

kurimanzutto

Performative Ellipses

Allora & Calzadilla

April 7 - May 7, 2016

kurimanzutto
gob. rafael rebollar 94 | col. san
miguel chapultepec 11850
ciudad de méxico
www.kurimanzutto.com



exhibition:
Performative Ellipses
Allora & Calzadilla

dates:
April 7 - May 7, 2016

opening:
April 7, 2016 | 7 - 9 pm

timings:
Tuesday to Thursday | 11 am - 6 pm
Friday and Saturday | 11 am - 4 pm

**performance timings for *Lifespan*
by ÓNIX Ensemble:**
Thursday April 7 | 7:45, 8:30, 9:15 pm

Thursdays | 7 pm
Fridays | 1:30 pm
Saturdays | 12 and 1:30 pm

Press contact:
julia villaseñor
press@kurimanzutto.com

After their 2009 debut exhibition at Kurimanzutto, Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla return with recent works that consider the voice in its diverse forms and its potential as a vehicle of meaning, thought, and presence.

Situated in the center of the main gallery, the sculptural installation *Intervals* consists of reconfigured acrylic lecterns that serve as a sculptural support for propping up dinosaur bones to the corresponding height of their original locations within the skeletons of the respective animals. In place of a book or notes that a speaker usually relies on to deliver his/her speech, are the mineral remains of long extinct species -poetically transferring onto these otherwise mute objects the possibility of reading them as three-dimensional primary texts written into the geological record that may tell us something about our own fragilities. The opacity of the dinosaur bones also draws attention to the hidden material narrative of the clear plastic podiums. Conventionally used to suggest transparency and accessibility to the ideas being conveyed in a speech, we tend to forget the objects' petrochemical origins - derived from the decomposition of plants and animals that were buried in the earth's crust in the same era as the dinosaurs. With the increasing knowledge of the hazardous and toxic effects of petrochemical products to the health of living beings and to the earth's ecosystems, the installation *Intervals* conjures objects from the last mass extinction event to express a voice of conscious about our collective future.

Set amongst the installation *Intervals* is the performance *Lifespan* -a collaboration between the artists and the American composer David Lang, interpreted by the Mexico City based ÓNIX Ensemble. Three vocalists whistle toward a 4 billion year old rock that is suspended from the ceiling and, with the force of their breath, make it subtly swing like a pendulum. Lang describes the

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composition as, "light and unpredictable, like air...all musical ideas begin with one designated leader and are passed around all the performers, clockwise, overlapping, speeding up, and slowing down unpredictably... it should have an air of wildness to it. this is not a gentle piece." *Lifespan* begins with the performers blowing air silently in long slow streams then moving through the "f", "sh" and "th" phoneme sounds. Whistling then begins with tones of varying lengths followed by breathy explosions of unpredictable lengths with lots of space between them, and later with the highest whistle sound possible. They continue in this pattern until arriving at a downward glissandi in which everyone begins to slow down and whistle quietly. Then the leader blows air, wild and agitated as before, while the others continue to whistle and then join with blowing bursts, then changing to the "f" phoneme, until finally blowing air silently in long slow streams as the performance began. The ancient rock, which comes from a time when there were no living witnesses to the planet's geological transformation, returns to its original stasis.

Exploring what can be made of the voice when language is left out is *Interludes*, a sound-based work that activates the physical site through the ethereal, ephemeral medium of breath. *Interludes* is based on audio recordings from the Sigma Sound Studios Collection at Drexel University's Audio Archives that the artists were researching for an exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2014. Sigma Sound Studios, founded in 1968, was strongly associated with "Philadelphia soul" a genre that laid the groundwork for disco and smooth jazz and consisted of large productions of strings and horns mixed with pop vocals. Sigma Sound Studios was also the first recording studio to use console automation that allowed the console to remember the audio engineer's adjustment of faders during the post-production editing process. While these technological advances led to ever more sophisticated music recording forms, certain elements of the "raw" performance, including the musician's own bodily presence, were sacrificed in the process. In particular, Allora & Calzadilla discovered that the breathing sounds from the vocalists were commonly muted from the unmixed vocal recordings so as to go unheard in final mastered tracks. They decided to restore these omissions into an audio sequence and play them back over speakers that conjure the ghostly presence of the once-embodied singers.

