

# SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE DINOSAURS

AN EXHIBITION OF NATURAL HISTORY  
AND CONTEMPORARY ART CURATED  
BY THE CONNOR BROTHERS

JULY 2 - OCT 2 2022

PRIVATE VIEW FRI JULY 1 6-9PM

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS GALLERY  
14 GREEN ST CAMBRIDGE CB2 3JU



Showcasing a spectacular selection of natural history, alongside paintings from The Connor Brothers' hugely popular **Regression Series**, *Some Of My Best Friends Are Dinosaurs* is the first exhibition of its kind, and offers visitors the opportunity to see many of the natural world's most astonishing objects, alongside never before seen works by two of the UK's most engaging artists. Highlights of the collection include many specimens rarely seen outside of a museum including the skull of a triceratops, meteorites, rare iridescent ammonites, an ichthyosaur and a piece of the moon.

In early 2020, **The Connor Brothers**, one of the worlds most controversial art duos, travelled to Tuscon, Arizona, for an exhibition. They happened to arrive at the time of the annual fossil and mineral fair and, long time lovers of all things dinosaur, the pair bought a Thescelosaurus skeleton on a lay-away plan. Cue lockdown and two years later, the final payment made, they found that their fossil had disappeared, or, as they recount it, 'someone stole our dinosaur'. The Connor Brothers spent the next six months on a mission to track down what had happened to the 50 million year old skeleton. An extraordinary story evolved, featuring a stolen T-Rex, Nicolas Cage, the FBI, a trip to Mongolia, and a Mexican drug cartel. Never ones to shy away from the weird, the pair embraced the journey and followed their stolen dinosaur down it's improbable rabbit hole. *'If you've never been in the backroom of a New York gallery, negotiating the return of a stolen dinosaur with a movie star, and the lawyer of the world's most infamous drug cartel leader, you'll never quite understand how weird it was. We've always loved dinosaurs, but now we really fucking love dinosaurs.'*



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## BISECTED TRICERATOPS SKULL

*Triceratops horridus*

Late Cretaceous (68-66 million years ago)

224 x 213 x 84 cm

Hell Creek Formation, Wyoming, US

**£125,000**

Living alongside the T-Rex during the Cretaceous, the Triceratops is one of the most celebrated and iconic dinosaurs of all time.



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**EDMONTOSAURUS SKULL**

*Edmontosaurus annectens*

Late Cretaceous (68-66 million years ago)

45 x 62 x 30 cm

Hell Creek Formation, Wyoming, US

**£85,000**

The most famous of the duck-billed dinosaurs. A herbivore, its size could reach 13 meters and weigh 3.5 tons. They lived alongside fellow giants Triceratops and Tyrannosaurus rex, and were one of the last dinosaurs to walk the earth before their mass extinction 65 million years ago.





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**MOSASAUR SKULL**

*Tylosaurus proriger*

Cretaceous (85 million years ago)

44 x 17 x 16 cm

Kansas, US

**£24,000**

The Tylosaurus belongs to the genus 'Mosasaur'.  
This fierce prehistoric shark grew up to 45 feet long  
and was one of the largest species of all time.



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## DINOSAUR BONE

*Edmontosaurus vertebrae*

Late Cretaceous (68-66 million years ago)

57 x 26 x 7 cm

Hell Creek Formation, Wyoming, US

**£3,500**



This perfectly preserved dinosaur bone is the vertebrae of an Edmontosaurus, and was found not far from the site of the Edmontosaurus skull. Scientists believe it is part of the same dinosaur.



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## DINOSAUR BONE

*Edmontosaurus vertebrae*

Late Cretaceous (68-66 million years ago)

52 x 23 x 7 cm

Hell Creek Formation, Wyoming, US

**£4,500**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## DINOSAUR BONE

*Edmontosaurus vertebrae*

Late Cretaceous (68-66 million years ago)

39 x 21 x 20 cm

Hell Creek Formation, Wyoming, US

**£2,750**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## AFRICAN T-REX TOOTH

*Chenanisaurus barbaricus*

Late Cretaceous (68-66 million years ago)

8 x 3.5 x 1.5 cm

Sahara Desert, Morocco

**£1,500**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## ICHTHYOSAUR SKELETON

*Ichthyosaurus*

Late Jurassic (165-145 million years ago)

72 x 125 x 4 cm

Jurassic Coast, Dorset, UK

**£45,000**

A superbly preserved marine reptile, appearing on a background of grey slate from the famous Jurassic Coast in Dorset. The first person to uncover a full *Ichthyosaurus* skeleton was Mary Anning, in Lyme Regis, England in 1910. Hundreds of hours were spent delicately removing rock from the fossilised bones of this ichthyosaur in order to re-expose them.







EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**LARGE SEA LILLY PLAQUE WITH  
PYRITE**

*Crinodea*

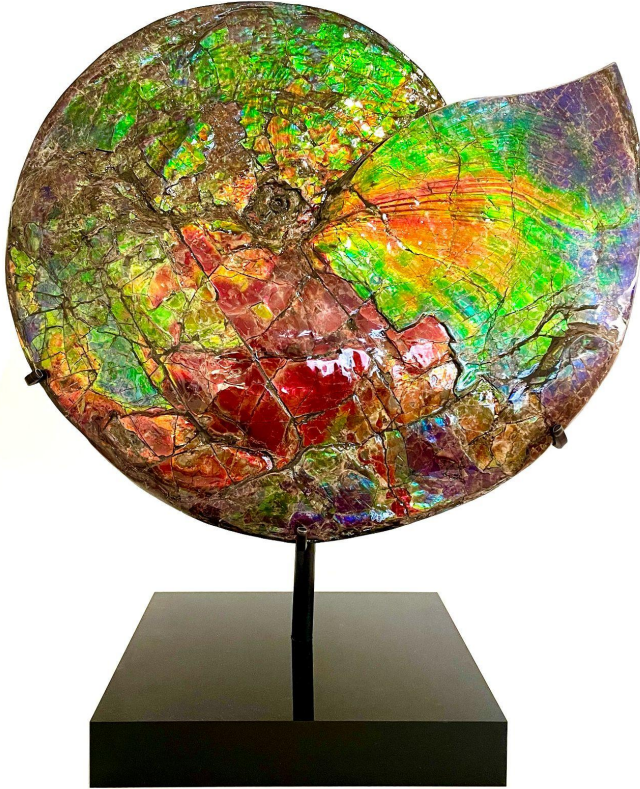
Late Jurassic (165-145 million years ago)

150 x 80 x 3 cm

Germany

**£24,000**

A magnificent specimen with detailed crowns,  
exhibiting shimmering pyrite on the base. Crinoids  
are one of the earth's earliest living animals.



## RARE IRIDESCENT AMMONITE

*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

41 x 50 x 4 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£30,000**

Known as 'Ammolite', the shimmering, metallic colours were caused by the combination of millions of years of compression and the mineralization of iron, copper and silica which precipitated from volcanic ash. It is very rare find a specimen with blues and purples.

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**RARE IRIDESCENT AMMONITE**

*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

47 x 59 x 5 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£32,000**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**RARE IRIDESCENT AMMONITE**



*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

41 x 48 x 4 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£26,000**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS



**RARE IRIDESCENT AMMONITE**

*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

38 x 45 x 4 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£24,000**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**RARE IRIDESCENT AMMONITE**



