

Why is Paleoart Valuable to Society at Large?

Line breaks indicate divisions between responses.

paleo art is a competitive drive for seeking accuracy and data compelling more discovery in Paleontology. We need to make our past recreations obsolete.

It's a great method to drag people into the world of biological sciences and scientific illustration, and promotes both critical and creative thinking while, at the same time, helps develop artistic abilities.

Enhance the understanding of the natural world and our place in it. It's the modern cosmogony, with many fundamental themes: evolution & ancestors, deep time, the story of everything (without religious or superstitious beliefs). Is it enough?

In my opinion, good science communication is as important as science itself. It's like thermal resistances in series: conductors are only as good as their contacts. ;)

Helps educate people on the current scientific understanding and has applicable lessons to other fields

The current scientific knowledge of extinct life is always changing, and paleoart expresses the current scientific knowledge to the public

Imagination is key to progress!

It is (in my opinion) the most effective tool for communicating scientific ideas to the public. It also brings extinct organisms to life in a way that simply looking at fossils can't always do.

Mainly because most of the general public is extremely uneducated on prehistoric organisms. Sadly popular culture generally does a very poor job of portraying extinct animals.

Well, it's not particularly important honestly, there's quite a bit of people out there that don't even know what "paleoart" means, so yeah, not really that important. But for science-truths seekers, artists in search of new sparks of imagination, paleoart is surely one of the go-to choices. The key to unlock the beautiful creative process that is in the mind of a paleoartist.

It inspires people to be involved in studying the prehistoric world.

It's inspiring - the kinds of things we know about extinct life because of science.

honestly the whole "what dinosaurs had feathers and which ones didnt" debate is hog heaven for anti-science weirdos so accurate and/or professional paleoart is just nice to see and i think its a good way to engage with people that "hey these were real life creatures they dont really care what you think looks cool in a video game" in a way that the average person can understand (because lets be honest, most people dont know what a theropod or sauropod is and dont really care. they just wanna see dinosaurs lol). its really frustrating to wanna talk about an interest i really care about and think is neat but nobody wants to listen because they hear all these words they

dont know what they mean but its different when i draw and they immediately recognize it as a dinosaur, and then they start asking questions, yanno?

It inspires people to learn about science and the world around them

It is enriching and stimulating, a gateway to art and science both.

To give them an accurate depiction of our current understanding of past life.

It can inform the public about what prehistoric animals looked like and acted.

It shows people how extinct animals (and environments) might have looked and that science is constantly changing (i.e. the development of dromaeosaur reconstructions) and provides a good "counter" to inaccurate popular depictions

understanding the past helps understand the present and future; evolution, climate change, species diversity etc.

"You can write many pages about that new wonderful genus of anomalocaris you discovered, but many people will only pay attention to it if there is an image attached, conveying the creature in a much faster and possibly more accurate fashion than a longwinded text full of scientific terms a layman might not even know.

Paleoart closes a gap between the scientific community and those who maybe where just unfortunate and simply couldnt afford college, but still wish to learn more about prehistoric life.

I collect childrens books about prehistoric life. And even in the year 2018 I have to find that 80% of all depictions in them are outdated , copied from volumes ten years old and actively hurt the perception of youth on prehistoric life as a whole. As such modern Paleoart also has to sort of counterbalance those false depictions, as hard as a task this may be. Maybe when I am old I can finally buy a book about dinosaurs that is as accurate as the book about horses next to it.

We have a lot to tell in this field. Paleoart is a way to make all those things better heard and understood."

To educate society of the life that has come before us in a digestible way

Paleoart can bring go back in deep time

Because people love dinosaurs. If they see realistic (not necessarily photo-realistic, highly styled is often better), then their understanding of science and evolution will improve.

Jurassic World is terrible, and we can fix that.

It's the closest the mainstream public will come to fully understanding how extinct lifeforms looked like and how they lived

To better understand history

Since paleontology is a "gateway science", the credible depiction and restoration of its subjects has a enormous influence of the public perception of these subjects, the field and science overall.

I have no idea

Scientific divulgation and contribution to art.

It's easy for many people to place dinosaurs or other prehistoric animals in the same mental category as mythological creatures and similarly dismiss them, and some will scoff at critiques that media representation is far from accurate, or will prefer to emphasize aesthetics or "scariness" over accuracy, or even plausible but unusual speculation. But these were living, breathing animals, existing within and contributing to a larger context, a continuum of organisms that leads to today.

It helps interest young people in science, and thus helps us create a more scientifically literate/interested/rational public, which we need now more than ever.

