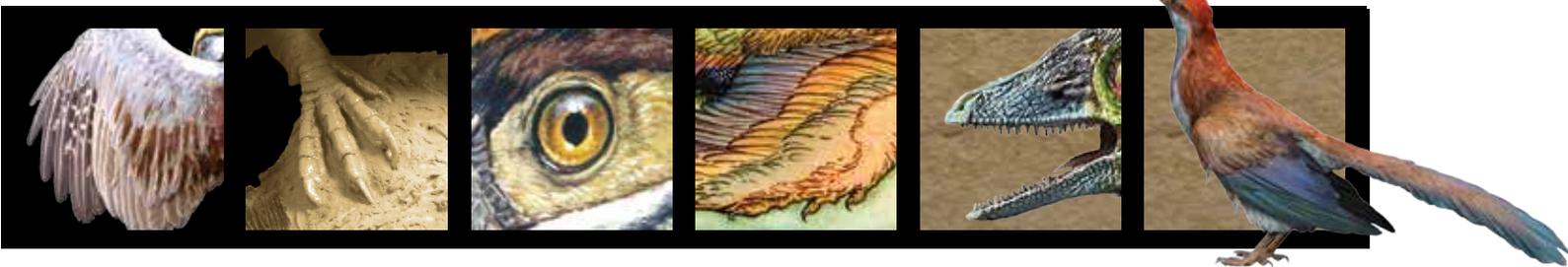


# Dinosaurs Take Flight



*Produced in partnership with*



AND

Yale PEABODY MUSEUM  
OF NATURAL HISTORY

Email: [Curator@spexhibitions.com](mailto:Curator@spexhibitions.com) Visit our website at [www.spexhibitions.com](http://www.spexhibitions.com)  
[www.DinosaursTakeFlight.com](http://www.DinosaursTakeFlight.com)

# The Exhibit

## Dinosaurs Take Flight

### **Archaeopteryx** (ahr-kee-OP-tuh-riks)



#### **Above**

*Berlin Specimen - Archaeopteryx lithographica*  
*Arguably the most important and beautiful fossil ever discovered. Research grade replica part and counter-part included.*

#### **Quick Facts**

- Size 2000 - 3000 sq ft
- Shipping included in exhibit lease fee
- Display cases, benches, walls, and AV equipment provided
- Exhibit technicians on site to assist with installation and strike

Dinosaurs are taken to new heights in this elegant traveling exhibition—engaging visitors at the intersection of art, science and history.

*Archaeopteryx* provides a critical bridge between dinosaurs and birds. Starting with the initial discovery in 1861, *Archaeopteryx* has been an integral part of the discussion of evolution, the origin of birds, and the origin of flight. Scientists from across the globe have conducted extensive research to better understand this “missing link,” and studies continue still.

Why did feathers first evolve? Did it fly?

**Silver Plume Exhibitions** approached some of the top paleo-artists around the world and asked them for a glimpse into their studios, showing how they bring extinct creatures to life. Paleo-artists are visionaries of the past. They bring vibrant, colorful life to these prehistoric animals and inspire the scientific imagination of young and old alike.

Dive into the life and times of *Archaeopteryx* with a complete collection of replicas, a diverse selection of real fossils, vibrant artwork and engaging text panels. Dinosaurs Take Flight is a turn-key exhibit with hands-on fun and engaging education for the whole family.



# Specimens

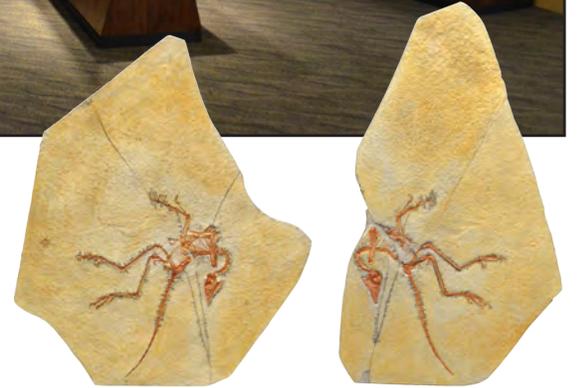
## *Archaeopteryx*



London Specimen



**Dinosaurs Take Flight** includes high quality research grade replicas of eight *Archaeopteryx* specimens. Associated text describes the history of discovery and scientific value.



