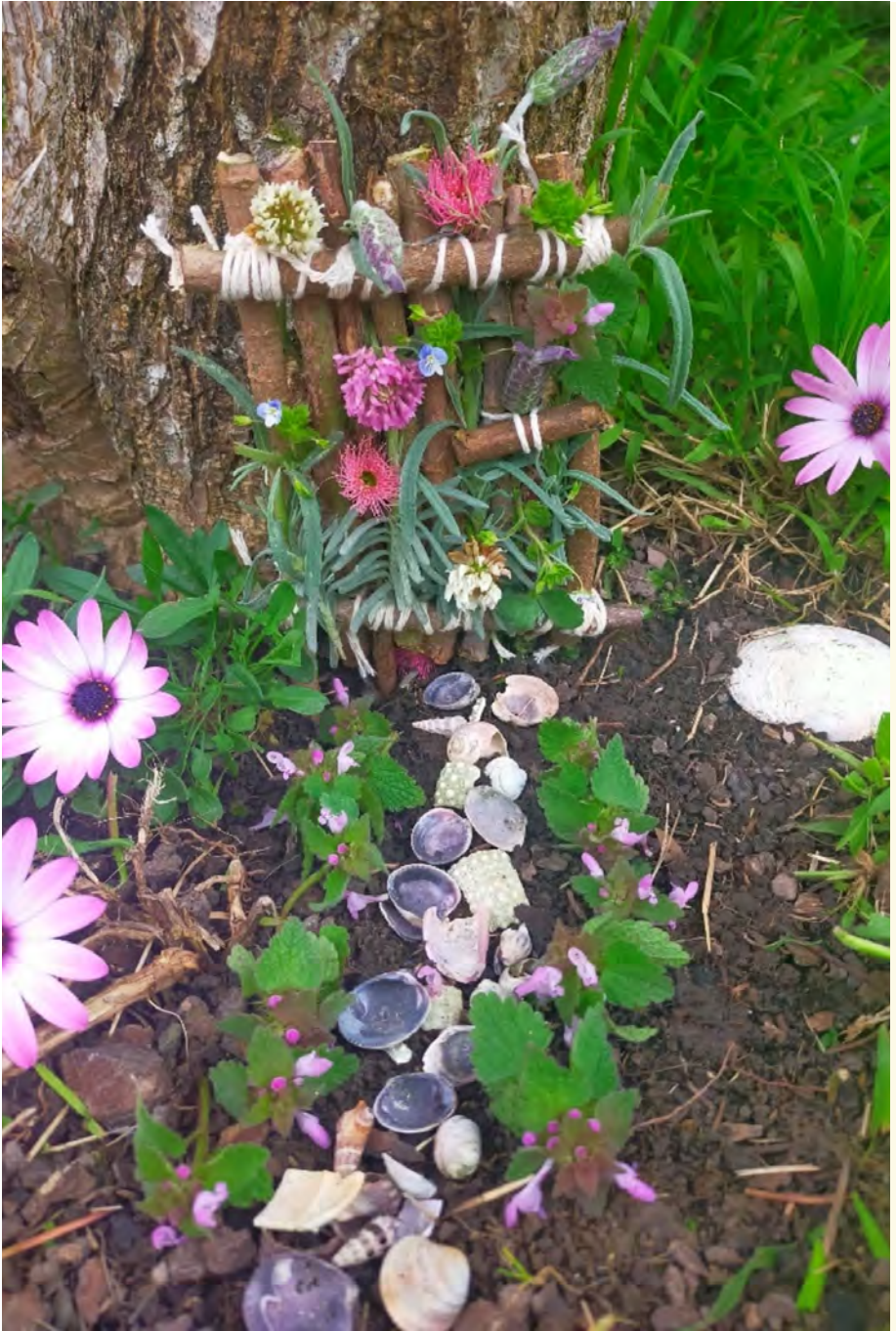
Dress the space around your door, add flowers, make a path out of shells, anything you think will attract magical creatures to your garden, have fun!

Here are some pictures of different doors we have made, we used harakeke instead of string for some of ours, for one we made a wee ladder, and we even had a go at one out of cardboard. One note though, we did make the one with the wee ladder on our cat Pablo's favourite scratching tree, he was not impressed so we had to move it! Hehe.

We would love to see your magical creature doors so if you like you could get your parents to tag us on Instagram #CeacAdventures.

Mā te wā
Penny









Penny is a practicing artist, represented by Whitespace Contemporary Art Gallery in Auckland. Her bubble peeps are her partner Doug, her two teens Finn and Sybella, 9 year old Dan and Pablo the studio cat (who likes to steal paintbrushes). She loves NZ music and kai moana!

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