

# FANTASTICAL BAT INSTALLATION ART



I love this quirky little bat with his many hands. It comes from *The Art of Falconry (De Arte Venandi Cum Avibus)*, a Latin ornithology book originally published in 1241 by Frederick II, the Holy Roman Emperor from 1196-1250.

SUMMON A COLONY OF BATS INTO YOUR HOME FROM THE DARKEST CORNERS OF YOUR IMAGINATION!

## YOU WILL NEED:

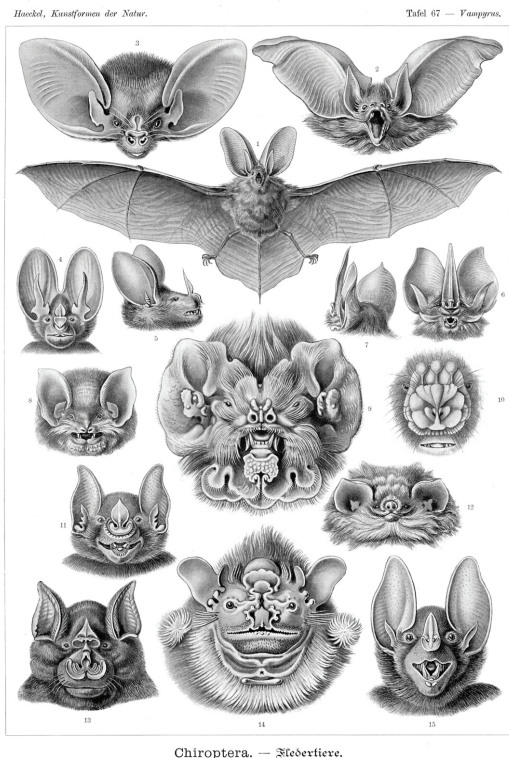
- SCISSORS
- SHEETS OF BLACK PAPER
- WHITE PENCIL, CRAYON OR CHALK
- BLUTAK (OR SIMILAR)
- STRING

**INSTALLATION ART:**  
installation art is artwork made up of different parts created to transform a specific room or space. When you walk into an installation, you get the feeling that you are inside the artwork!

## LET'S GET INSPIRED



LIN ONUS, FRUIT BATS (1991), ART GALLERY OF NSW



ERNST HAECKEL, BATS (1904) FROM *KUNSTFORMEN DER NATUR*.

# THINKING ABOUT BATS

Bats are found in dark night skies and caves all over the world. Because they are so common, they are found in nearly every culture's art. Bats are often seen as creepy and evil in European countries, but in China and parts of Central America they are seen as a symbol of good luck! In Aotearoa, the Māori word for bats is pekapeka, and within some traditions and stories they are seen as messengers who can warn of coming dangers! What do you think of when you see a bat? What makes you think that way?

## LET'S GET STARTED

For this project, you are going to design, draw, cut and hang a whole bunch of dark, fantastical bats in a space inside your home! Your bats can be as crazy and kooky as you can imagine. Draw your bats on black paper with your white pencil or crayon. Print off the template at the end of this guide to use as a starting point to trace around if you need to.

1.



Draw the outlines of your bats. Be mindful of arranging your bats from the edges of your paper, so you don't waste any space! *Make different bat shapes, some hanging, some flying!* Try to make as many bats as you can.

2.



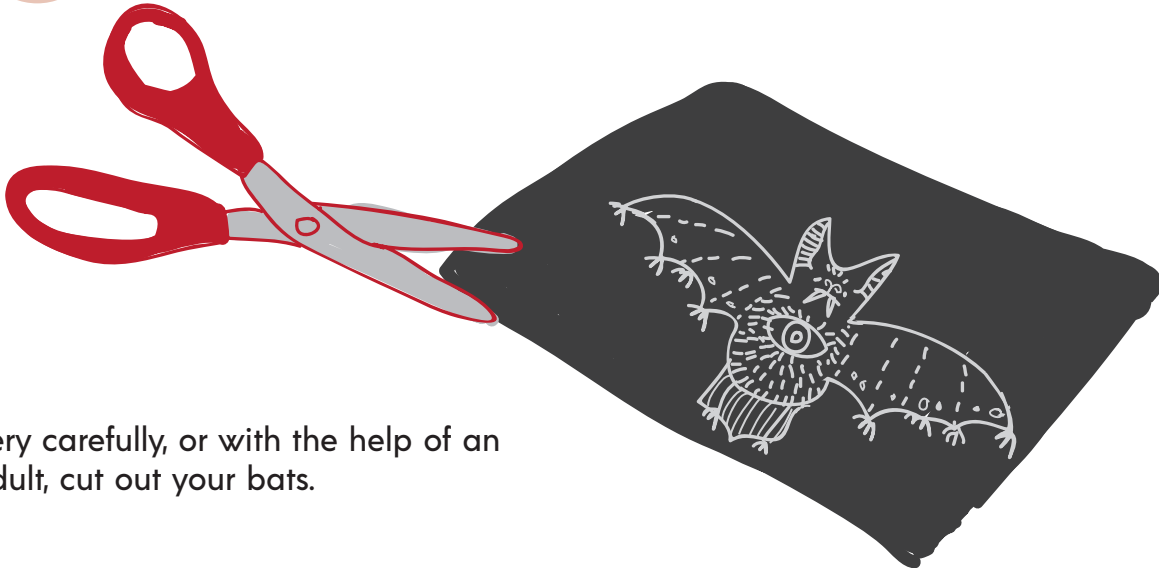
Use your white pencil to create different patterns and textures on your bat. What kinds of patterns can you draw? *Notice how if you press hard, your lines are thick and bold, and if you press soft, your lines are light and thin.*

3.



*Remember, this flock of bats is from your imagination, so add lots of weird details. Will your bats have fearsome teeth? scales? many wings? horns? a robot antennae?*

4.



Very carefully, or with the help of an adult, cut out your bats.

5.

Choose the space for your installation. *Think about how you can create the feeling that this space is teeming with a shrieking colony of weird, wonderful bats.* Maybe you choose a dark corner of a bedroom, or a flat wall near a big window. Decide which bats will hang from string from the roof, and which will stick to the walls. Think about how you can make it seem like the bats are moving together in a direction, or from somewhere spooky.

Once all your bats are stuck, stand back and admire your work. *Notice the way your bats move as you walk past them.*

Invite a family member in to experience your work. *Ask them how your installation art makes them feel.*



*BAT TEMPLATE*