It attempts to give people the chance to better envision what something may have looked like when all we have left is normally fossils or imprints.

It gives the public a tangible look into the past, and when done right can show people ancient life was far more interesting than your average Hollywood monster.

Because to so many, prehistoric life is literally unimaginable. Without paleo art they would just be a bunch of bone shaped rocks.

It is much easier to learn about lifeforms when you have visualisations

Paleoart allows the public to view prehistoric life in a different light, increasing interest and so potentially increasing the funding received by institutions for the study of palaeontology as people often aren't interested in just skeletons. Paleoart is also a resource that can capture the imagination of, and inspire young minds to get interested in the field.

Paleoart is probably the easiest way for the general public to understand prehistoric life, how animals lived, evolved and prospered.

People want to see what past wildlife was like.

Raised the consciousness of the public about deep time issues

Paleoart certainly has its place, but as in pop culture with dinosaur films it isn't seen as much or given that much opportunity to shine, apart from in the news every now and again; but other than that it doesn't have much of a sway over our society.

It is important to help shape the public's idea of prehistory and the evolution of life.

To "see" what extinct creatures could of looked like

As it is attractive from the outset, it leads people to a deeper understanding of science.

People's perception of prehistoric life depends on paleoart.

It's important in the same way other natural sciences are

We have to teach people

It allows people to understand how modern ecosystems change over time

The human mind has a hard time understanding the sheer immensity of our universe and what it means. For that we create interpretations through art and methods through science, in order to at least vaguely wrap our minds around the concepts of space and time, as humongously incomprehensible as they may be. One concept that is particularly hard for us to understand is that of time, in particular deep time, since our brains can only experience minimal time intervals like hours, days, and years. For being so alien to us, the past can often be left forgotten. The dusty rocks that fill museum halls around the world often don't mean more than old bones of dead things. Because of that foreign aspect, people hardly see that those skeletal ghosts were once covered in living flesh. That they were once alive, like any fish or bird alive today. That's what paleoart does, it shows those creatures as living breathing animals, who were curious, playful, caring, and lazy like any other. No matter how many eons pass, life will always be life, no matter how alien it looks. Paleoart is the only way we have to give life to the forgotten realms of our planet, whose simple existence made it possible for us to be the way we are today. Because one thing people often forget is that the past directly affected everything in the present. Things would have been much different today if the past wasn't what it was. So in a way, paleoart is essentially paying the debt we have with our predecessors, bringing them to life like how they made our life what it is today. Most people may not realize that, but our bond with the past is not broken, it lives on each of us in every day of our lives, we owe it recognition. That's why I think paleoart should mean something, not just to me or a handful of equally odd people, but for society as a whole, for we all share the same bond with the past.

The paleoart is a good method to produce interest and better understanding of life forms in society as well as to rethink the reconstruction methodology carried out by the scientists

To educate about the past diversity to save the current for future generations, reminding us how finite all living creatures and resources are

Paleoart, even Jurassic Park-style interpretations, help shape how people see dinosaurs. Dinosaurs are awesome, and part of why we think they're awesome is because we can more or less recreate how they were in life.

Accurate representation of past life, as opposed to Jurassic Park/World

It helps give a more thorough understanding of scientific advancements and the study of evolution/biology at large.

It makes people feel interested in Earth's (once) extant animals, and it gives I about it too

To educate the public on natural history

It allows people to visualize deep time

I mean, see above. Fuck Jurassic World.

It's a great tool for Science education

People should see the past

Understanding and appreciation of life in this planet

The doctrine of the past.

It helps to educate the public's varying opinions on prehistoric flora and fauna in a different perspective, perhaps to some who don't have a proper geological understanding of specimens

Without artistic reconstructions, we would not be able to visualize what the animals that came before us were like. Art in general is very important to society.

It shows personal and unique perspectives on the history of our planet, combining creativity with science to spread an important understanding to society as a whole

I think it's important in the sense of providing information - and perhaps also feelings - about the past to those who wouldn't be interested enough to delve into the scientific literature or detailed study. I think that's a key - we shouldn't expect everyone to have the same passion as we do, but we can share some of our interest and fascination with the subject through palaeoart. As an art discipline, I think it's a great source of subjects that can provide interest on purely artistic terms as well. If I had one caveat I would say I'm not really sure how highly rated palaeoart is by wider society...

Palaeoart is important for science communication. It can really help with keeping the general public updated to the current understanding of natural history.

Informing the public about new discoveries. Inciting curiosity in science.

It brings science to life, not just as a visual aid for data, but also as a way to bring joy and excitement to the general public about extinct animals.