Finally, in the gallery foyer is *Solar Catastrophe* consisting of broken fragments of polycrystalline silicon solar cells arranged within a geometric grid creating a gestalt pattern. The breaks, pauses, and gaps created within the figure/ground composition trace a boundary between nothingness and signification and conjure an echoing voice that allows these inanimate objects to speak the ellipsis.

About the artists

Jennifer Allora (born 1974, Philadelphia) and Guillermo Calzadilla (born 1971, Havana) have been collaborating since 1995. Their works have recently been exhibited at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (2014), the Fondazione Nicola Tussardi (2013) in Milan and the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2010). They represented the United States at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011). They have also participated in Documenta 13 (2012), and several editions of the Venice (2005, 2015), Gwangju (2004, 2008, 2014), Lyon (2005, 2007), and Sao Paulo Biennials (1999, 2010). In September of 2015 they opened Puerto Rican Light (Cueva Vientos) a site-specific project with Dia Art Foundation in Guayanilla-Peñuelas, Puerto Rico, the institution's first long-term installation commissioned outside of the continental United States since Joseph Beuys's 7000 Eichen (7000 Oaks) in Kassel, Germany, in 1982.

Allora and Calzadilla live and work in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Special guests for the *Lifespan* performance:

ÓNIX Ensemble

Nominated as the best chamber project by the Royal Philharmonic Society of London, ÓNIX Ensemble is a well known and acclaimed group of Mexican musicians dedicated to promote the best of Latin American and Mexican contemporary music today. All members have the experience of soloists and are virtuosi musicians: Alejandro Escuer flutes, Fernando Domínguez clarinets, Abel Romero violin, Edgardo Espinosa violoncello and Edith Ruiz piano.

The mission of the group is to be the voice of Mexican and Latin American composers under the honoured principles of cultural diversity, high quality musical craftsmanship and artistic originality. ÓNIX often includes electronics and video www.luminico.org or guest artists offering a unique panorama of exclusive dedicated works, which are often influenced by literature, theatre, the visual arts and new technologies. Furthermore, ÓNIX has worked on building bridges and new forms of expression by stimulating the creation of special pieces that combine classical music with other art forms and aesthetic traditions. The idea is to promote new composers with the artistic vision of expanding and developing contemporary music idioms. The frequent description of an ÓNIX musical experience is often related to multiculturalism, eclecticism and Latin post modernism. ÓNIX was founded by musician Alejandro Escuer in 1995 www.alejandroescuer.com and during these twenty years the group has extensively tour around the world with more than 200 dedicated pieces.

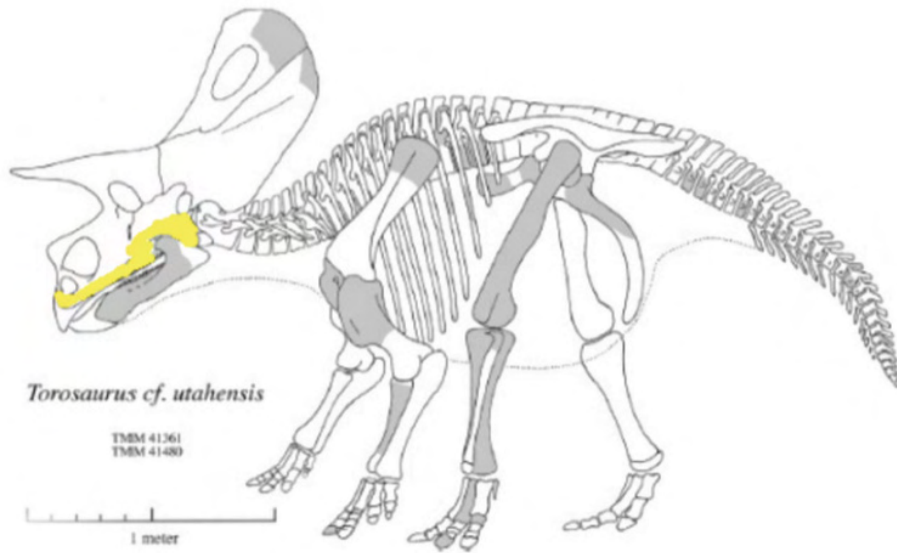
ÓNIX Ensemble:

