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Bugs at an Unusual Size

The world of insects is all around us. Cleverly camouflaged or flamboyant in their displays, their diminutive size frequently keeps them from attracting our attention. Important to science and necessary in the natural world, the unexpected artistry and beauty of insects can usually only be fully appreciated under a magnifying glass. Until now.

Bugs: Outside the Box presents a selection of greatly enlarged insect sculptures, each showcasing the beauty hidden within the (mini)beasts of the natural world.

Butterflies with five foot wingspans and beetles, four feet long, that can stare you square in the eye are only two examples of the unique sculptures on display in this unique exhibition.

Intricate details not visible to the naked eye are showcased alongside educational topics, including an exciting look at museum collections and taxonomy, and an exploration of the power of magnification.



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Exhibition Details

The Presentation



The primary focus of this exhibition is the beauty in the details that exist beyond our everyday powers of observation. Exhibition furniture and graphics are a subtle background to the center attraction, the sculptures themselves.

The sculptures are placed upon large bases, and are grouped to represent various topics. Each side of the bases contain unique information about the life cycles of the insect on display, along with relatable, fascinating facts including metamorphosis, ecological pressures, etc.; balanced by touchable, sculptural body parts, which are replicas of the sculptures immediately adjacent, for a tactile experience.

Interpretive Information

Introduction



Introduction

Upon entering the gallery, the visitor is greeted by a butterfly with a five foot wingspan, flanked by introductory graphics.

Additional graphics in the introductory section touch on the broad concepts explored in the exhibit, such as: The Impact of Magnification; Taxonomy and Museum Collections; Insects and Arthropods within Museum Collections.

The Impact of Magnification

The backside of the Introductory Module contains information on the impact of magnification. The use of actual (or similar) specimens of the sculptures as comparison is established at this point in the exhibit, and an explanation of the history and usage of magnification is presented.

To further encourage learning and exploration of this concept, several different magnification strengths are available to the visitor through mirrors and microscopes. Magnification from 5x up to 400x are provided for exploration at the **Magnification Stations**.

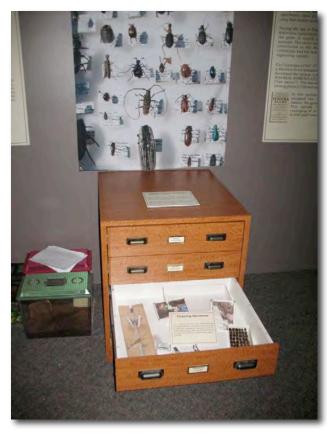


Taxonomy and Museum Collections

The practice of collecting all types of materials from the natural world as well as the world of man has been an important endeavor for centuries. Well preserved and organized biological collections such as insect collections serve as wells of information that may provide answers to many questions that face us today; how does the biodiversity of an area change over time? How are populations of insects related to one another?

Other questions are addressed in this section as well; how do scientists communicate accurately with one another about their findings if they don't speak the same language, or even live in the same era? And why is it important to continue to collect and maintain museum collections?

In addition, basic concepts and terminology about what's behind museum collections are accompanied by a display of the tools of the trade – from equipment for field collecting to finer implements used for mounting, preserving and observing specimens.



Sculpture Groupings

Amazing Armour

The models included in this topic are equipped with impressive exoskeletons. Massive jaws and other embellishments are striking at life size and even more so at great size. But what purpose do they serve? Are these remarkable features merely ornamentation, or are they useful to the animal that carries them?



Extraordinary Architecture

Like many creatures, insects and arthropods adapt and evolve over time to further the survival of their species. Can you guess what those unbelievable long antennae possessed by the longhorn beetle are good for? Or what about the "arms" on the long arm beetle? How could they help that species survive?



Wondrous Wings

We all know that butterflies and moths can have beautiful, colorful wings. You may even know that those wings are covered with tiny scales that make up that color. Each sculpture details the dazzling complexity of wing structure revealing each individually colored scale. How do those colorful scales contribute to the survival of the species?

In addition to these colorful wings, many other insect wings are fascinating to discover at a large scale. The membrane of a dragonfly's or lantern insect's wing is more similar than you'd think to those more fanciful butterfly's wings.



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Butterflies Up Close

The delicate beauty of butterflies has captivated humankind for centuries. But their looks are only a part of their story – they are important pollinators and can tell us a lot about the health of their environment. Greatly magnified, their anatomy tells a fascinating story.





The Art of Camouflage

One look at a stick insect tells us all we need to know about camouflage – if it can blend in with its surroundings, it might not get eaten. The minute details visible in this large scale reproduction accentuates structures that so convincingly mimics the smallest detail of a tropical leaf. It is a remarkable visual lesson in the power of evolution.



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Reading Rail Details: Specimens, Interpretive Information, and Touchable Sculpture Pieces

To compliment the sculptures and interpretive information, embedded within the reading rail component of the viewing platform are scientific illustrations of each insect at life size, accompanied by "What's in a Name?" break down of the meaning of their scientific names.

In addition, each reading rail will feature a "Touch Zone", where enlarged insect body parts matching those on display and made of the same material will be affixed and available for touching and exploring. A dragonfly's delicate wing, the huge mandible of a stag beetle, or a section of a butterfly's scaled wing will be easily accessible for all visitors to experience.



Stag Beetle Touch Zone

Photo Murals



To further highlight insect collections in museums, photo murals featuring the interiors of typical museum collecting drawers, greatly enlarged, line the gallery walls and serve as an effective backdrop.

About The Artist

The methods used to create the sculptures are almost as fascinating as the models themselves. Lorenzo Possenti is the artist/entomology enthusiast who creates these scientifically accurate works of art. Using powerful magnification and actual specimens of each animal, Lorenzo painstakingly creates each sculpture with remarkable accuracy. A display case with a selection of tools and construction artifacts including original masters, molds, unpainted casts and a photo story of Lorenzo at work in his studio completes the exhibit experience.



SPECIFICATIONS

Exhibit Size: Approximately 2,500-3,000 square feet; Sixteen Sculptures Total.

Rental Fee: Please contact us for details.

Species List

Magnification

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Lucanus cervus, stag beetle	20x
Cheirotonus macleayi, long-armed beetle	15x
Aeolesthes oenochrous, long-horn beetle	15x
Dynastes hercules Hercules, Hercules beetle	10x
Dorcus schenklingi, stag beetle	15x
Phyllophorina kotoshoensis, leaf grasshopper	15x
Dorcus formosanus, stag beetle	15x
Megacrania tsudai, stick insect	15x
Anotogaster sieboldi, jumbo dragonfly	15x
Agehana maraho, red-tailed butterfly	15x
Troides magellanus, pearl butterfly	15x
Sasakia charonda, blue asian butterfly	15x
Atrophaneura horishana, birdwing butterfly	15x
Formotosena seebohmi, giant cicada	15x
Fulgora watanabe, watanabe's lanternfly	15x
Troides aeacus, golden birdwing butterfly	15x

BOOKING and CONTACT INFORMATION

Summer 2019 and beyond

Currently accepting bookings

Contact Information:

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