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NEW MUSEUM GALLERY EXPLORES THE BEAUTY OF SCIENCE

PHILADELPHIA—A newly renovated gallery at the Academy of Natural Sciences will feature changing displays of contemporary and historic artworks that explore the inherent—but often overlooked—beauty of science.

The Art of Science Gallery, located on the first floor, will showcase rarely seen treasures from the Academy's own world-renowned collections, works by contemporary artists, and imagery generated by Academy scientists, past and present.

The current exhibit, which opened Feb. 27 and runs through May 2, is *First Impressions: Thomas Horsfield's printed plants of Java*. Horsfield (1773–1859) was a Bethlehem, Pa., native and Academy member who became the first American scientist to explore Southeast Asia. The exhibit features 22 detailed prints made by applying ink to plants he collected on the Indonesian island of Java. The images are both an accurate record of the plant life on Java 200 years ago and also are visually striking artistic compositions. And that's the point of the gallery.

"The line between art and science is often a blurry one," said Barbara Ceiga, vice president for public operations. "This gallery gives us the opportunity to introduce our visitors to the idea that science can be beautiful."

Upcoming shows will feature a wide range of subjects, from dramatic X-ray images of fish skeletons (May 15 through August 1) to colorful illustrations of grasshoppers. Some shows will feature works by contemporary artists and others will showcase imagery created by Academy scientists in the course of their own research. Founded in 1812, the Academy is the oldest natural history museum in the Americas and has a long history of research, exploration and discovery, and important collections to show for it.

For exhibit updates, visit www.ansp.org.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

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!