Abel Romero, violin
Alejandro Escuer, director
Edgardo Espinosa, cello
Edith Ruiz, piano
Fernando Domínguez, clarinet
Iván Manzanilla, percussions

Guest artists:

Arturo Fernández Capur, composer
Boglárka Nagy, saxophone
Eduardo Partida del Llano, composer
Emil Rzajev, composer
Hector Murrieta, guitar
Jean Angelus Pichardo, composer
Jorge Alberto Birrueta Rubio, guitar
Jorge Hoyo, saxophone
Marina Tomei, guitar
Yunuén Tripp Pineda, composer





Torosaurus 21" Maxilla

Species: *Torosaurus latus*

Species height: 8ft. tall

Bone: Maxilla

Bone size: 22 x 10 x 8 in. approx.

Approx. bone height: 5 ft.

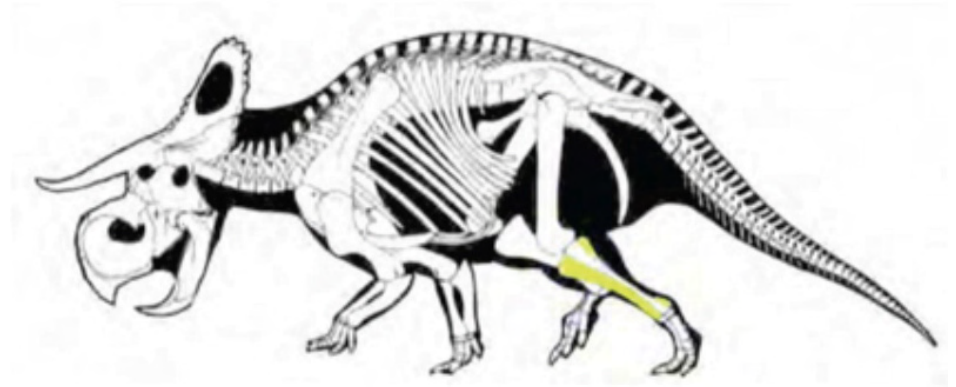
Species description: Large 13-14 ton herbivore with frill around a 6.4' head and 1 nose horn with 2 Brow Horns off frill.

Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Item Location: Powder River, Montana

Item description: *Torosaurus* Maxilla with entire front side and left portion with some teeth. This is a fine quality bone with crack fills and very little restoration, with only one major break fixed. All the left side is fairly intact, except for some missing teeth in the upper back side of the bone. The right side extends at least 1 ft. and is connected by the roof of mouth. The beak is not present, but the area where it would fit is noticeable. Penetrant sealant was applied to prevent breakage. The color varies from dark to light brown, as is normal for bones from the Powder River site.