*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

32 x 39 x 4 cm cm

Alberta, Canada

**£18,000**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**RARE IRIDESCENT AMMONITE**



*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

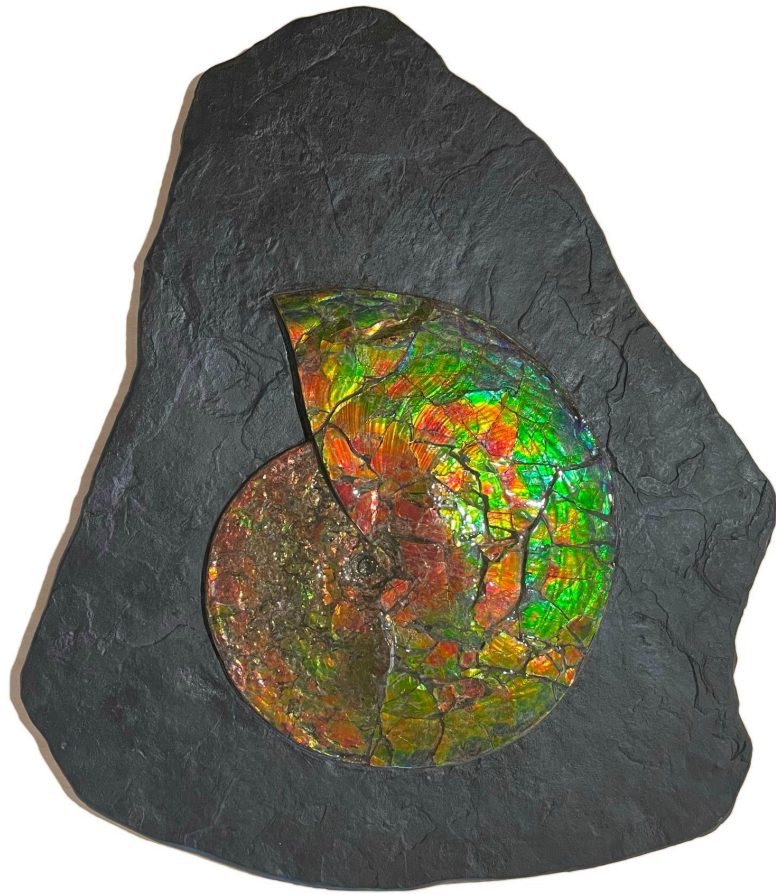
33 x 39 x 5 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£15,000**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**IRIDESCENT AMMONITE IN GREY SLATE**



*Placenticerias intercalare*

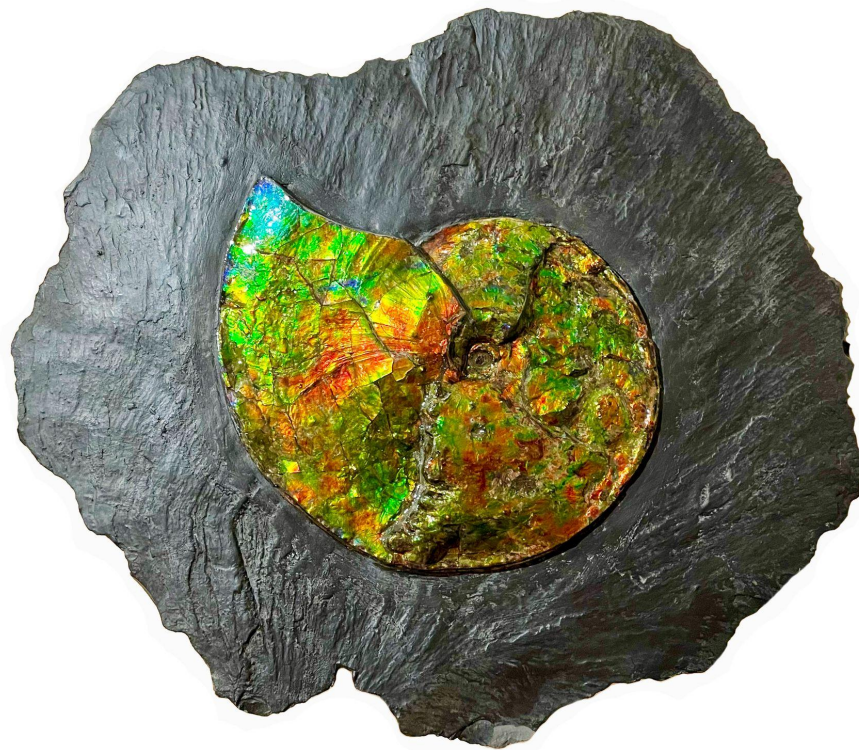
Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

70 x 62 x 4 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£15,000**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS



## IRIDESCENT AMMONITE IN GREY SLATE

*Placenticerias intercalare*

Upper Cretaceous (75-72 million years ago)