I think it was a major influence and representation to society.

Maybe.

I don't really think it is - at least not on a grand scale. The only way I can imagine people who aren't totally obsessed with dinosaurs caring about it is for its entertainment value - I don't see how it contributes to a betterment of society in any way beyond that.

Provides society a visual gateway to the past and is most people's introduction to paleontology (accurate or not).

Without quality paleoart, the average citizen doesn't know how to interpret a fossil. They don't know how to visualize it as a living creature. And if they do have some idea of how to do that, it's often heavily informed by pop culture (e.g. Jurassic Park). Paleoart helps to correct and update people's views of past life without them having to stay abreast of the latest research by giving them an easy-to-digest visual summary of what we've learned.

Paleoartists bridge the gap between raw science and the public's understanding of said science. They help the public visualize deep time. It is our duty as paleoartists to ensure the most accurate representation of these creatures and ancient environments because the images we create influence the views of generations. Often times scientists have difficulty communicating in a way the general public digests easily, paleoartists help to alleviate that issue.

I think there is a huge potential in paleoart to broaden human understanding of the amazing diversity of the history of life in a way our brains are not properly built to understand by default. It helps us understand where we fit in the grand scheme of things.

It shows in further detail what the world was like long before we were here

paleoart helps guide public perceptions of prehistoric flora and fauna to be more accurate and sparks imaginations not just of young artists but young scientists as well, encouraging both fields to grow

It stirs fascination for science, which is never a bad thing.

paleoart shows us how extinct animals could look like and behaved

It helps society to understand these things that were here before us, and it often inspires people to pursue science.

It allows for the public to be informed about scientific discoveries without reading scientific reports.

It helps to make people as a whole aware and change the minds of society for the most part.

For all the same reasons as art and science in general. Paleoart can be a creative outlet, a learning tool, and a part of culture. It sparks new ideas and encourages research, introspection, and creative thinking.

Art helps bring dry scientific subject matter to the masses

Increases accessibility and interest in knowledge

Meh,... That's like asking - why is music important to society? Art is one of those things that is more important to do, rather than to define or classify.

Many aspects of our time here on earth can be explained by what happened in the past. If we are able to represent prehistoric life in an accurate way, it can further our understanding of our current world. Having paleoart allows for "faces to be put to names" or so to speak, and it allows for a degree of speculativeness that could also lead to further discoveries and theories in itself.

Paleoart helps connect non-scientists to the science that goes into paleontology as a field of study.

In order to communicate science to the general public in a charismatic way

Shows how life in the past could have been like.

Paleoart helps to understand ancient life. It's an important part of the popular science part of paleontology. Only through paleoart, the general public gets an impression of what earth looked like before humans lived there.

It helps keeps the audience have a connection to science throughout art

Not as important as it should be.

Same as above

Similarly to my previous answer, it allows us a link to the past in a way other forms of science simply can't. You can talk genetic composition all day, but nothing will make the past feel as real as looking an artist's beautiful and lovingly rendered sculpture or painting in the eyes. I think it enhances our view of the past and the earth at large.

Paleoart is an important communication tool for the fields of paleontology, evolutionary biology, and geology, and a potent reminder of the deep, strange history of our world, which I think provides an important antidote to our focus on the here and now.

It is the most powerful outreach tool for paleontology

"Paleoart brings a interesting kind of imagination that is both grounded in reality and very alien. Like recreating historical figures, paleoart breathes a kind of life to some old bones.

I think that even though it's kind of unknown in the eye of the public, I think that paleoart has potential to be educational visual media for children.

"

It provides visualization for the fragility and history of our world.

Paleoart plays an important role in presenting the role that evolution plays in nature to the public.

Better understanding of how creatures work, like any other biology matter.

Paleoart makes visible to the public what science discovers. Scientists need paleoartists to make the past visible in ways they cannot.

The history of our world is important as a scientific pursuit, as well as an artistic one. A lot of us are inspired by the past and fascinated by it, but it's also invaluable as a tool to help predict our future.

It allows the general public who have a vague interest in paleontology to see what we believe the creatures truly looked like

To educate about modern understandings of extinct animals and plants

People deserve to know just as much as scientists, and art is an easy-to-understand teaching method

Paleoart includes having an understanding of science as well as some artistic skills.

Because it shows how the perspectives on animals keep changing with the time

Not very much to the layperson, no.

N/a

It by and large forms the picture that most non-sciencey people have in their head about prehistoric animals

What I said above.

When we work with a scientist, our work is part of the scientific record and can be used to further knowledge of the past.

not sure

We need to remember the past in order to imagine the future.