31" Triceratops Tibia

Species: *Triceratops horridus*

Species height: 9.5 ft x 7 ft tall at hips

Bone: Tibia

Bone size: 31" long x 14" wide

Approx. bone height: 1 ft

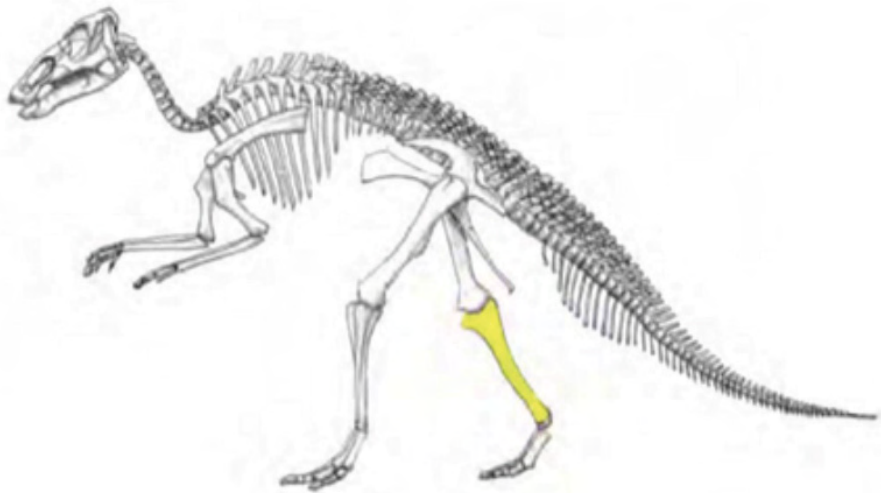
Species description: Large 11 ton herbivore with frill around 6.5 ft head; 1 nose horn and 2 Brow Horns off frill that could handle even the top predator of its time, the *T. rex*.

Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Location: Perkins County, South Dakota

Item description: Dark brown 31" x 14" *Triceratops horridus* Tibia. Some glued pieces on one end and crack fills.



39.5" Edmontosaurus annectens Tibia

Species: Edmontosaurus annectens

Species height: 13 ft tall

Bone: Tibia

Bone size: 39.5 x 12.5 in.

Aprox. bone height: 2 ft

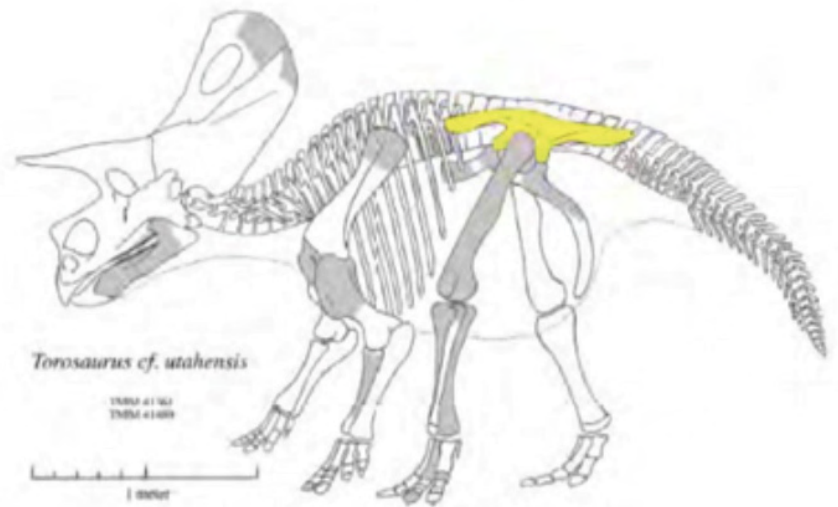
Species description: Large 30-35 ft flat-headed, beaked herbivore. E. annectens had several rows of teeth and a long tail.

Geological strata: Hell Creek Formation

Geological time frame: 70 - 66.5 MYA

Item location: Perkins County, South Dakota

Item description: Dark brown, 39.5 x 12.5" Edmontosaurus annectens tibia. Little restoration was needed; only crack fills in some parts with one break.



51" Torosaurus Latus Ilium

Species: Torosaurus latus

Species height: 8 ft

Bone: Ilium

Bone size: 51"

Approx. bone height: 7 ft

Species description: Large 12-13 ton herbivore with frill around 6.4 ft head; 1 nose horn and 2 Brow Horns off the frill.

Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Item location: Weston County, Montana

Item description: 51" Torosaurus Latus Ilium with all the outcroppings.



43" Barosaurus rib

Species: Barosaurus Lentus

Species height: 40 ft

Bone: rib

Bone size: 43"

Approx. bone height: 10-12 ft

Species description: The largest plant-eating sauropod Jurassic dinosaur ever, often reaching up to 100 ft long, and a 30 ft long neck. The estimated weight was around 20 tons. The dinosaur also had triangle shaped back spikes and only one clawed toe on each foot.