45 x 52 x 5 cm

Alberta, Canada

**£11,000**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**TRIPLE AMMONITE IN GREY SLATE**



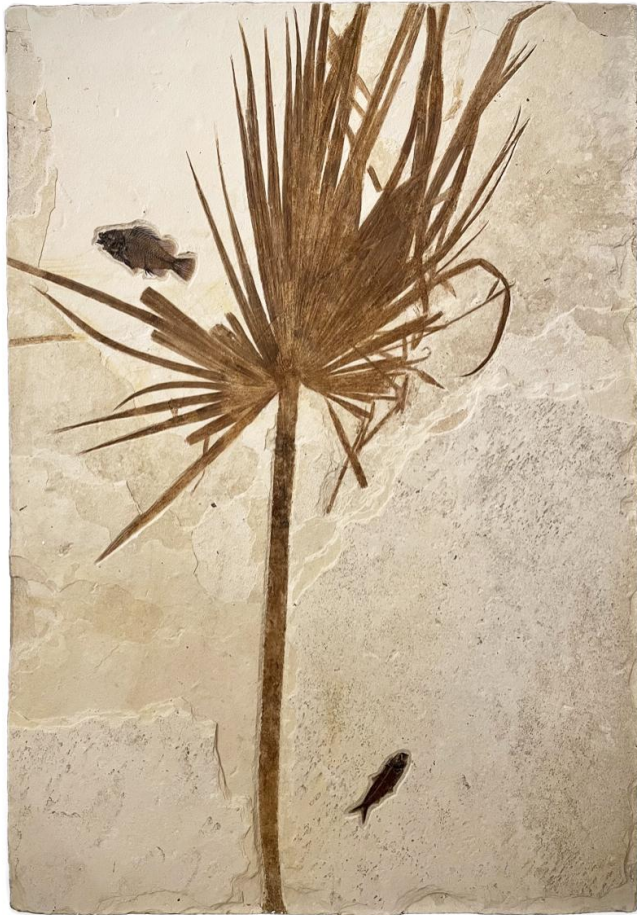
*Ammonoidea*

Permian (298-252 million years ago)

148 x 103 x 5 cm

Jurassic Coast, Dorset, UK

**£9,500**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## FOSSILISED PALM AND FISH MURAL

*Palmoxylon and Knightia species*

Late Jurassic (163 - 145 million years ago)

136 x 84 x 4 cm

Green River Formation, Montana, US

**£18,000**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## FOSSILISED FISH MURAL

*Diplomystus, Phareodus and Knightia species*

Late Jurassic (163 - 145 million years ago)

121 x 91 x 5 cm

Green River Formation, Montana, US

**£14,000**

**FOSSILISED FISH SCULPTURE**

Side A: *Diplomystus*

Side B: *Knightia* and *Mioiplosus*

Late Jurassic (163 - 145 million years ago)

74 x 61 x 5cm

Green River Formation, Montana, US

**£6,500**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## FOSSILISED FISH SCULPTURE

Side A: *Knightia*

Side B: *Priscacara*

Late Jurassic (163 - 145 million years ago)

34 x 52 x 6 cm

Green River Formation, Montana, US

**£4,500**





**FOSSILISED FISH SCULPTURE**

Side A: *Cockerelities*

Side B: *Knightia* and *Diplomsytus*

Late Jurassic (163 - 145 million years ago)

44 x 24 x 5 cm

Green River Formation, Montana, US

**£3,500**





**LARGE CAMPO DEL CIELO METEORITE  
FROM OUTER SPACE**

Approximately 4.5 billion years ago  
28 x 20 x 15 cm  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**£6,500**

Campo del Cielo (“Valley of the Sky”) meteorites formed as the result of two asteroids colliding at cosmic velocity in interplanetary space. They impacted Earth around 4700-4200 years ago, with the total recovered weight of the pieces so far being 100 tons.



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**LARGE CAMPO DEL CIELO METEORITE  
FROM OUTER SPACE**

Approximately 4.5 billion years ago

35 x 22 x 10 cm

Buenos Aires, Argentina

**£8,500**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**RARE LUNAR SPHERE**

*Lunar feldspathic breccia*

Approximately 4.5 billion years ago  
4 cm diameter  
Sahara Desert, Mauritania

**£30,000**



The moon is one of the rarest materials on earth. Every lunar meteorite known could be contained within just five footlockers. This sphere is composed of fragments of olivine, pigeonite, augite, ilmenite and signature white anorthite naturally cemented together by what was a melt of lunar regolith and other crushed rock. The curved face of this sphere reveals a number of inclusions, the result of the ongoing bombardment to which the Moon's surface was exposed prior to the collision responsible for launching this rock to Earth.

