

***Under the Skin* Science Exhibition**

Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut
February 1 – July 19, 2020



Pelicans, Thermal Image. Image courtesy of Dr. L. Witmer, Dr. R. Porter, and Dr. G. Tattersall.



Hog-Nosed Snake with Prey, CT Scan. Image courtesy of Dr. Ed Stanley and Dr. David Blackburn.

GREENWICH, CT, January 7, 2020 – On February 1, 2020, a fascinating new exhibition that explores the intersection of art and science opens in the newly renovated and enlarged Science Gallery at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT.

Under the Skin highlights a dozen recent scientific discoveries through a combination of stunning imagery and real biological specimens.

The exhibition, on view through July 19, 2020, showcases images made possible by a remarkable array of technologies – CT scanning, infrared and UV imaging, scanning electron microscopy, and more – that reveal the extraordinary beauty of nature that often lies just below the surface. All of the images presented in the exhibition, from a section of a dinosaur bone photographed in cross-polarized light, to a CT scan of a hog-nosed snake engorged with prey, were captured in the last five years, thus representing the cutting edge of modern imaging.

A number of the images in *Under the Skin* highlight new scientific discoveries that were undreamt of a decade ago. Specimens from the Bruce Museum Collection and on loan from other collections complement each image and reinforce the role of museums as stewards of natural history.

“Nature is full of beauty, at scales great and small,” says Dr. Daniel Ksepka, Curator of Science. “While each represents a research breakthrough, these striking and, in many cases, prize-winning images can be considered art in their own right.”



Roosterfish, Cleared and Stained Specimen. Image courtesy of Dr. Matthew Girard.

Visitors will peer into the inner ear of a tiny frog, marvel at a chameleon whose bones glow in UV light right through its skin, and learn how we can trace the growth rate of a 10-ton dinosaur from microscopic structures in its bones. Exploring the relationship between light and nature, visitors will discover that flying squirrels glow a fluorescent pink in UV light, pelican pouches burst into color when viewed with infrared imaging, and fossil cells transmit a kaleidoscope of color under polarized light.

The dozen images highlighted in the exhibition have been specially printed on metal to provide more detail and depth. “It’s taking the images to the next level, giving them a polished, almost luscious look,” says Anne von Stuelpnagel, Director of Exhibitions. “The photos themselves are from the researchers, and they deserve credit for taking photographs of such tiny or intricate things and at such high resolution. We wanted to do them justice.”

As part of the exhibition, the Museum will invite world-renowned scientists, whose work will be highlighted in the exhibition, to share their discoveries through a series of lectures at the Bruce. A scholarly research symposium will bring together faculty, postdocs, and graduate students from regional museums and universities.



Dr. Daniel Ksepka, Curator of Science, with a CT scan rendering of a miniature frog, revealing an ant inside its digestive tract.

Please visit brucemuseum.org as the exhibition nears for an update about the *Under the Skin* research symposium and related programs.

The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Museum members at the Patron level and above are invited to an **Opening Celebration** on Friday, January 31, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. An **All Members Reception** will take place on Tuesday, February 4, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. To RSVP or to join, contact Membership Manager Laura Freeman at 203-413-6764 or lfreeman@brucemuseum.org.

The Bruce Museum is grateful for exhibition support from a Committee of Honor Co-Chaired by Sue Baker, Ingrid Delson, Lisette Henrey, Gale and Bob Lawrence, and Dr. Kim Nichols. Additional support for Bruce Museum exhibitions is generously provided by the Charles M. and Deborah G. Royce Exhibition Fund and the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

For more information about the Bruce Museum's transformative renovation and expansion project, including updates about the renovation under way and a virtual tour of the building addition, please visit NewBruce.org.

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About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting a variety of art and science exhibitions annually. The permanent galleries feature the natural sciences that encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents. The Museum attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 schoolchildren, reaching out to families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

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