



Paleoartistic reconstructions

Title of your Paleoartistic Contribution

First Name LAST NAME1*

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Write your commentary here. *Guidelines: Please write a short commentary about your artwork in 150-400 words. This commentary must be in English. In this commentary, provide insights into the scientific assumptions, artistic choices, references, and/or specimens that form the basis of your reconstruction. You can explain why you chose to represent these species within this particular context. Discuss the questions raised by this context and your artwork, as well as any discoveries your work illustrates. Highlight the specific specimens and studies upon which you relied for accuracy. Furthermore, you can address aspects where current science does not offer definitive answers, requiring you to turn to other sources or make choices based on parsimony or artistic interpretation. You may also address current controversies on the subject. Your commentary should offer viewers a deeper understanding of your artwork's scientific and creative considerations, encouraging further discussion and engagement with the public. Contribution proposal for the Virtual Paleoart Gallery should be submitted by **December 20th, 2025** on the following online [Registration & Submission Form](#). To help you in the realization of this commentary, we have prepared a [Tutorial](#) and a **Sample Abstract** (see below). **Please, do not forget to erase all guidelines before submitting.***

Technical information:

(digital or traditional painting, size, medium, etc.)

Scientific source data for paleoart work:

(provide between 1 and 3 references)

Please, download this template (File > Download > Choose your format). Then fill it with your text, respecting the style, and submit it in the Submission Form.

Please ensure that your abstract adheres to the specified word count. Submissions that fall below the minimum word requirement or exceed the maximum will automatically be rejected.



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Sample abstract - Life Beneath the Giants

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This artwork represents a speculative reconstruction of a Late Jurassic wetland ecosystem, centered on the interaction between the sauropod *Camarasaurus* and the early mammaliaform *Dryolestes*. My goal was to illustrate not only the scale difference between these animals, but also to emphasize the complexity of their shared environment.

Scientifically, this reconstruction is based on fossil material from the Morrison Formation (United States), which has yielded abundant remains of both taxa. Skeletal proportions of *Camarasaurus* were reconstructed using measurements from mounted specimens at the American Museum of Natural History, while the musculature was inferred from extant phylogenetic bracketing with modern archosaurs. For *Dryolestes*, whose soft tissue is poorly known, I used comparative anatomy with modern insectivorous mammals to guide the reconstruction of fur texture, limb posture, and ear morphology. I choose to create a low-angle, wide composition to emphasize the immense scale of *Camarasaurus* while contrasting it with the small *Dryolestes* below. Humid, early-morning lighting evokes the Morrison Formation wetlands, and details like Araucaria-like conifers and Equisetum stands help anchor the scene in a plausible ecosystem. Though there is no direct evidence that *Dryolestes* fed on insects from sauropod dung, including this behavior illustrates the possible trophic links within Jurassic ecosystems.

Technical information:

The painting combines an acrylic underpainting to establish light and form, layered textures to evoke the roughness of skin and foliage, and precise fine brushwork for details such as scales, fur, and atmospheric effects. The final layers used fine sable brushes and dry-brush techniques to render minute details such as scales, fur, and atmospheric effects.

Scientific source data for paleoart work:

Smith, J. A., & Turner, L. R. (2019). Sauropod diversity and paleoecology in the Morrison Formation. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 39(4), e1562345.

Nguyen, P. T., & Clarke, J. (2021). Integument evolution in early mammals: insights from extant analogs. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 5, 1213–1221.

Morales, D. (2020). Reconstructing Jurassic flora: new evidence from the Morrison Formation. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 556, 109876.