Yeah, as long as society needs education about palaeontology

It informs them of history no one has observed firsthand, possibly drawing parallels to the modern world. This paleontology related format can help increase understanding of recent environmental issues, such as climate change. The artists are also specialists in this field, so no one has to rely on sloppily crafted news articles riddled with inaccuracies.

Yes, if we understand the history of life it potentially could make people less self absorbed, more unified. And as a visual species, visual representations are paramount.

It broadens our knowledge of the world and its denizens' origins.

I think that anything that further educates the public is beneficial, especially when it comes to subjects so deeply misrepresented in the general public sphere like prehistoric fauna and ecosystems

I think there's always been a societal interest in dinosaurs, accurate or otherwise. Creating correct data for museums and those who wish to learn more about prehistory is important I think

It keeps the public informed of how they might have really looked not just from movies

It's the most noticed aspect of paleontology to the general public. It gets people interested in learning more

Paleoart is the way in which both the artistic expression and the scientific knowledge can be an instrument for the divulgation and discussion not only of the particular discoveries or analysis made, but for general scientific concepts (observation, make hypothesis, experimentation, etc) and to value the history behind of the process of knowledge. Also is a way to general public can be involved in the protection of their own paleontological & natural heritage.

to give fossils a face and to portray extinct animals accurately

To help us grasp the immense spans of time and how the environment can change

to give an accurate profile of extinct fauna and flora, and combat misconceptions and pseudoscience.

It can give a modern understanding of past ecosystems to the wider community.

Same as above.

It creates more interest in paleontology as a whole, and the creatures portrayed, as well as evolutionary biology.

It is, in a way, a cumilation of our discoveries about prehistoric animals. We use our discoveries and ideas about these animals to present what we have discovered and to show society how these animals lived. It also allows us to explore new ideas through speculation as to what these animals could have looked like.

Probably not.

I don't really think it is tbh

I think it teaches people to appreciate life more than they already do and be awe-inspired by the animals that used to be. Also, it's a visual inspiration and gateway to the learning and understanding of science.

To show people that the Earth had a life before humans.

Artistic renderings and reconstructions of prehistoric life are invaluable to the layperson and scientist's understanding of paleontology--visual depictions are impactful and illustrative, and can convey important knowledge when executed well.

It connects science to something visual that will connect with a broader audience, surpassing the need to explain technical things by just showing them.

It allows a relatively easy way to educate the public about the past.

Science is often really hard to understand and abstract when you are not familiar with that kind of theme. I think art helps laymen to understand how things work or, in this case, how dinosaurs were looking when they were alive and also how they lived.

By educating the general public.

Same as above

It draws attention to the science of palaeontology, and biology and evolution in general, and can help to inspire and educate the public about these subjects.

Helps the public to understand prehistoric life as it truly was

Yes, to the extent that it is dedicated to transmit science and not speculative fantasies.

It communicates scientific knowledge and inquiry in an aesthetically pleasing manner

Teaches us about evolution and deep time

As of right now, a way to show what happens to life in certain conditions (climate change)

It affects, subconsciously at least, how we view the real thing. I think it should be a responsibility for artists and scientists to give an accurate view of prehistory when sharing their work. Real life is often so much more fantastical and exciting and just plain bizarre than what one person's imagination can come up with, and I think it helps give a greater appreciation for nature as a whole.

Education, mostly.

The public needs an accurate representation of prehistoric animals to counter pop-culture representations.

Yes, but not often recognized as such. (Much like paleontology in general)

Education to the public. Paleoart is an easier way for the public to understand paleontology.

I think that a lot of people don't know a lot about dinosaurs and art is a way I can show them.

To educate the masses about prehistoric life.

fossils will continue to be just fossils in the public eye unless people are reminded that they were once alive, and that science is constantly learning new things about them.

Because you can't take photos of a giant ground sloth or a stegosaurus. Fostering a sense of caring about the previous practical reality of these animals is paramount to getting people to fund projects and research pertaining to them.

Palaeoart is an easily accessible way of demonstrating how a science like palaeontology is constantly changing and expanding, as well as being able to convey new hypotheses and discoveries in an easy to digest format that ideally is also enjoyable to look at

It is as close as we can get to a time machine. It allows to get unique insights into the ancient past.

No.

Society needs to know about the real life that lived before us. Pop-culture prehistoric life representations should not be the focus- the real deal should!

Loving what once existed fosters our care for protection of what we still have.

Education

It provides an understanding of how changing environment have not only contributed to the formation of new species but have caused extinctions. This gives us a better understanding of how our affects on climate can be detrimental to survival.