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## LARGE GOGOTTE FORMATION

Oligocene (30 million years ago)

50 x 40 x 20 cm

Fontainebleau, France

**£6,500**

This gogotte is a rare natural beauty that formed within a rock that was deposited when the area was covered by sand dunes leaving a thick deposit of pure sand. Goggotes are formed from quartz crystals and calcium carbonate. Of natural form, the gogotte is produced when superheated water extrudes through crevices into a basin of extremely fine white silica sand. The silica then cements the sand together to form the gogotte's fluid lines, creating natural sculptures. They are found in only one place in the world; Fontainebleau, France.





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## LARGE GOGOTTE FORMATION

Oligocene (30 million years ago)

42 x 27 x 18 cm

Fontainebleau, France

**£5,500**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

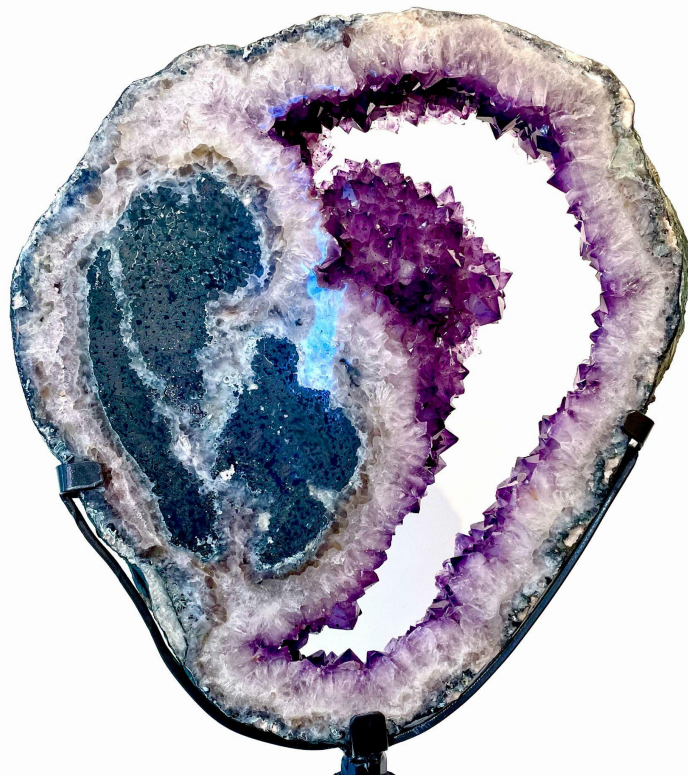
## ROTATING AMETHYST SLAB

Cretaceous (130 million years ago)

137 x 51 x 7 cm

Brazil

**£4,250**







EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**AMETHYST CRYSTAL WITH  
QUARTZ NODE**

Cretaceous (130 million years ago)

65 x 30 x 14 cm

Brazil

**£3,750**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## AMETHYST CRYSTAL

Cretaceous (130 million years ago)

63 x 28 x 9 cm

Brazil

**£3,750**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## AGATE CRYSTAL SLICE

Cretaceous (130 million years ago)

46 x 41 x 7 cm

Brazil

**£2,950**



This stunning agate crystal slice is accompanied by amethyst and quartz crystal deposits. Agates are primarily formed within volcanic and metamorphic rocks.





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## AMETHYST CRYSTAL

Cretaceous (130 million years ago)

55 x 35 x 11 cm

Brazil

**£2,500**

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## AMETHYST CRYSTAL

Cretaceous (130 million years ago)

