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Award-winning Paleoartist William Stout to Make Special Appearance at San Diego Natural History Museum on March 21

Stout's Work Inspired Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*

San Diego: February 23—Award-winning mural artist William Stout will be at the San Diego Natural History Museum on March 21 for a special family-oriented presentation of his new book *William Stout: Prehistoric Life Murals*. The 30-minute presentation, which takes the audience through his creative process, will begin at Noon in the Museum's Charmaine and Maurice Kaplan Theater, followed by a book signing. All books sold at the San Diego Natural History Museum will have an exclusive signed bookplate designed by Stout. At intervals during the day, Stout will be doing informal mural-drawing with children visiting the Museum. This event is part of Balboa Park Family Day and is free with general admission.

William Stout: Prehistoric Life Murals is an astonishing look at dinosaurs and their primeval worlds and contains all of Stout's prehistoric life murals, with detailed commentary guiding readers through his creative process. Legendary visual effects creator, Ray Harryhausen, has written the book's introduction.

The highlight of this lavishly illustrated 144-page book is Stout's recent twelve-mural commission by the San Diego Natural History Museum, which includes oil paintings up to 34 feet long. Through Paleozoic fish and reptiles, Cretaceous dinosaurs and sea creatures, then concluding with Ice Age mastodons and saber-toothed cats, vast panoramas of varied prehistoric worlds unfold in this handsome full color collection. The book also contains murals created for Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom, and The Houston Museum of Natural Science.

In 1981, award-winning paleoartist Stout's critically acclaimed book *The Dinosaurs—A Fantastic New View of a Lost Era* launched the ongoing public renaissance in the reexamination and revision of dinosaur appearance, intelligence, and lifestyles. Michael Crichton acknowledged this legendary masterwork as an inspiration for *Jurassic Park*. Now Stout has returned to take us on a new journey, deeper into Earth's primordial past.

Following in the tradition of legendary paleoartists Charles R. Knight and Rudolph F. Zallinger, Stout's murals of extinct predators and prey dramatically capture our imaginations. Incorporating the latest paleontological evidence, the artist breathes life into prehistoric creatures that are both scientifically accurate and emotionally stimulating.

Beyond the book's inherent scientific content, Stout's detailed commentary guides readers through his creative process. Variations between the different stages in each mural's development are explained in entertaining and easy-to-read text.

Included are preliminary drawings, color studies, and one-quarter-scale oil paintings, guiding the reader through Stout's meticulous step-by-step methodology from initial design to finished masterpiece.

Influenced by landscape painter Thomas Moran, whose work inspired the formation of America's National Parks, Stout creates vistas of a world that existed millions of years ago. Like Knight and Zallinger before him, Stout has created murals that will amaze viewers, inspire future generations of budding artists, and enthrall eager young dinosaur hunters for decades to come. The deluxe edition is limited to 600 signed and numbered copies.

About William Stout

William Stout is one of America's foremost dinosaur muralists and illustrators. Stout's dinosaur illustrations have appeared in *The Little Blue Brontosaurus*, which formed the basis of the enormously popular *The Land Before Time* animated series. Stout has contributed to over 30 films including *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Jurassic Park*, Walt Disney's *Dinosaur* and Jim Henson's *The Natural History Project* (which he also wrote). He was a designer for Guillermo del Toro's *Pan's Labyrinth*. Previous exhibits include his 45-painting: *Dinosaurs, Penguins and Whale—The Wildlife of Antarctica*."

About Ray Harryhausen

Ray Harryhausen is a legendary visual effects creator whose career spans over half a century. His film credits include *Mighty Joe Young* (1949), *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953), *It Came From Beneath the Sea* (1955), *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers* (1956), *20 Million Miles to Earth* (1957), *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad* (1958) and *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963). In 1992, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented Harryhausen with a Lifetime Achievement Oscar for his contributions to the film industry, and in 2003 he was honored with a star on the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is located at the intersection of Park Blvd. and Village Place in Balboa Park. It is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. Exhibitions, films, admission prices and driving directions are online at www.sdnhm.org.

Book Details:

William Stout: Prehistoric Life Murals

By William Stout

Introduction by Ray Harryhausen

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