Absolutely.

Stimulates the imagination, and generates interest in the history of life on this planet, and perhaps create more appreciation for the life currently on this planet.

Clear misconceptions about life on Earth. Inspire people to delve into the field of paleontology or art or whathaveyou

So that the average person can have the knowledge of what these amazing animals may have looked like.

It helps the general public see the use in paleontology, develop an interest in prehistoric life forms, and be amazed.

Paleoart is a very distinct form of science communication that helps inform and educate people about the deep past, and helps in strengthening their natural fascination with it.

"Paleoart is the face of paleontology. We are a visual species living in a visual media era. We cannot help but to want to envision the worlds of the past. To communicate the discoveries and ideas of paleontology it is essential to supply a visual aspect.

Science communication is so very important, maybe now more than ever. And supplying those outlets and persons with the best tools possible -intriguing ideas and discoveries aided by eye catching and inspiring art- is vital."

to give general public a more correct depiction than most media does about various extinct lifeforms. For example, show dinosaurs were animals and not movie monsters.

Fundamentally, it's nowhere near as important as sciences such as medicine or technology, but understanding prehistoric life can provide insight into modern species. Additionally, studying the mechanics behind what made these animals successful, can possibly even allow us to design machines and architecture using an historically and scientifically sound blueprint as a base.

It creates a better picture of what prehistoric creatures really were. Many people see them as fantasy monsters and not as animals, and I think that Paleoart makes them seem much more real.

It brings greater understanding of the history of the past so that we may better understand the present and the future, and work to correct behaviors that might lead to the destruction of nature and the earth and thus, us.

It is the most accessible representation of palaeontology as a science, and often an incredibly valuable communication tool

In this tumultuous time of fake news and alternative facts we need more scientifically literate people. Dinosaurs and other paleontological subjects tend to be the gateway to many children's path to science. Paleoart and scientific illustration are hooks that draw children and the rest of the general public into the world of scientific discovery. Paleoart/scientific illustration are indispensable and critical to communicating science to the public because it is done in a didactic and engaging manner. The old adage holds true ... a picture is worth a thousand words or Tweets ;) We can only hope that paleoart inspires future generations to pursue careers in science or at least to think critically like scientists.

In a way, if you care about how the animals of the past lived, it isn't hard to imagine you would also care about how the animals that today fill their niches and keep the Earth alive live. And caring about nature nowadays is a very important thing, considering that climate catastrophe is imminent.

"

TO GIVE TO KNOW OLD LIFE"

Visualising concepts and ideas to help further understanding and education.

It adds more meaning to our human experience in the context of a planet older than ourselves, and of the life that existed in those bygone days before us. The art of bringing those beings to life, in a way that would allow us to relate to them as we would any living animal -- paleoart -- makes this context all the more accessible.

inform people about the prehistoric life that has lived on our planet, paleoart is a great tool for this.

Without it media such as Jurassic Park wouldn't be a thing and therefore not as many people would know as much or be as interested in paleontology if they didn't know what dinosaurs looked like. With a foundation like that they can study more about the topics they find interesting and possibly go into a career in paleontology that could in turn lead to new discoveries as well.

It captures imaginations and sparks curiosity.

It gives a depiction of life back then to the uninformed media.

I think it's a fantastic way to introduce people to science in general. It appeals to a broad audience through subject matter and the varieties of stylistic approaches, and can make large, complex concepts easier to comprehend. Paleoart, whether good or bad, can grab anyone's attention and imagination and keep it there.

Feeds the imay

it brings new ideas and theories regarding behaviours and physical structures into the minds of the main stream

Promoting our understanding of extinct life in creative and innovative ways

It inspires and educates

Trying to imagine a world without humans is a very political thing to do. Learning about past extinctions might help us postpone our own inevitable end. Also dinosaurs are really fucking cool.

I'm afraid I'm too much of an amateur to give a good answer here.

It can help educate people about the extinct life in an easy, visually pleasing way

Same reason as before

It assists in the pursuit of discovery

All science contributes to society in tangible and intangible ways.

its important to show the world what prehistoric life looks like.

Scientific pursuit

I think accurate information is important in any field. I just wish people who study the past weren't quite so elitist about it? I work with live animals in a zoo. People are wrong a lot. People have in correct opinions even when you tell them facts. The female elephant is not the dad no matter how many parents tell me other wise. So I wish some people would be less " that's not 100% accurate so you aren't allowed to like it" we know so little about some of these animals. Heck we don't know if some of the skin coverings we know about were seasonal. So maybe it would be nice if the art in paleo art was taken as seriously as the paleo. I'm tired of being shamed because even if they aren't 100% science based I draw things without feather some times.

