

OUT & ABOUT NSW, ACT

Edited by Bridget Cormack.
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Raetze's paradise found

THERE'S something about birds — birds of paradise, to be precise, with their distinctive plumage and striking colour range — that sparked the imagination of Silke Raetze. The Sydney artist, initially fascinated by the wings of birds and insects, worked as official artist in residence at the Australian Museum for three months from last September, giving her access to the institution's enormous archives. The result is a series of artworks about birds of paradise, created to accompany the museum's exhibition about these fascinating creatures. *Rituals of Seduction: Birds of Paradise*, which opens on Saturday and runs until August 7, features paper sculptures, printed silk fabrics and drawings by Raetze that will be displayed alongside specimens from the museum's collection. "Anything I create will always pale in comparison to nature itself," says Raetze, whose previous show detailed her experiences of online dating, a process that led to marriage in late 2009. Her works will form part of a solo exhibition in August at the Michael Reid Gallery in Sydney.

ASHLEIGH WILSON

