

**BICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2012 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE AT
THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY**

PHILADELPHIA (December 2, 2011)—The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is the oldest natural history museum in the Americas and a top cultural destination in Philadelphia. In 2012 the Academy will mark its Bicentennial with a yearlong celebration highlighted by an exciting new exhibit about the research institution's groundbreaking discoveries past, present and future.

Here is the schedule of upcoming exhibits for 2012, including the bicentennial exhibit, *The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery*. Visit ansp.org for updates throughout the year.

Beguiled by the Wild: The Art of Charley Harper
December 10, 2011–February 26, 2012

Known for his highly stylized wildlife prints, posters and book illustrations, American artist Charley Harper (1922–2007) developed a strong love of nature as a child growing up in West Virginia. This fascination is clear in *Beguiled by the Wild: The Art of Charley Harper*. Through delightfully graphic geometric shapes and vivid colors, Harper's work continues to inspire environmental stewardship in people of all ages. Created by the Virginia Living Museum. In the Art of Science Gallery. Free with general admission.

New Permanent Exhibit
Secrets of the Diorama
Opens February 4, 2012

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is well-known for its stunning, lifelike dioramas depicting animals and plants from around the world in their natural habitats. *Secrets of the Diorama*, a new, permanent exhibit created by the Academy, provides surprising answers to frequently asked questions about these beautiful scenes behind glass. The exhibit provides insight into the scientific fieldwork, painstaking taxidermy and skilled artistry required to bring each diorama to life. Touchable items, including animal body parts, add to the experience. In Asian Hall. Free with general admission.

Bicentennial Exhibit
The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery
March 24, 2012–March 2013

The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery celebrates the Academy's groundbreaking discoveries of the past and present and provides a glimpse into the future of one of the world's great natural history museums.

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Created for the Bicentennial of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, this special exhibit builds on the institution's extraordinary collections and 200 years of scientific exploration. Journey alongside Academy scientists in search of new species. Explore how people are affecting the environment. Experience the thrill of discovery and learn how scientists use specimens to understand environmental issues from pollution to climate change. In Changing Exhibits Hall. Free with general admission.

Everything Under the Sun: New Photographs of Academy Specimens by Rosamond Purcell
March 3–May 20, 2012

Photographer Rosamond Purcell captures the extraordinary nature of everyday objects. A world-renowned Boston artist and author who has photographed natural history and anatomical collections for years, Purcell was the official photographer for Robert M. Peck's new book *A Glorious Enterprise: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Making of American Science* (University of Pennsylvania Press, April 2012). In this exhibit, Purcell presents a selection of the book's stunning color photographs that depict some of the amazing specimens in the Academy's vast collections. Purcell shot all of the objects in natural light, and her artistry reveals hidden wonders. In the Art of Science Gallery. Free with general admission.

Flirtatious Feathers: A Colorful Collection of Academy Bird Photos
May 26–September 23, 2012

Whether in flight or in song, many birds display vibrant plumage that charms mates and photographers alike. This kaleidoscope of colored feathers is the subject of this stunning exhibit featuring images from the Academy's Visual Resources for Ornithology (VIREO), the most comprehensive bird image bank in the world. Built by the Academy in collaboration with exhibit design students from Drexel University's Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design, *Flirtatious Feathers* provides a bird's-eye view into the intimate world of winged creatures. In the Art of Science Gallery. Free with general admission.

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Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies! **PHONE:** 215-299-1000

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY 1900 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PKWY PHILADELPHIA 19103