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The Newark Museum of Art Presents *Animal Kingdom*

On view September 23, 2022



teamLab, *Sketch Aquarium: Connected World*, 2013-, Interactive Digital Installation, Sound: Hideaki Takahashi, teamLab © teamLab

NEWARK, NJ – June 21, 2022 – The Newark Museum of Art is pleased to announce the upcoming, interactive exhibition, *Animal Kingdom*, an exploration of ecology and nature, through animal specimens, artworks, and digital experiences.

Through its immersive design and hands-on elements, *Animal Kingdom* will offer visitors of all ages a unique opportunity to stimulate their creativity with an introduction to art as a medium for play, participation, and learning. The long-term installation invites viewers to engage with its interactive features and immersive spaces, serving as a reminder that the Earth is home to an astounding variety of life.

Animal Kingdom completes the reimagining of the Museum's entire third floor for the first time since 2002, under the umbrella of Art + Science + Tech, with the intention of offering a variety of memorable, participatory experiences to families and adult audiences in this region and beyond. These new opportunities for active engagement will inspire a sense of awe, wonder, and a respect for nature and what can be done to help reverse or slow down the process of extinction and erasure.

"I'm thrilled to see this dynamic approach bring a sense of new life and appreciation for nature to the Museum," said Linda C. Harrison, Director and CEO of The Newark Museum of Art. "Our hope is that these interactive experiences underscore to our beloved visitors and members that we are never too young or old to learn about the precious gifts that our planet holds."

Other interactive elements include an animal-matching game with ancient cave drawings, a digital recreation of three ecosystems, as well as the endangered and extinct species that once called them home, taken from Audubon's *Birds of America*. These experiences have been developed by OLO creative farm, an Italian digital agency which specializes in visual communication (<https://vimeo.com/olocf>).

A highlight of the exhibition is [Sketch Aquarium: Connected World](#), an interactive digital installation created by [teamLab](#), an international art collective and interdisciplinary group whose collaborative practice seeks to navigate the confluence of art, science, technology, and the natural world. In this installation, visitors will be able to draw their own sea creatures to join an underwater habitat where animals come to life and swim in a virtual aquarium. Tuna fish drawn by visitors at *Sketch Aquariums* exhibited in cities around the world will also swim into the installation at The Newark Museum of Art.

Animal Kingdom will be on view from September 23, 2022 until May 2024, with a Just-For-Members Preview Day on September 22.

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About The Newark Museum of Art

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art is the largest art and education institution in New Jersey and one of the most influential museums in the United States. Its renowned global art collections, supported by significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th among North America's art museums. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts

participation. As it has for over a century, the Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming and resources designed to improve and enrich people's lives.

The Museum also encompasses the Victoria Hall of Science, the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium, the 1885 Ballantine House, the MakerSPACE, the Billy Johnson Auditorium, and the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden. The Newark Museum of Art receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State (a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts), the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, PSEG Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Estate of Phyllis and Sanford Bolton, the Estate of David J Sherwood, and other corporations, foundations, and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

About teamLab

teamLab (f. 2001) is an international art collective, an interdisciplinary group of specialists such as artists, programmers, engineers, CG animators, mathematicians and architects, whose collaborative practice seeks to navigate the confluence of art, science, technology, and the natural world.

teamLab aims to explore through art the relationship between the self and the world, and new forms of perception. In order to understand the world around them, people separate it into independent entities with perceived boundaries between them. teamLab seeks to transcend these boundaries in our perception of the world, of the relationship between the self and the world, and of the continuity of time. Everything exists in a long, fragile yet miraculous, borderless continuity.

teamLab has held numerous exhibitions at venues worldwide, including New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Silicon Valley, Beijing, and Melbourne among others. teamLab museums and large-scale permanent exhibitions include *teamLab Borderless* and *teamLab Planets* in Tokyo, *teamLab Borderless Shanghai*, and *teamLab SuperNature Macao*, with more to open in cities including Beijing, Hamburg, Utrecht, and Jeddah.

teamLab's works are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; Asia Society Museum, New York; Borusan Contemporary Art Collection, Istanbul; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; and Amos Rex, Helsinki.

teamLab is represented by Pace Gallery, Martin Browne Contemporary, and Ikkan Art.