

A photograph of a bird, possibly a quail, perched on a circular, perforated metal platform. The platform is part of a larger structure that looks like a temporary shelter or a feeding station. The bird is facing right, and its head is turned slightly towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus, with some foliage visible on the left. The title 'COMPLICATED EXISTENCE' is printed in white capital letters on a dark, rectangular panel in the upper right corner of the image.

COMPLICATED EXISTENCE

*It grasps the ceramic basin, breakfast mindlessly
picked at while the temporary shelter shakes violently
to the noise of kids running by. They knock into it, water
splashing out of the red container onto the muddied ground
– there was barely enough to begin with – the dried
clay now visible Through the cracked paint. The
shutter clicks as it turns to you. A moment
passes and you think its recognised
what has happened – no
that's silly – it flies off.*

Image by Cheyenne D'Costa
Repair, at Melbourne Museum's Gallery of Life by DCM. 2024.