Triceratops 42.5" pelvic Ischium

Species: Triceratops horridus

Species height: 9.5 ft tall, 7 ft tall at hips

Bone: Pelvic Ischium

Bone size: 42.5"

Aprox. bone height: 4 ft

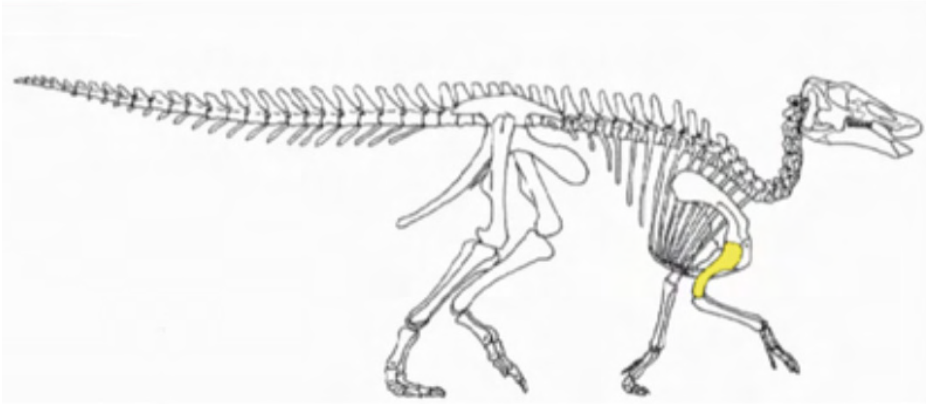
Species description: Large 11 ton herbivore with frill around a 6.5 ft head and nose horn with 2 Brow Horns off frill

Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Item location: Perkins County, South Dakota

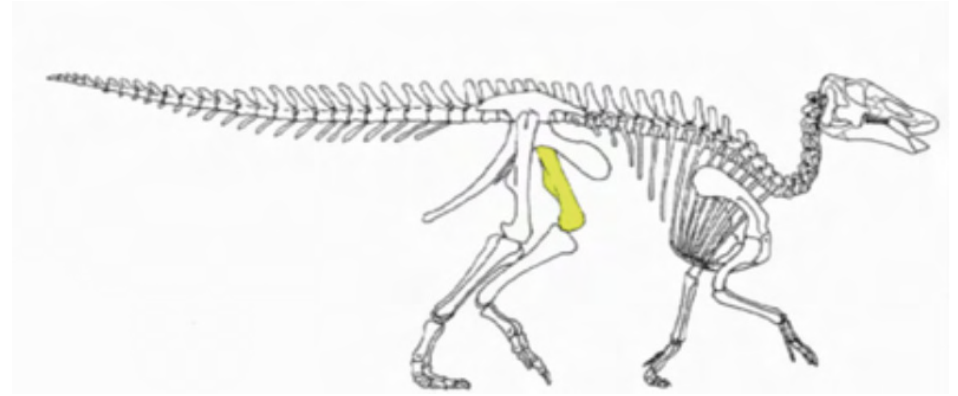
Item description: 42.5" dark brown Triceratops pelvic Ischium bone. No restoration was needed upon finding, only crack fills.



Triceratops 42.5" pelvic Ischium

Species: *Triceratops horridus*
Species height: 9.5 ft tall, 7 ft tall at hips
Bone: Pelvic Ischium
Bone size: 42.5"
Approx. bone height: 4 ft
Species description: Large 11 ton herbivore with frill around a 6.5 ft head and nose horn with 2 Brow Horns off frill
Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA
Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation
Item location: Perkins County, South Dakota

Item description: 42.5" dark brown *Triceratops* pelvic Ischium bone. No restoration was needed upon finding, only crack fills.



22" Edmontosaurus Humerus arm bone

Species: *Edmontosaurus annectens*
Species height: 13 ft
Bone: Humerus arm bone
Bone size: 22"
Approx. bone height: 5-6 ft
Species description: duck-bill dinosaur with long tail
Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA
Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation
Location: Perkins County, South Dakota

Item description: 22" *Edmontosaurus annectens* humerus arm bone. Excellent quality, though once broken, it was put back together with clean breaks. No restoration, only crack fills.



