

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SPRING 2026 EVENTS

LECTURES

Displaying Dinosaurs as Artwork

VICTOR MONNIN, Ph.D

Archives Henri-Poincaré, University of Strasbourg

Respondent: W.J.T. MITCHELL

Gaylord Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of English Language and Literature, Art History, and the College of Theory and Criticism



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

12:30-2:00pm PT

SOS 250

In February 1986, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County inaugurated the travelling exhibition "Dinosaurs Past and Present." Curated by paleoartist Sylvia Czerkas, this exhibition was the first to ever bring together artistic restorations of dinosaurs from the 1800s to the present day. This talk analyses the meeting of motivations that made such an exhibition possible and discusses its role in renegotiating the boundary between scientific and artistic work in dinosaur restoration.

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Image Credit: Diagram of an Allosaurus sculpture (1986) by Stephen Czerkas. The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, ANSP-Coll-0998, Box: 10, Folder: 14.

