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SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM
of natural history

SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY REOPENS WITH NEW EXHIBIT

MUSEUM OPENS TO ALL ON APRIL 17 WITH ANNUAL SCIENCE ILLUSTRATION EXHIBIT *THE ART OF NATURE*

SANTA CRUZ, CA — APRIL 14, 2021 — The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History reopens to the public on Saturday, April 17. The reopening was announced after the County entered the Red Tier of California’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy, allowing museums to operate indoors once again. The Museum showed appreciation for those who have supported them during their closure with a weeklong member preview, which began on April 10.

“Our Members have been so happy to be back inside the Museum and we feel fortunate to be able to connect with visitors in-person after being closed for more than a year,” said Liz Broughton, Visitor Services Manager.

The Museum reopens with their popular annual exhibit of science illustration, *The Art of Nature*. This year, the exhibit is on view both online and at the Museum where the original works of art are on display. *The Art of Nature* features 30 local artists whose works span a variety of mediums, from watercolor to tattoo.

“Every year I am astounded by the talent of our local artists, and I’m inspired by their depictions of nature. My favorite part of this exhibit is that I always learn something new,” said Broughton.

Community members can visit the Museum every Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ups are welcome and appointments are also available for guests who want to ensure that the galleries are not at capacity when they arrive. Guests can learn more about what to expect when they visit by reading the Museum’s reopening plan:

<https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/reopening-plan/>

During the Museum's closure, they adapted for the moment, moving their many programs and exhibits online and outdoors. They have hosted over 120 public and school programs, both online and outside, and 8 week-long day camps at the Museum, reaching thousands of community members and students. The Museum also created six virtual exhibits, a book, an online store, and dozens of online resources for learners of all ages.

"We've found new ways to connect people with nature during our closure, even while sitting at home in front of a computer. We'll continue to innovate and adapt for the changing times, but we're also so excited to connect with our community in-person more and more as conditions allow," said Marisa Gomez, Public Programs Manager.

The Museum hosts monthly Member Meet-Ups and family-friendly field trips in nature, as well as volunteer events in their Garden Learning Center. They also host a slew of online events, including programs with artists featured in *The Art of Nature*. Learn more about upcoming events: <https://www.santacruzmuseum.org/public-programs/>

The Art of Nature is sponsored by Museum members The Hyatt Family and Harry and Mary Blanchard, as well as Eckology and Santa Cruz County Bank.

About The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History is a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people with nature and science to inspire stewardship of the natural world. Founded on the collection of naturalist Laura Hecox, it is the oldest public museum in Santa Cruz dating back to the early 1900s. The Museum's life-size gray whale model, created in 1982 and commonly adorned with playing children, has become a cherished landmark to local residents.

Learn more about the Museum at santacruzmuseum.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/SantaCruzMuseumOfNaturalHistory/ and Instagram at instagram.com/santacruzmuseum/.

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