18 x 31 x 3 cm

Brazil

**£1,500**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## THE CONNOR BROTHERS

*Old Behaviour, Hellraiser*

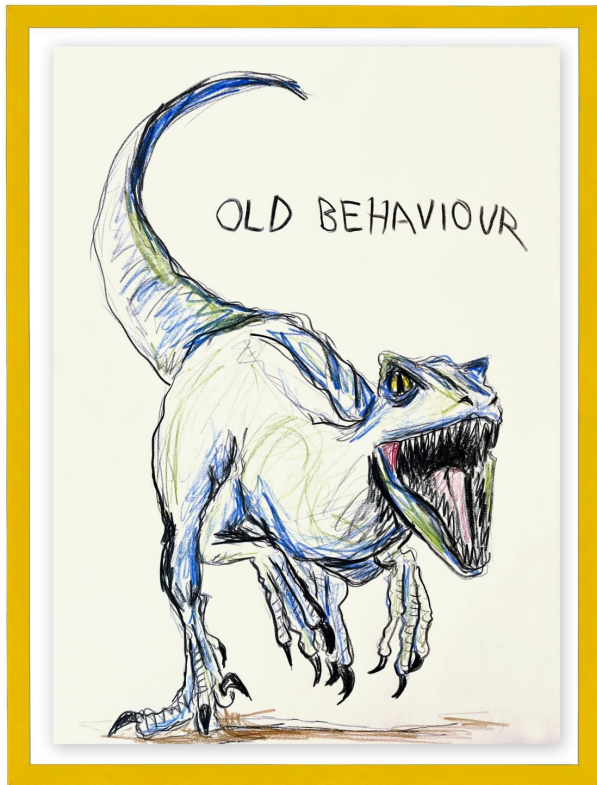
2022

Pencil on paper

28 x 38 x 3 cm framed

Signed by the artists

**£1,800 each**



EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## THE CONNOR BROTHERS

*Outlaw, Ego*

2022

Pencil on paper  
28 x 38 x 3 cm framed  
Signed by the artists

**£1,800 each**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## THE CONNOR BROTHERS

*Hellraiser*

2022

Acrylic and oil stick on canvas

110 x 155 x 6 cm framed

Signed by the artists

**£8,500**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**THE CONNOR BROTHERS**

*Ego*

2022

Acrylic and oil stick on canvas

110 x 155 x 6 cm framed

Signed by the artists

**£8,500**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

**THE CONNOR BROTHERS**

*Outlaw*

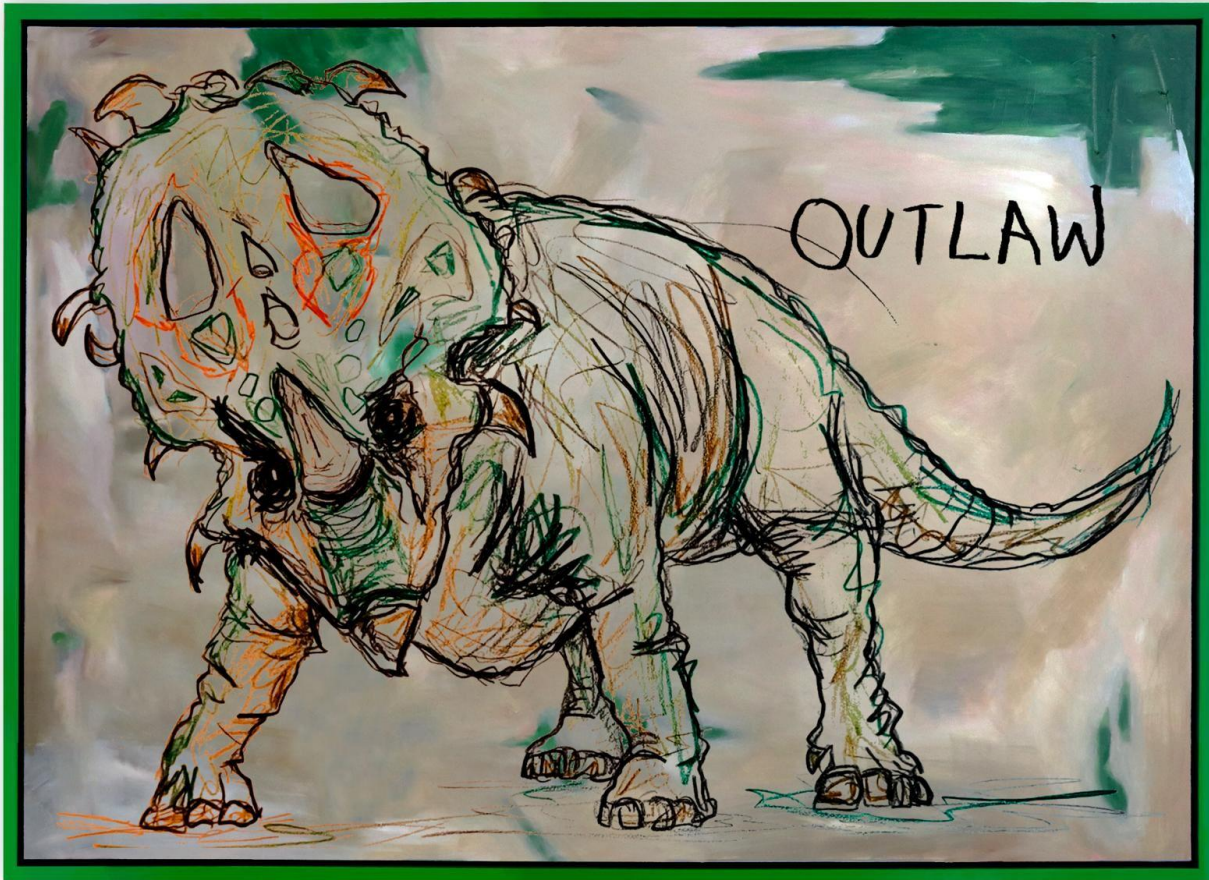
2022

Acrylic and oil stick on canvas

145 x 225 x 6 cm framed

Signed by the artists

**£11,500**





EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS

## THE CONNOR BROTHERS

*Old Behaviour*

2022

Acrylic and oil stick on canvas

225 x 145 x 6 cm framed

Signed by the artists

**£11,500**



You may not know it, but you can buy a dinosaur. Earlier in May 2022, Christie's sold an entire Raptor skeleton for \$12.4m. Meanwhile, in 2021 the auction house sold 'Stan' the T.Rex to a mysterious anonymous bidder for \$31.8, the highest price ever paid at auction for a fossil. The previous record was set in 1997 with the sale of 'Sue', a largely complete T. Rex purchased by Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History for \$8.36 million (equivalent to nearly \$13.5 million today). There has been a remarkable recent interest in collecting dinosaur skeletons, particularly among the rich and famous, with prices soaring and Dinos often disappearing from the realm of scientific research into the gilded homes of stars, never to be seen again.

It is within this extraordinary context of 'Dinomania' that Cambridge contemporary art gallery, **Extraordinary Objects** presents its new exhibition ***Some Of My Best Friends Are Dinosaurs*** curated by internationally renowned artists **The Connor Brothers** alongside Gallery Director and Natural History enthusiast **Carla Nizzola**.