31" Torosaurus frill with patented hole

Species: *Torosaurus latus*

Species height: 8 ft

Bone: frill

Bone size: 31" long x 16" wide and 90" circumference

Approx. bone height: 3-5 ft

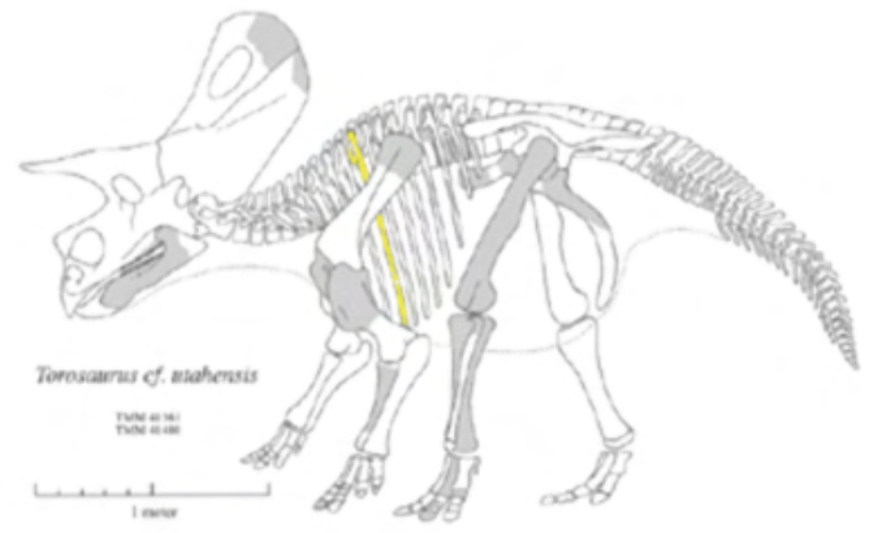
Species description: Large 11 ton herbivore with frill around 6.5 ft head and 1 nose horn with 2 brow horns off frill. It had a frill with two large holes, one on each side.

Geologic Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Location: Powder River, Southeastern Montana

Item description: Dark brown, 31" long and 17" wide Torosaurus frill, 80% complete.



49" Torosaurus rib

Species: *Torosaurus latus*

Species height: 8 ft

Bone: rib

Bone size: 49"

Approx. bone height: 2-4 ft

Species description: Large 13-14 ton herbivore with frill around 6.4' head and 1 nose horn with 2 brow horns off the frill. It has two holes in the frill.

Period: Cretaceous Period 70-66.5 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Item Location: Weston County, Wyoming

Item description: 49" long Torosaurus rib - 98% of the original bone. The bone is 4 inches wide at phalange and 2.5 at most of the rib.



2 Articulated Apatosaurus Caudal Verts (tail) with processes

Species: Apatosaurus

Species height: 10-15 ft

Bone: Caudal Verts

Bone size: both are 8.5 x 11"

Approx. bone height: 2-4 ft

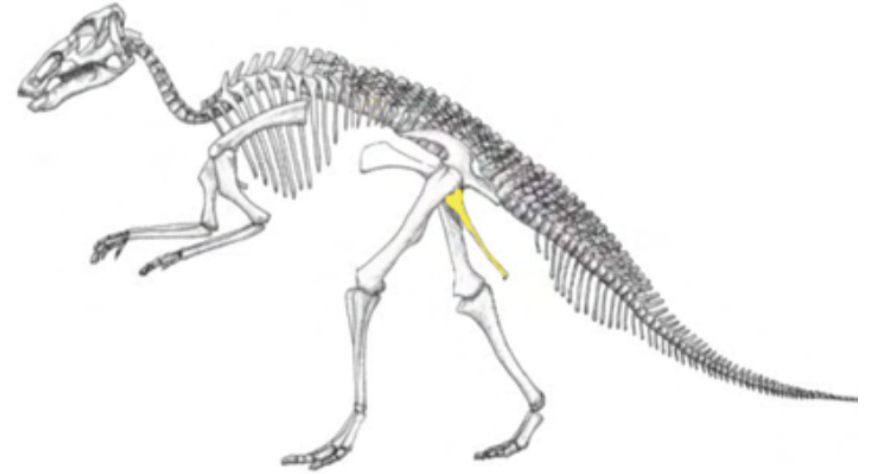
Species description: Apatosaurus were one of the largest land animals that ever lived, with an average length of 75 ft and often reaching up to 90 ft long, and weighing 25 tons. It was an early Jurassic herbivore with a relatively small skull and long neck to reach tall trees.

