



BISHOP MUSEUM

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Spineless Wonders: Rising From the Deep
*Bishop Museum exhibition combines art and science
to reveal the wonders of marine invertebrates*

Honolulu, Hawai‘i—Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum presents a new exhibition that gives visitors a rare glimpse into the undersea world of marine invertebrates through both an artistic and scientific lens. “Spineless Wonders: Rising From the Deep” will allow guests to explore stunning images of marine invertebrates by acclaimed nature photographer Susan Middleton, who specializes in the portraiture of rare and endangered species. Alongside the photos, guests will also encounter an array of marine invertebrates from the museum’s collections and discover how Bishop Museum’s collections and research are central to the exploration of our Pacific ocean. The exhibit will be on display in the Joseph M. Long Gallery from Sept. 21, 2019–March 29, 2020.

Free from the constraints of having a spine and suspended in a world less influenced by the effects of gravity than on land, marine invertebrates have evolved over millions of years into a vast array of spectacular forms and shapes. “Spineless Wonders” introduces visitors to these extraordinary creatures by presenting cutting-edge research being done by Bishop Museum and its collaborators in the ocean’s mysterious mesophotic coral ecosystems (also known as the “Twilight Zone”). A highlight of the exhibit will be specimens from the museum’s extensive collections of marine invertebrates from the vast Pacific region.

“Spineless Wonders” will tell stories of scientists who have plumbed the depths to explore the unknown and how Bishop Museum has served as a home base for these explorers. For example, attendees will learn about Mary Eleanor King, the adventurous malacologist who purchased a Coast Guard cutter and had it outfitted for research expeditions. Her seven expeditions resulted in the discovery of rare and unknown shells now housed in Bishop Museum and contributed to the burgeoning knowledge of marine fauna of the Central and Western Pacific.

Attendees will also learn how Bishop Museum divers, in a unique partnership of man and machine, used rebreather technology and the advantages of manned and unmanned submersibles to explore Hawai‘i’s mesophotic coral ecosystems at depths of 100–500 feet. During this unprecedented 10-year study, scientists found that deep coral reefs have twice as many species that are unique to Hawai‘i than their shallow-water counterparts, and discovered the largest unbroken coral ecosystem of its kind recorded to date, extending more than three square miles!

Revealing knowledge in ways that can be absorbed both intellectually and viscerally, the exhibition will present portraits of marine invertebrates from photographer Susan Middleton, whose photographs capture these sometimes otherworldly creatures in a beautiful and ethereal way. “I’m excited to be presenting my portraits of marine invertebrates at Bishop Museum, where the nexus of art and science can be so fully and beautifully realized,” said Middleton. “For the first time, these photographs will be shown alongside fascinating specimens of these same marine invertebrates from Bishop Museum’s research collections and will be supported by insightful commentary about the critical importance of this realm of life to our own existence and a peek into the cutting-edge field research to explore and better understand it.”

More than 98 percent of known animal species in the ocean are invertebrates and, while they are the foundation for all of life on earth, they are relatively unknown. “Spineless Wonders” at Bishop Museum will offer an unprecedented look into the wonder and importance of marine invertebrates and their ocean environment.

“Spineless Wonders: Rising From the Deep” is generously supported by the John Chin Young Foundation.

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Bishop Museum Admission, Parking & Hours

General Admission

Adults: \$24.95

Seniors (65+): \$21.95

Youth (4–17): \$16.95

Children (3 and under): Free

Children age 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Hawai‘i Residents, Hawai‘i College Students & Military with ID

Adults: \$14.95

Seniors (65+): \$12.95

Youth (4–17): \$10.95

Children (3 and under): Free

An additional ticket purchase will be required for entry to select blockbuster traveling exhibits in the Castle Memorial Building including “Travelling Bricks: An Exhibition Made of LEGO® Bricks”.

Members at the Patron level and above will enjoy free admission to all galleries, while members at the Dual/Family level and below will be eligible to purchase a discounted add-on ticket for \$2.95 per person (\$4.95 for non-members).

Planetarium

Planetarium shows are an additional \$2.95 per person per daytime show; free for members with ID.

Parking

\$5 per car per visit; free for members with sticker.

Hours

Open every day from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Bishop Museum Café by Highway Inn offers a limited menu of Hawaiian plates, poke bowls, sandwiches, and snacks from 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. daily. Museum members receive a 10% discount with their membership card.

About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum's mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration, celebration and perpetuation of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world's premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content. Its vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over two million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and one million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai'i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning 130 years. Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits. To learn more about the museum's research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit www.bishopmuseum.org, follow @BishopMuseum on Twitter and Instagram, become a fan of Bishop Museum on Facebook, visit Bishop Museum's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/BishopMuseum](https://www.youtube.com/user/BishopMuseum), or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.