*"There is nothing that captures the wonder of the natural world quite like dinosaurs. Not only are they amongst the most awe-inspiring creatures ever to have existed, but the fact that they lived tens of millions of years ago is itself mind-boggling. Perhaps no event in the history of our planet encompasses the drama of the natural world more than the meteor impact that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs. On a day millions of years ago, a billions of years old shooting star from outer space hit the earth and ended the reign of the most fearsome animals the world has ever known. Literally, what the fuck.*

*When Carla invited us to curate an exhibition that would include both meteorites and dinosaurs we couldn't refuse. We've collected natural history since childhood and are still filled with a sense of wonder each time we discover or acquire a new object. For *Some of My Best Friends Are Dinosaurs* our sole guiding principle has been to choose the objects that most inspire this sense of wonder in us. We hope that through this exhibition other people can connect with that same feeling."* **The Connor Brothers**.

Extraordinary Objects Gallery Director **Carla Nizzola** comments *“two years in the making, this show is a labour of love, and has required travelling the world hunting down specific objects, visiting dig sites, and building relationships in the oft secretive world of paleontology. Every object in the show is truly extraordinary and offers us a fascinating glimpse of a time before human existence. I am delighted that The Connor Brothers, avid collectors in their own right, agreed to collaborate in curating the exhibition, and to show several works from their hugely sought-after new series. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors, and to offering them the chance to see close up one of the only triceratops skulls in the UK in private hands.”*

This exhibition is truly remarkable, it brings together the highly unusual, absolutely intriguing, and completely curious to create a space for questioning and offer an insight into the eternal mysteries of our world. Alongside a set of exceptional objects, collected with care, sits new works by acclaimed British Artist duo **The Connor Brothers** bringing the incredibly old and the cutting-edge contemporary into conversation. The exhibition is unlike any other, and speaks to a lengthy process of acquisitions motivated by irrevocable passion for the weird and wonderful that Gallery Director **Carla Nizzola** and **The Connor Brothers** share.

### **Some Of My Best Friends Are Dinosaurs**

2 July – 2 October 2022

Private View | Friday 1 July | 6 - 9pm

**Extraordinary Objects Gallery**

14 Green St, Cambridge, CB2 3JU

Extraordinaryobjects.co.uk

@extraordinaryobjectsuk

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