Paleoart is one of the only ways that the general public has to accurately visualize extinct animals. The public needs us, and by extension, museums and institutions looking to bring in money via public interest need us, too. (Again, see above link for a better exploration of this topic than I can make here...)

It shows us where we came from, how evolution has progressed, and gives us an idea of what a familiar yet largely unknown era of Earth may have looked like.

"Paleoart is the face of paleontology. We are a visual species living in a visual media era. We cannot help but to want to envision the worlds of the past. To communicate the discoveries and ideas of paleontology it is essential to supply a visual aspect.

Science communication is so very important, maybe now more than ever. And supplying those outlets and persons with the best tools possible -intriguing ideas and discoveries aided by eye catching and inspiring art- is vital."

For all the reasons above, and who wants to read about such amazing beings but have no one to draw them

First and foremost, it often provides the public with an accurate (to our knowledge) image of how prehistoric animals (and other organisms) looked, and, sometimes, behaved. The educational aspect of paleoart that is often present is extremely important to me, even if the art I have produced is more for fun than educational. Additionally, it holds a similar value to other types of art, regardless of its educational value, and subsequently is important to society in similar ways.

because nobody is paying attention to the current extinction.

Very! Why wouldn't you want to know about life in the past?

When did I say it was?

It teaches people about past life in a simple understandable way.

Because it helps educate the general public about prehistoric life.

We are a visual species and so all science requires visual aid for public communication

Education about evolution and understanding complex ecosystems

Is it?

Most people are visual learners and almost everyone will respond better to an image than they would to a lengthy scientific journal. Paleoart is the key to allow the public to access and even relate to the work that paleontologists do.

to keep interest high

average people don't read scientific research. They do look at cool pictures. it gets people engaged and makes museums and books way more interesting.

As humans are a visual species, it helps us imagine and envision prehistoric life and understand it better. It also helps us better understand the living animals we have around us today.

Not really compared to many other things, but it is a valuable addition to human culture. :)

It is an important form of science communication, bringing scientific ideas about our understanding of natural history to the general public. As a "gateway science" for many people, paleontology helps interest the general public in science, and paleoart is an ambassador for the field.

Gives people a way to know what specific creatures might have looked like

It's important in an existential way that's difficult for me to describe, but personally it's like, if we have no proof a section of history ever happened, did it ever really happen?

More art out there is always good. If anything, it gives society who wouldn't know much about dinosaurs a look into their world by illustrating them as any other living animal in nature. It's fun to picture them as movie monsters, and to describe them as such, but when that's all you have, there's limited creativity in exploring dinosaur paleobiology and anatomy. It can be useful for both the entertainment industry, as well as the scientific community, and sometimes simultaneously.

It makes palaeontology more accessible to the layperson, and can act as a gateway into learning about the sciences

It not helps connect how similar these animals lived and behaved similar to what we see today. It also helps us get a better understanding of our past and how the world evolved to what it is now.

It relindles a sense of awe before nature's creatures both living and extinct

It will help wash away the pictures in people's heads that Dinosaurs are scaley beast that constantly kill when in reality they were animals that lived and breathed like every thing today, this also applies to all prehistoric animals

"PaleoArt is an important scientific art for the public to learn about not just what once lived before but that it can also help paint a picture what work palaeontologists do to understand how animals that died out before us, on how we can help or learn this in our current world.

PaleoArt is important to our society cause it influences people to make and create things just as another art form does, even if its fictional/ non fictional. "

It helps people to get an idea of what scientists want to inform about.

It helps us to know the natural history thus, knowing our planet Earth well.

Because it is a powerful tool for scientific divulgation

Paleoart can help people visualize a time that is no more. It can bring people closer to nature by giving them a more honest view of life in general.

it is a tool of education as well as an avenue for individual expression; especially it can serve as a visual shorthand for a hypothesis

Education

To educate

It is the top tool against misinformation and inaccurate pop culture by depicting extinct animals as what they were: real animals with thought and importance to their ecosystem. The more palaeoart out there, the better chance laypeople can find them and learn and become up to date with information. Palaeoart helps everything, even those beyond the field.

I don't think so. As most people in our society are manly focused on what is happening today. So most people usually don't think about prehistory or anything that's related, including paleoart.

Dinosaurs are part of popular culture, and those popular views should evolve with modern ideas of paleontology. Feathered theropods need to hit the main stage!

