

# Dinosauria: The Turkey Evolution Museum

Amy Sanchez

Art History

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# ABSTRACT

A monolithic turkey sculpture, made from all organic renewable materials, will house a museum tracing the evolution of the turkey from its present day state as a small domesticated bird, to its origins as a “bird of prey” or Raptor in prehistoric times thereby illustrating the Theory of Evolution through the turkey as a case study. The museum will be placed along the 10E freeway in Cabazon, California across from Dinny and Mr. Rex the famous Cabazon Dinosaurs, Structures that since 2000 house a Creationist Museum. When Visitors come to the end of their journey through the turkey’s evolutionary history they will enter an observatory in the head of the turkey sculpture and look out upon the Dinosaurs, glimpsing both the history of the turkey evolutionarily, and also the history of social thought in some ways. The Museum will educate the public on topics of evolution both in terms of science—containing bones and fossils of turkeys at various stages during their evolution—and in terms of social thought, in order to illustrate the antiquated, anti-intellectual nature of Creationism.

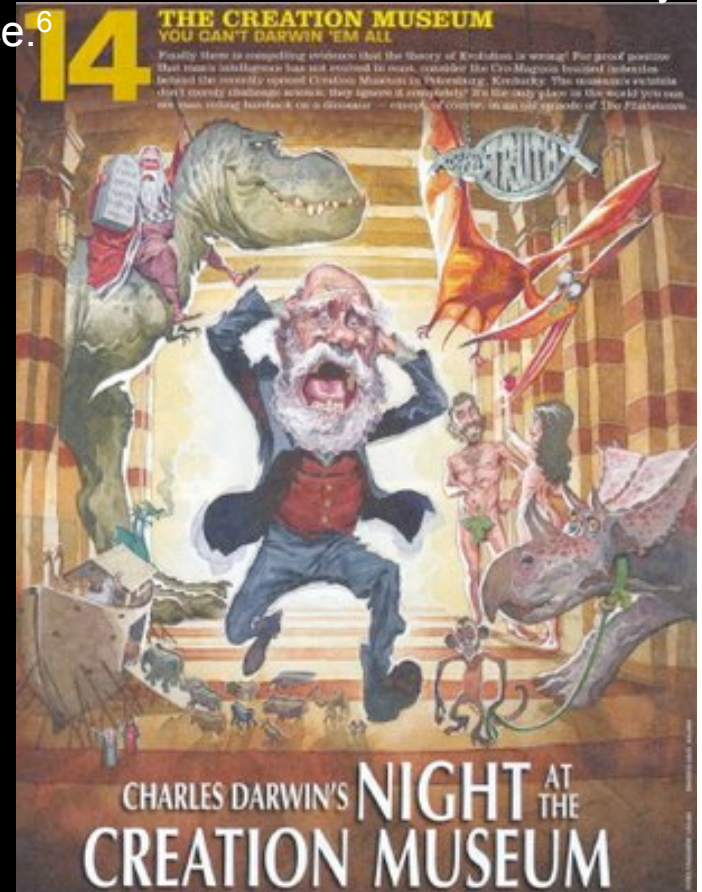
# CONCEPT / TOPIC



I am interested in investigating how Creationists are  
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... into birds.<sup>3</sup>

# CONTEXT & PRECEDENTS

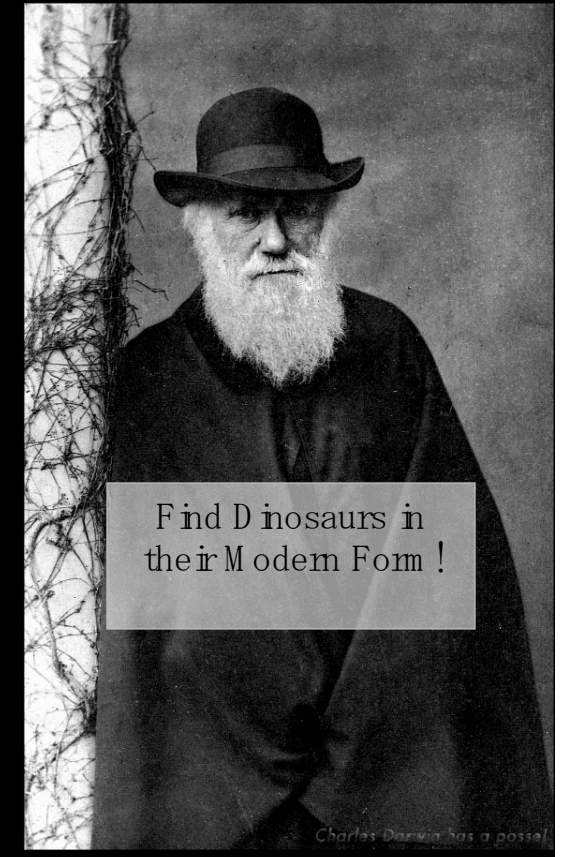
In Cabazon, California north of interstate 10, what were once two roadside attractions—the two largest dinosaurs in the world, so big that visitors can explore inside of them—has been converted to a Creationist Museum.<sup>4</sup> Constructed in the 60s and 70s by sculptor Claude Bell, the Dinosaurs were once dedicated to educating the public about ecology and the evolution of man. This trend of usurpation of once scientific spaces for religious means is also evidenced by the Creation Museum in Petersburg Kentucky.<sup>5</sup> In Kentucky the word evolution is not even part of the state curriculum—Instead it is called “change over time”—and creation as it is described in the bible may be legally taught in public schools, in many ways refuting science.<sup>6</sup>