Eichstätt Specimen



Berlin Specimen



Solnhofen Specimen



Haarlem Specimen

*Originally found in 1855, it was originally described as a pterosaur. In 1972, John Ostrom of Yale, recognized it as an Archaeopteryx. In 2017, This specimen again came into question. It was renamed Ostromia and is now considered a more theropod like dinosaur.*



Maxberg Specimen



Munich Specimen



# Specimens

The history of *Archaeopteryx* is rich with debate and controversy. Originally described in 1862, the "London" specimen was the first example of a possible "missing link" between reptiles and birds. The specimen was, and still is, instrumental in the great story of birds' evolution from dinosaurs.

Exhibition discusses the life and environment with a display of other flora and fauna from the Solnhofen lagoon. Elements include replicas of pterosaurs, *Compsognathus*, and a mounted *Archaeopteryx* skeleton, as well as a collection of real fossils with dragonflies, insects, squid, shrimp, horseshoe crabs, fish, brittle stars, and others.



Thermopolis Specimen  
*Exhibition features the first touring replica of the Thermopolis Specimen.*



# The Artists

## JULIUS T. CSOTONYI



Julius T. Csotonyi has an extensive scientific background including a PhD in microbiology. His digital paintings are elegant pieces of art that have an unparalleled attention to scientific detail. With an intuitive sense of artistic composition, light and shadow, and technical painting ability, Csotonyi gives a dynamic new life to his extinct depictions.

## DENNIS J. WILSON



Dennis J. Wilson is a talented multimedia artist trained in traditional fine art. He became a paleo enthusiast while working at the American Museum of Natural History. He specializes in three dimensional life-like reconstructions of extinct and extant creatures. His work is featured in numerous global museums and exhibitions.

## LUIS V. REY



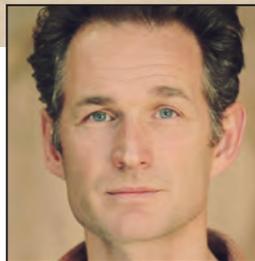
Luis V. Rey has been a multimedia illustrator, professional surrealist, and amateur paleontologist for more than 35 years. He strives to paint accurate but daring paleo reconstructions. His unique style is easily recognizable and reflects his heritage as a Spanish-Mexican artist. Rey's works appear in many books, publications, and museum exhibitions.

## MARK HALLETT



Mark Hallett is a prolific paleo-artist and illustrator. His style and depictions can be found across many decades of magazines, movies, books, and museum installations. Hallett's traditional art talents are obvious and beautifully illustrate the scientific details in all his drawings, paintings, and sculptures.

## GARY STAAB



Gary Staab is known world-wide for his diverse life sculptures. Nothing is too big or too small. He has an uncanny ability to make bronze sculptures look like they are living animals just frozen for a moment in time. Gary Staab is feature artist in many museums, zoos, National Geographic, and NOVA productions.

## WILLIAM STOUT



William Stout is well known for his science fiction and fantasy paintings as well as his paleo-art. His work has been featured in many books, movies, magazines, and traveling exhibitions. He is a master painter with a clear process that brings the viewer into his studio in a most educational and informative way. His works purvey a sense of adventure and show us not only extinct animals, but also a rich, sometimes whimsical, worlds that they lived in.

