

Bruce Museum
1 Museum Drive, Greenwich CT 06830-7100
203.869.0376
BruceMuseum.org

the
Bruce

PRESS RELEASE

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Bruce Presents: Unlocking the Cabinet of Curiosities – With Mark Dion, Alexis Rockman and Tim Walsh



On June 24th, 2023 the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT debuted the blockbuster exhibition *Mark Dion and Alexis Rockman: Journey to Nature's Underworld*, the first two-person survey of these renowned artists.

A highlight of this extraordinary show is a one-of-a-kind, bespoke installation created specifically for the Bruce Museum – a “Cabinet of Curiosity” fashioned from artifacts in the museum’s collection.

The two artists worked closely with the Bruce Museum’s Collections Manager, Tim Walsh to mine the collection. As a team they unearthed objects and curiosities of science and natural history held in the Bruce’s vaults while simultaneously exploring the work of early Bruce Museum curators Paul Griswold Howes and Edward F. Bigelow. The result is an immersive,

physical environment in which visitors can explore the early days of the Bruce Museum and the fascinating lives of these two early 20th Century naturalists.

On July 18th, join artists Mark Dion, Alexis Rockman, and Collections Manager Tim Walsh as they unpack the cabinet-of-curiosity and reveal what lies within.

Bruce Presents: Unlocking the Cabinet of Curiosities will begin at 6:00pm EST on Tuesday, July 18th, 2023, in the Gale and Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., and Pamela and Robert Goergen Auditorium. This program will also be livestreamed online.

Space is limited. Online registration required.

Cost: Adults - \$25, Students/ Educators - \$15, Members FREE

Cost: Live Stream - \$25, FREE for Members

Registration and Live Stream information at BruceMuseum.org

Support for Bruce Presents is generously provided by Berkley One, a Berkley Company.



Mark Dion, Alexis Rockman (photo by Katherine Taylor), and Tim Walsh

Mark Dion (b. 1961) received his BFA (1986) and an honorary doctorate (2003) from the University of Hartford, Hartford Art School, and attended the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program. Dion's work examines the ways in which dominant ideologies and public institutions shape our understanding of history, knowledge, and the natural world. By locating the roots of environmental politics and public policy in the construction of knowledge about nature, Mark Dion questions the objectivity and authoritative role of the scientific voice in contemporary society, tracking how pseudo-science, social agendas and ideology creep into public discourse and knowledge production. He is the co-director of Mildred's Land, an innovative visual art education and residency program in Beach Lake, and lives with his wife and frequent collaborator, Dana Sherwood, in Copake, New York.

Alexis Rockman (b. 1962) has exhibited extensively worldwide since 1985. He has been the subject of many international solo and group exhibitions, including a major retrospective organized at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. His work is also included in public and private collections around the world, and he has held several teaching posts at prestigious institutions, such as Columbia and Harvard. Recent exhibitions include *Alexis Rockman: Shipwrecks, 2021-22* at Guild Hall, East Hampton, which traveled to Peabody Essex Museum, The Ackland Museum and the Princeton University Art Museum, *Oceanus, 2023* at the Mystic Seaport Museum and *Mark Dion and Alexis Rockman: A Journey Through Nature's Underworld, 2023*, at the Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT. Rockman lives and works in Warren, CT.

Tim Walsh is a museum professional with 32 years' experience in the field. Much of his career has been focused on herpetology with a specialty in turtles and he has worked in zoos, public aquaria, science centers, and museums. His recently found passion for history has a focused interest on the founding curators of the Bruce Museum, where he currently serves as Collections Manager. Tim has a Masters Degree in Museum Studies with research interests in conservation education, history of natural history, and reconnecting children and adults alike with nature. He is a member of the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, a Fellow of The Explorers Club, an avid outdoorsman, published photographer, and book collector.

ABOUT THE NEW BRUCE MUSEUM

Located in Bruce Park overlooking Greenwich Harbor, the Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution that offers a changing array of exhibitions and educational programs to promote the understanding and appreciation of art and science.

For over a century the Bruce Museum has delighted and engaged its visitors by presenting exceptional exhibitions in art, science, and the intersections between the two disciplines. Now recognized as ahead of its time when textile merchant Robert Moffat Bruce (1822-1909) conceived of the museum and bequeathed the building to the Town of Greenwich in 1908, the Museum is at the heart of contemporary efforts to bring together art and science, technology and creativity, creating moments of discovery and dialogue. The first exhibition at the Bruce Museum took place in 1912 and featured works by local artists known as the Greenwich Society of Artists, several of whom were members of the Cos Cob art colony. Their works formed the nucleus of the Museum's art holdings and continue to be a strength of a collection which has grown to focus on global art from 1850 to the present. Other strengths include Native American Art, modernist works on paper, and photography. Over the years, the community, through its generosity, has built the Museum's varied collection to nearly 30,000 objects. Early Museum directors pursued a parallel development of the natural sciences, building strengths in the mineral and avian collections.

In 2019, the AAM-accredited Museum broke ground on an ambitious expansion project, which took the building from 33,000 to over 70,000 square feet. The New Bruce features state-of-the-art exhibition, education, and community spaces, including: a changing gallery for art and five new permanent galleries in the new William L. Richter Art Wing; a changing gallery for science; a new permanent science exhibition, *Natural Cycles Shape Our Land*; three new classrooms in

the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Education Wing; and a café, an auditorium, and grand hall. The grand opening of the new Bruce was on April 2, 2023.