****

For immediate release

Issued 7 December 2022

**UK dinosaurPolacanthus to star in Brick Dinos at the Horniman**

A new LEGO® model of a Polacanthus, an armoured 125-million-year-old dinosaur found in the UK, will be on show for the first time as part of the **Brick Dinos** exhibition, coming to the Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London next February.

A herbivore from the early Cretaceous Period, the *Polacanthus* – meaning ‘many spines’ – is the newest highlight of this family-friendly exhibition featuring more than 20 dinosaur species, painstakingly recreated by artist Warren Elsmore and his team using hundreds of thousands of LEGO® bricks. The Polacanthus model, at 1.5m long, is recreated at about a third of its true size.

The **Brick Dinos** on display include some of the largest beasts to ever walk the earth, recreated in miniature form, alongside large models including a plesiosaur*,* a life-size flying pterosaur and a fearsome Masiakasaurus. Young visitors to the exhibition can also enjoy including building their own dinosaur, digging for fossils and dressing up as prehistoric creatures.

Dr Emma Nicholls, Senior Curator of Natural Sciences at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: ‘I'm so excited about this exhibition. Dinosaurs and LEGO® are always a winning combination in my opinion, but the level of thought and detail that's gone into it all, from the miniature scenes to the full-scale dinosaurs, means the exhibition will engage and excite visitors of all ages. And if that's not enough, we have a brand new, incredible Polacanthusdinosaur model waiting to meet you!’

Warren Elsmore says: ‘I can’t deny that building the Polacanthus was a lot of fun! I was able to work with the Horniman’s fantastic team to make sure that the pose and colouring were just right – and that she’d make a big impact when seen (and heard!) in person!’

The exhibition also includes rarely seen specimens from the Horniman’s collection, including a replica skull of a Nanotyrannus (meaning ‘dwarf tyrant’) – a smaller relative of *T. rex*, and real fossil material from Ichthyosaurus to Iguanodon.

**Brick Dinos opens at the Horniman Museum and Gardens on 10 February 2023. Tickets are on sale now from** [**horniman.ac.uk**](http://www.horniman.ac.uk/)**.**

**Ticket prices\*: Child £5, Adult £10, Family of 3 (1 adult and two children) £17, Family of 4 (up to two adults and two children) £22.** Horniman Members and Benefactors enjoy free, unlimited entry. \*Prices include a voluntary Gift Aid donation which helps support the work of the Horniman.

**Ends**

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

**Pictured: The new Polacanthus model from Brick Dinos © Warren Elsmore**

**Notes to Editors:**

* **Brick Dinos** is a touring exhibition from Warren Elsmore. [warrenelsmore.com/exhibitions/brick-dinos](https://www.warrenelsmore.com/exhibitions/brick-dinos)
* LEGO, the LEGO logo, the Minifigure, and the Brick and Knob configurations are trademarks of the LEGO Group of Companies. ©2019 The LEGO Group. Brick Wonders is not sponsored, endorsed or otherwise supported by The LEGO Group.
* **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** has won [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/story/horniman-wins-100000-art-fund-museum-of-the-year-2022/), the world’s largest museum prize.
* **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to ‘bring the world to Forest Hill’. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium, alongside a World Gallery of anthropology and a flexible arts and exhibition space, The Studio. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk/)
* **Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income** from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations are more needed than ever. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us/](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/support-us/)
* The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
* On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman’s environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman’s manifesto commitments and progress so far at [horniman.ac.uk/climate](https://www.horniman.ac.uk/about-the-horniman/climate-and-ecology/).