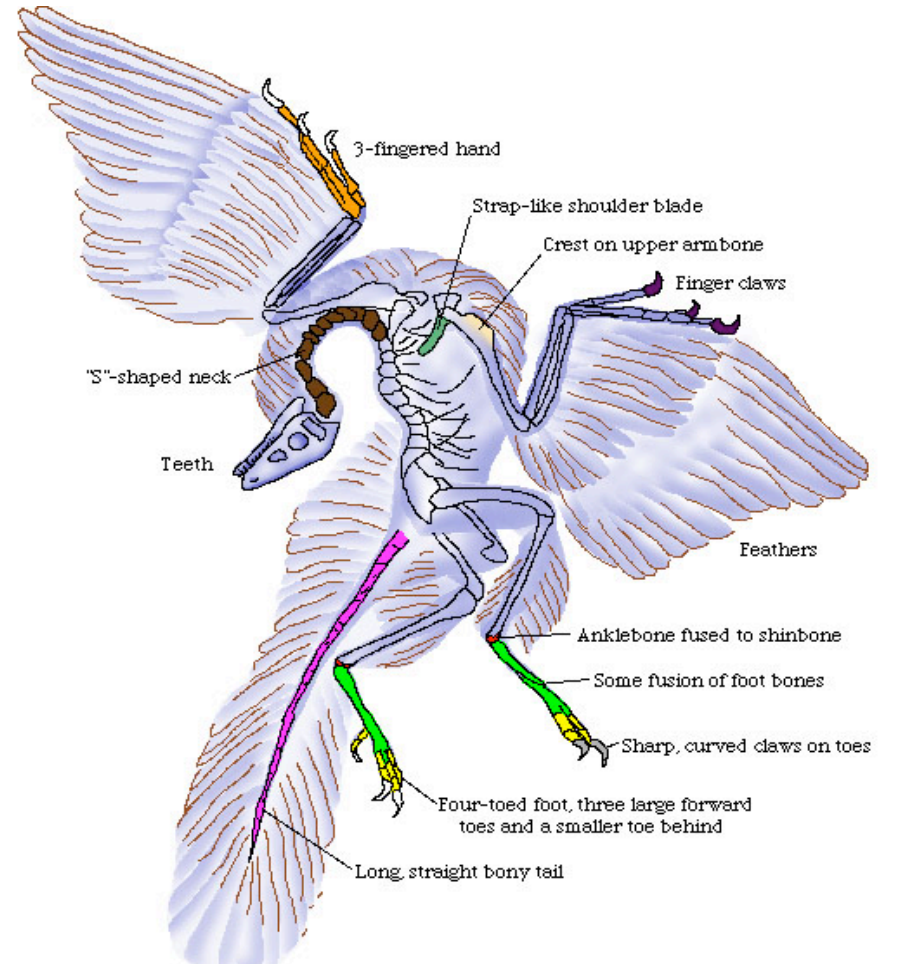
# Project Proposal



As motorists drive on interstate 10 in the distance they will see a five story building in the shape a of a turkey, affectionately called Dinosauria. Allured by the glimmering of the feathers that form her wings and tail feathers, which are actually solar panels cut in the shape of feathers, and body and feet made from recycled woods and metals they will exit south of the 10 and drive toward the Museum. Visitors will arrive at the Museum and will be greeted by a statue of Darwin holding a sign reading "Find Dinosaurs in their Modern Form!" Between Dinosauria's feet there will be a pen that houses many turkeys, where visitors can learn about how turkeys became domesticated and how they are cared for today. They will have the opportunity to feed and play with them, This activity will be called "Feed a Raptor", raptor meaning bird of prey, the name given to some dinosaurs.



## Project Proposal (cont.)



When visitors enter the museum proper through Dinosauria's belly they will see exhibits on modern turkeys and continue upward through the building seeing the regression of turkeys through time until they get to the 4th floor on which they will see *Archaeopteryx*, and learn about the origins of turkeys in dinosaurs. They will also learn about the analysis of T-Rex tissues, whose DNA analysis shows they are the ancestors of birds. Then they will venture up to the observatory, to "Take a glance at the past" through telescopes that look out through Dinosauria's eyes. Because they will have been learning about both the evolution of the turkey and the history of science rooted in religion in some ways, they will literally glance at the history of both the turkey, since it is dinosaurs they are looking at, but also at creationism, the ghost of science

# Project Proposal (cont.)



# Conclusion



Instead of creating a hostile “us vs. them” environment, where dialogue about evolution cannot be had, this museum recognizes the interconnectedness of creationism and evolution. The museum and the technology it would use would be a monument to progression, to the expansion of our knowledge, and the evolution of the mind to a more accepting intelligent place. The museum would educate the public on how scientists know what they know, and not just ask them to blindly believe an ideology. Furthermore, architecturally speaking it would provide a spectacle on the roadside that would amuse the weary traveller, as well as offer scientific knowledge to those who might not be aware of it in a way that is enjoyable.



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2. Rowell Dingus and Timothy Rowe, *The Mistaken Extinction*, (New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1998): pg.110

3. Ibid 116

4. *Cabazon Dinosaurs*. 2008. URL:<http://www.cabazondinosaurs.com/main.htm> (Accessed 04/25/09).

5. William A. Dembski and James M. Kushiner. *Signs of Intelligence: Understanding Intelligent Design*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2001: pg 53

6. Bruce Malone. *Fossils Do Not Prove Evolution*. Creation Science Evangelism, URL: <http://www.drdino.com/read-article.php?id=12&c=17> (Accessed 04/25/09).

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