



PRESS RELEASE
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SB Museum of Natural History Presents *Rare Earth*

Spectacular new summer exhibit explores the value we place on nature

- *Rare Earth* open June 11–Sept 5, 2022
- Museum open Wed–Mon (closed Tues), 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
- For more information, visit sbnature.org/RareEarth

SANTA BARBARA, CA—After more than two years of research and planning, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History proudly opens its new summer exhibit [*Rare Earth*](#) on Saturday, June 11 in Fleischmann Auditorium. Far more than a dazzling display of gems and minerals, *Rare Earth* tells the story of how we can value the natural world in a new light.

More than 200 specimens in a rainbow of colors and abstract shapes are featured in their beautiful, natural form—highlighting how these amazing works of art naturally occur, where they are found, and how their value (scientific, financial, and aesthetic) is appreciated.

Combining highlights from the Museum’s Earth Science Collection with loans from private collectors and the University of California Santa Barbara, the one-of-a-kind exhibit of sparkling crystals, minerals, and rock formations is sure to fascinate guests of all ages.

Owner and founder of The Arkenstone Fine Minerals Robert Lavinsky, Ph.D., loaned many of the specimens from his personal collection. “This exhibition merges the seemingly separated worlds of art, culture, and science to connect us through stories with the unbelievable crystal treasures found within the Earth. These are the raw materials crushed to build our civilization and make our jewelry for thousands of years, and yet seldom seen in their natural glory as collectible and valuable objects of art, in their own right. Minerals not only make life and civilization possible, but also empower and inspire the arts and culture.”

SBMNH Director of Exhibits Frank Hein adds, “Visitors will experience a unique and truly astonishing collection of minerals that we believe will convey a new way of

thinking about the Earth's resources and how we treat them. This special summer exhibit presents rarely-seen specimens and we're honored to be able share them."

Fossils will also be on display including the skull of a juvenile *Triceratops horridus* that lived over 66 million years ago, and a pair of Colombian Mammoth. After *Rare Earth* ends on September 5, the tusks will be moved to the Museum's Earth Science Hall and displayed alongside the Channel Islands Pygmy Mammoth.

For more information, visit sbnature.org/RareEarth

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About the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Powered by Science. Inspired by Nature. Founded in 1916, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire a thirst for discovery and a passion for the natural world. The Museum seeks to connect people to nature for the betterment of both, and prides itself on being *naturally different*. For more information, visit sbnature.org.



Malachite and Azurite "Happy Feet"
Liufengshan mine, Anhui, China
Photo by Robert Mosley (The Arkenstone)



Spessartine Garnet with Smoky Quartz
Tongbei, Fujian, China
Photo by Robert Mosley (The Arkenstone)



Gold
Ganzhizou, Sichuan, China
Photo by Robert Mosley (The Arkenstone)



A pyritized ammonoid of the genus *Pleuroceras* from about 195–190 million years ago
SBMNH Earth Science Collection, donated by Ed Womack



Benitoite and neptunite from San Benito County, CA
On loan from the UCSB Earth Science Department



Director of Exhibits Frank Hein admires
the skull of a juvenile *Triceratops horridus*
that lived over 66 million years ago