Geological strata: Morrison Formation

Geological Period: Late Jurassic 172-140 MYA

Item Location: Shell, Wyoming

Item Description: Two 8.5 x 11" articulated Apatosaurus Caudal Verts with processes. The bones had some restoration on processes and centrum.



46.5" Edmontosaurus Ischium

Species: Edmontosaurus annectens

Species height: 13 ft

Bone: Edmontosaurus Ischium

Bone size: 46.5 x 13.5 x 3 in. approx.

Approx. bone height: 5-6 ft

Species description: Large 30-35 ft flat-headed, beaked herbivore. E. annectens had several rows of teeth and a long tail.

Geologic Timeframe: 70 - 66.5 MYA

Geologic strata: Hell Creek Formation

Item location: South Eastern Montana

Item description: Light brown 46.5 x 13.5 x 3 in Edmontosaurus annectens Ischium pelvic bone. Pristine condition with crack fills.

PERFORMANCES:

Behind the Scenes: Performance 9: Allora & Calzadilla:

<http://www.moma.org/explore/multimedia/videos/132/825>

El mismo en vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/22036185>

Stop, Repair, Prepare: Variations of 'Ode to Joy' for a Prepared Piano. Behind Fault Lines. Allora & Calzadilla.

<https://vimeo.com/78460746>

Allora & Calzadilla "Stop, Repair, Prepare: Variations on Ode to Joy" performed by Giusy Caruso

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB8sPDzesbM>

Allora and Calzadilla at the Venice Biennale 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9illg607tYs>

Revolving Door. Behind Fault Lines. Allora & Calzadilla

<https://vimeo.com/77769328>

All The World's Futures - Biennale Arte 2015:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjExGVk-DoQ>

Allora & Calzadilla at Gladstone Gallery

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMycVPg_uMM

Allora & Calzadilla's "Lifespan" performance at Philadelphia Fabric Workshop.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5suhPo_HxY

EXPOSICIONES:

Allora & Calzadilla - FAULT LINES, Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milano

<https://vimeo.com/81087792>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgCZDU_UHFE

Allora and Calzadilla, US Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqAHDXCNGjA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeCzQNfJLEw>

ENTREVISTAS:

Art 21

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5HE5uA_BGk

TateShots: Allora and Calzadilla at the Venice Biennale 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl1iWPEm0iw>

Allora and Calzadilla, interview with Hamza Walker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dIH2McwLEg>

Interview with artists Allora & Calzadilla's wherein they discuss their Clamor exhibition at London's Serpentine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGmRsLJVl3M>

Gloria in Venice | Allora & Calzadilla

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsF_14J-GbY

A&C Hablando de sus obras:

Speaking for Landscape | Allora & Calzadilla

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFJckQtixrl>

Use of Sound | Allora & Calzadilla (venecia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IEK0w5N3Js>

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PLÁTICAS

Allora & Calzadilla: The Venice Biennale Redux

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ6DbDINg64>

Public Art Fund Talks: Allora & Calzadilla

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6wMicfM17k>

Allora and Calzadilla talks about their project "Unrealizable Goals" at CCA Kitakyushu Project Gallery

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg8FRiCiWSM>

Allora and Calzadilla at UIC: Architecture, Design & Art

<https://vimeo.com/100446243>