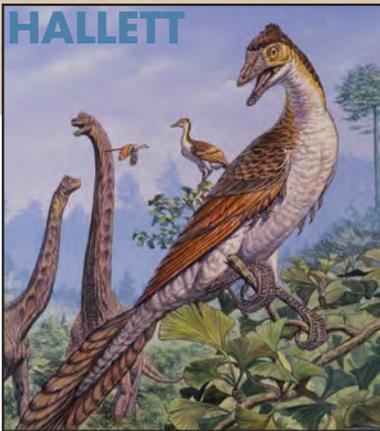
# The Art



It is rare to see depictions of play behavior in dinosaur art. Csotonyi uses his artistic skills with lighting and perspective in this digital painting, *Play With Your Food*.



*Nesting Archaeopteryx* by Dennis Wilson shows a parent tending a nest with eggs and a new hatchling.



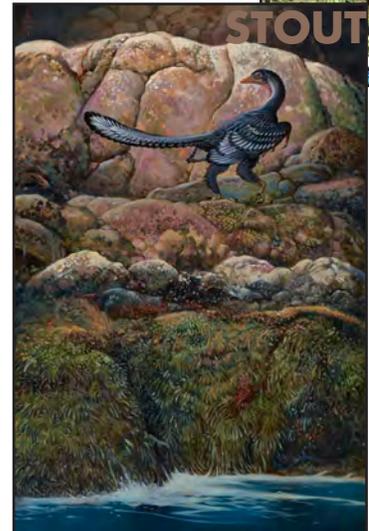
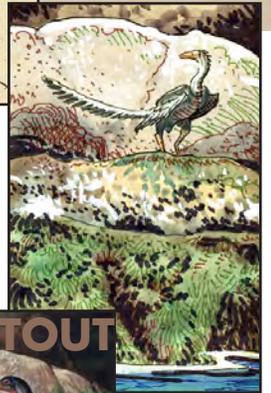
More than 10 of Mark Hallett's original works are featured in *Dinosaurs Take Flight*. Many of those pieces were first commissioned as illustrations for the book, *The Puzzle of The Dinosaur Bird*. Visitors can explore how artists, authors, and scientists work together to produce a cohesive, informative, and beautiful book.



*Curiosity* by Gary Staab, is accompanied by a video presentation of the fiery process of creating the work in bronze.



Follow each step of creating two original works by Stout.



# Interaction for All Ages

## Childhood Artwork

**JULIUS CSOTONYI** has been drawing Archaeopteryx and other dinosaurs for a long time. When Julius was young he drew lots of pictures and he is still drawing everyday.

Can you find the Archaeopteryx in all three images?

Childhood Drawing 1  
Digital reprint of crayon on paper  
Age 8

Childhood Drawing 2  
Digital reprint of colored pencils on paper  
Age 11

Childhood Drawing 3  
Digital reprint of markers on paper  
Age 14



Childhood artwork from each artist presented on colorful panels. Encourages kids to draw their own dinosaurs.

- Julius Csotonyi (Left)
- Mark Hallett, Age 6 (Above)

Touchable bronze cast of the Berlin Specimen allows for hands-on interaction. (Right)



Interactive touch screen accompanies Family Values mural by Luis V. Rey.



With this hands-on diorama, even the smallest children can learn about the Solnhofen archipelago and the animals that lived there.



Blocks with artwork puzzle creates a game for the whole family.

# Additional Resources



## Gift Shop Consignment Package

- Books are available from most artists
- Scientific books about *Archaeopteryx*
- Prints of exhibit artwork
- Posters and postcards
- Soft goods (T-shirts, hats, etc.)
- Solnhofen limestone decorative tiles

## Educator packet

- Fossil replica pieces for use on educator cart.
- Replica for rubbings of feathers and bones
- Activities and games for educator/classroom
- Library selection

## Docent Gallery Guide

Informational packet to assist volunteers, docents, and educators in giving informative guided tours.