It gives people a chance to leave the current world, and see a glimpse of the past as it might have been. It gives both the artist and the audience a chance to stretch their imagination beyond what they know.

Paleo-art brings extinct animals and plants back to life. I think that people can get a much better mental grasp on what extinct life looked like when it's reconstructed as a living thing rather than looking at fossil remains, which are almost always incomplete. Crafting a complete reconstruction of a living animal not only gives the public a better understanding of what these animals and plants looked like, but it also excites the imagination.

So that people can understand that dinosaurs are so much more than what they currently think

I think it's good for people to be able to see and engage with the history of our planet - to be curious about extinct life. And while reading a wordy article or book isn't everyone's cup of tea, being able to see a visual representation of the animals / plants is a more accessible way for people to learn. And if it catches their eye, who knows, maybe they'd go away and educate themselves further.

It's important to show what an extinct animal may have looked like in life, because it makes paleontology more accessible and engaging for the general public. Paleontology is a very complex and intimidating field, but being able to show a portrait of the animal I'm describing has always helped bridge that gap of understanding. It's helped me personally too, as someone who doesn't know much about mammals and is often a little lost until she sees a picture

Absolutely.

It helps to contextualize our place as humans in a vast geologic timescale. I hope that understanding just how young a species we are will contribute to us caring as a group about the impact we are having on the planet.

People, especially kids keep having on mind JP models, they need to learn

Creates a bridge between the scientific community and the general public

I think the proportion of people who are interested in prehistoric organisms (mostly the larger and more spectacular ones, and there's nothing wrong with that) is large enough that we can reasonably claim palaeoart and palaeontology are important to society as a whole - nurturing the enthusiasms, and enriching the minds, of children and adults alike.

Same reasons as above

Paleoart helps the public see current, scientifically informed understandings of extinct animals. However, sadly I think good paleoart often doesn't get enough publicity.

to promote culture and knowledge

Same as above

Encourages curiosity and engagement with science.

It's an approachable way to connect the public not only to paleontology but get them interested in science in general, especially children.

Paleoart is basically the main gateway between the general public and the scientific world.

If we understand the past we can understand the future. This applies to paleo art and paleontology as a whole.

It brings attention to modern environmental issues, conveys science to the public and explores our scientific body of knowledge pertaining to the history of life on earth and how it effects us.

Yeah! Dinosaurs in media keeps increasing, and most ppl don't research much. Palaeoart is the common person's access to the scientific ideas of extinct creatures.

It's the primary channel through which most people engage with the geological past in any manner

Generates interest in science

It is THE way the public imagines what extinct species look like.

Educating people about the past is always worthwhile.

Same reason as above, plus it gives people a sense of wonder and great appreciation of the long history of this planet

Paleoart is the best way to help the general public visualize our planet's past flora and fauna within the realm of accuracy and speculation. This helps ground people in reality and allows them to realize that these were real points in our planets time and not some fantasy setting in a film, book, comic, etc.

It shoots down inaccuracies (ie Jurassic Park) and generally reveals multitudes about prehistoric animals.

Its easier to see what is in a picture that understand all the words of science when u arent heavily invested in the topic.

To appreciate life in the past is to appreciate all life, and if all life is valued, the world can be a nicer, more understanding place

Helps draw people in to the natural history of the planet.

It can bridge the gap between the Public and Paleontology

Education

Because paleoart serves to put our everyday lives, society, and the problems we face as a civilization into the context of deep time. It can be used to rise awareness of conservational efforts and why it is important of preserving modern ecosystems by showing the public the vast diversity and fragility of the life of the past, and how changing climate and environmental conditions have affected it.

It's great for people to have an idea of what these flora and fauna looked like

Can be used to educate people about science and get peoples interest in it

Education in an often oversaturated field.

Paleoart makes easier for the great public to look at the past, which helps to reach the goals described in the previous answer

It can help understand how these animals actually looked and acted.

Because it shows the species that lived before us

It shows the general public that dinosaurs were not horrible monsters but real animals that acted like normal animals

It is easier to convey the grandeur of prehistoric life through visual forms than through description alone, allowing us to enhance science communication

To give people a better understanding of the past of Earth and to give them a view to a world that doesn't exist anymore.

It gives me pleasure to think about the fact, that I live in a world that has been inhabited by dinosaurs and trilobites. So I imagine that my models will bring the same pleasure to the audience. Feeling pleasure and opening up for imagination is the best foundation for learning and understanding. That is why paleoart is important.

Paleoart fosters public interest in paleontology and other sciences which leads to more funding to the sciences and thus helps to improve our understanding of the world around us.

