

Mitzi Morris (Kevin Kriegel) is wowing the audiences at the Come On Inn in her self-titled show, coming to Orlando Out Fest. **ORLANDO FRINGE**



Erika MacDonald is ready to pour out the tea again in her show at Orlando Out Fest. **ERIKA MACDONALD**



Janine Klein, pictured at an Orlando Fringe Festival of yesteryear, will be back in town to perform "Gay Bar Star" at Orlando Family Stage. **ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE**

'WE NEED TO BE SEEN'

Orlando Fringe revives Orlando Out Fest



Matthew J. Palm
THE ARTISTIC TYPE

Unfurl those rainbow flags: Orlando Out Fest is back for a third year. This year's celebration of queer theater, art, music and film will take place Sept. 10-13, with a free opening party on Sept. 9.

"We are so excited to bring back Orlando Out Fest as a part of our Orlando Fringe programming to celebrate and recognize the art made by and for the LGBTQIA+ community," says Orlando Fringe artistic director Tempestt Halstead.

The festival is presented this year by Orlando Fringe and curated by George Wallace, executive director of The Center Orlando. That arrangement reflects the event's somewhat convoluted history: It was founded in 2024 by Orlando Fringe, but its return last year was produced instead by The Center, which provides services for queer Central Floridians.

"As the former executive director of Orlando Fringe and the current chief executive director of The Center Orlando, I get to marry my two

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Tymisha Harris will be performing a cabaret at Orlando Out Fest. **DYNAMITE LUNCHBOX/ORLANDO FRINGE**



Doug Bloodworth made a unique depiction of the Allosaurus in the "Elegy for the Unseen: The Art of Extinct Species" exhibition at Orlando Science Center. **PATRICK CONNOLLY/ORLANDO SENTINEL**

Extinct species come to life through art show at Orlando Science Center



Patrick Connolly
CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPLORER

Dinosaurs, mammoths, tigers, birds and even cockroaches come to life in a new exhibition at Orlando Science Center that highlights extinct species through art.

"Elegy for the Unseen: The Art of Extinct Species" is now on display, featuring more than 50 works by 34 artists who have painted, photographed, sketched or sculpted species ranging from dinosaurs to birds and beyond. All of these can be seen now through Nov. 15 in Fusion: A STEAM Gallery on the third floor of the science center.

Scientists estimate that more than 99% of species that have ever lived are now extinct, representing billions of lifeforms lost to history. The exhibition aims to honor extinct species while "reminding us that the biodiversity we share today is both fragile and worth protecting."

"The idea of extinct species is fascinating because when you

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IF YOU GO

"Elegy for the Unseen: The Art of Extinct Species" is on display through Nov. 15 at 777 E. Princeton St. in Orlando. The center is open daily (closed Wednesdays) from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Adult admission costs $29 online, and youth admission (ages 2-12) costs $22 online. More information: osc.org





The saber-toothed cat is depicted by Marsha De Broske in the exhibition.



Chad Pollpeter painted a unique work of art depicting the Triceratops.

CONNOLLY

from Page F1



John Baker photographed a horse to depict the extinct tarpan in the "Elegy for the Unseen: The Art of Extinct Species" exhibition.



Alexis Collum chose to focus on an extinct species of cockroach at the Orlando Science Center. **PATRICK CONNOLLY/ORLANDO SENTINEL PHOTOS**

really look at how many there have been, way before humans were ever in the picture, it's hard to even conceptualize," said Brad Biggs, founder and director of Art For All Spaces and the show's curator. "I wanted to do an exhibition that basically celebrated the fact that all of these animals are gone, but were here and were part of the world."

The exhibition features around a dozen dinosaurs, but there is a range of other species represented, including a spider-like arachnid with a scorpion-like tail, a Neanderthal, a mammoth, the Dodo, a saber-toothed cat and the auroch, an ancient relative of modern cattle.

One particularly unique take on a dinosaur comes from Doug Bloodworth, a photorealistic painter who depicts the Allosaurus battling Superman on the cover of a comic book.

Each piece has a tag with the artist's name and scientific information about the species depicted in the artwork.

One of the species represented is a Simandoa cave roach, a cockroach first discovered by scientists in a cave in Africa in 2004. While the roaches still exist in captivity, their habitat was destroyed by mining operations at the site where they were discovered.

The roaches were painted by Orlando artist Alexis Collum, who also painted huge eagle-size dragonflies and an ancient 15-foot turtle on separate canvases.

"I chose the cockroach because it's one that probably wouldn't get elevated to being in an exhibition," she said. "I wanted to give them all their space to shine because they all have value and importance."

Photographer John Baker chose to represent the tarpan, a "small, stocky" wild horse that existed tens of thousands of years ago. The last known wild tarpan died in the late 19th century, and the last captive tarpan died in 1909 in a Russian zoo.

"Eurasians tried to breed tarpans with other horses in order to make them more docile and bigger," Baker said. "I could take pictures of modern-day horses because the bone structure is said to be the same."

He photographed horses on a Central Florida farm and created one double exposure with a wooden horse sculpture superimposed next to the real horse, drawing a metaphorical connection to the extinct species.

In another frame, Baker's girlfriend puts her hand through a fence to touch an old horse, almost as if reaching back through history.

One corner of the exhibition is dedicated to ammonites, a group of marine mollusks that first appeared 400 to 415 million years ago and went extinct 66 million years ago.

There's an ammonite fossil unearthed by Biggs in Texas next to a painting of an ammonite by Vera Gubnitskaia and a sculpture by Yve Nix.

The show also has art by students from Pace Brantley Preparatory School and sculptures of ancient single-celled organisms by their teacher, Deborah Knispel.

Jeff Stanford, Orlando Science Center vice president of marketing, said this exhibition is right at home with its ties to natural history.

"We're really fond of the gallery because we're able to bridge art and science. We've had so many exciting shows with unique perspectives," he said. "This one, given its subject matter, is a really nice fit for us."

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