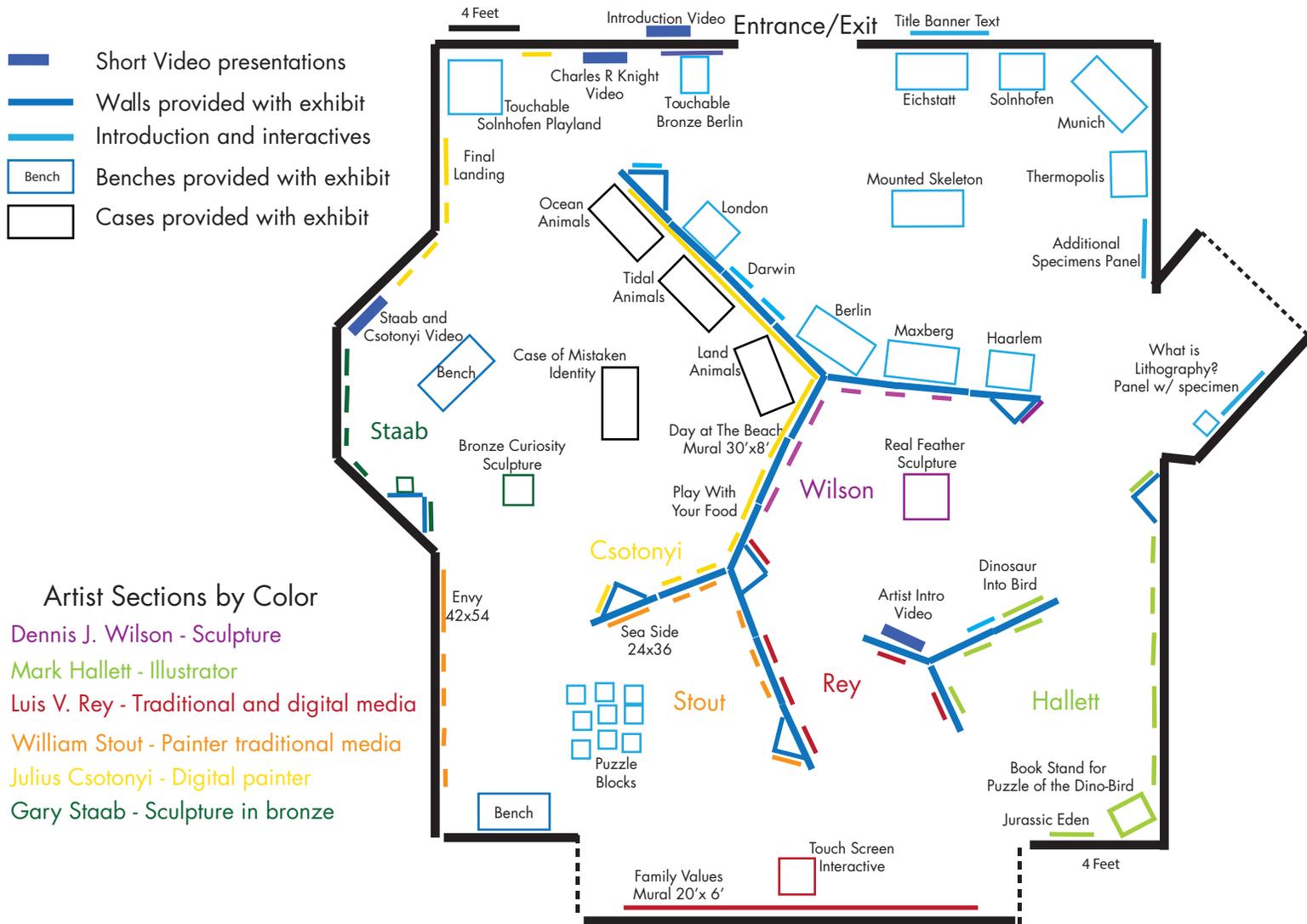


## Potential Programming

Artists are willing to do lectures, workshops, and book signing in association with the exhibit by separate arrangement. A list of artist contact information and lecture or workshop specifics will be provided upon request.

# Sample Gallery Design

Approximately 2000 sq ft  
As seen at The High Desert Nature Museum, Bend, OR



*"My greatest desire is to excite the imagination and sense of wonder we all have about the natural world, and about the fascinating creatures and worlds that exist now and in the past."*

— Mark Hallett