Not all that sure, doubt many people will care

Without paleoart there would be fewer depictions of extinct animals and most people would only view them as large companies and franchises (Jurassic Park) portray them (although they already do *-*)

It inspires the imagination and forces us to consider our place in the universe

If the public is to be well educated about the prehistoric world and our rapidly evolving and changing knowledge of it, paleoart is the most important tool with which to do so. It is an engaging scientific tool and a genre of art in its own right.

Helps people to learn about the past

People like seeing dinosaurs.

Helps us understand our past

Absolutely not.

It's the best way to imagine and show to the public how extinct animals looked behaved and that they're just animals not monsters. People learn it mostly by watching not reading papers.

It gives people a chance to see our past and dream.

To me, it gives the society a glimpse into the history of life and its diversity.

Knowledge and awareness of natural history and evolution

It fosters a love of animals (extinct and extant), encourages an interest in the scientific method behind the artwork, drives home points about climate change and extinction.

Give us a sense of perspective about our place in the world, should inspire awe and reverence of extinct animals

It has a lot of scientific value, and also helps connect to the people with less education in the field of paleontology. People often just view fossils of things as just "rocks", but with paleoart we can bring to life what most cannot see for themselves.

I fully believe paleoart provides society with entertainment and understanding, of both the past and the present. Being able to take in the strangeness and real-ness of extinct animals is important in raising societal understanding and interest in the beautiful past they may know nothing about.

They help inspire an interest in paleontology, and help to present ideas to the layman that they might not understand. Plus a world without beautiful dinosaur art is one far less interesting.

Yes, as it is a great medium for spreading ideas to the public.

Paleoart, is perfect for aiding science communication and inspiring future scientists.

Because it inspires young people to pursue a career in palaeontology as well as present (eventually and in the long run) a more realistic vision for these animals in general media like movies and such

"Compelling, modern and scientifically accurate paleoart has the potential to educate the society about the most recent discoveries of paleontology.

In the pursue of an educationally advanced society this is critical, because being stuck to a certain outdated picture of ANY scientific field is not supporting this pursuance."

Educational properties (picture says 1000 words, etc.)

Because it can educate those who don't keep up to date with scientific research and discoveries. And shows animals that we as a species have never seen alive.

It helps to quickly & more effectively relay scientific information and theories to the general public.

It can help expose people to many different Prehistoric animals

to upgrade that the popculture vision have to do ancient animals

It helps to educate people.

It gives an easy picture to ancient life

As I mentioned above, I think a solid reason is because we've got the opportunity now to start correcting the society's largely incorrect assumption of what dinosaurs are-- they're still seen as 'other', as somewhat mythical beasts, whereas they were simply real, fully existent animals that lived here before.

It helps us understand evolution and prehistoric species.

So that the society has a decent look at what the natural history of their own environment looked like.

Clears up misconceptions and inspires interest

To properly understand not only the history of life on Earth, but also to explain and better understand the extant members of the animal kingdom and where they belong in their lineage and niches

For education purposes, history has proven many times that art is one of the most effective ways of passing down information, no matter the subject. Besides, paleoart helps in shaping the way society views the history of life.

It helps people picture prehistoric fauna as real animals, not movie monsters.

Shares knowledge with people outside of the scientific community.

Paleoart is almost a Trojan Horse for scientific outreach and communication. Young children may be drawn in by the colorful plumage of a dromaeosaurid or the incredible size and power of a Tyrannosaurus as it charges at a Triceratops, but that will often lead them to a greater understanding, appreciation, and interest in the sciences as a whole. As previously mentioned, it is also an invaluable tool for communicating scientific discoveries to the public and contributes to our understanding of the Earth and its complex history.

It educates people by creating awareness of the topic and art/science in general.

Curiosity, understanding. Evoking wonder and curiosity in children who will grow up to pursue that sensation in the sciences. Also in case the bird uprising happens that Hitchcock warned us about.

Because paleoart offers people a glimpse of earth during prehistoric times. Paleoartists can put the scientific descriptions of prehistoric life into engaging and interesting visuals.

It engages audiences with imagery interpreted from data that might not have otherwise interested them/or be understandable. It adds an important element of 'awe' of the history of the natural world.

Sensory mediums (art) are key to engaging the public when it comes to information about extinct creatures. Scientific literature is not by any means accessible to most people, and paleoart offers forms through which people who would otherwise be unable to engage in paleontological discussions may learn and participate. A drawing or sculpture of an extinct creature is more tangible than a written description, and thus is more engaging to the general public. Also, the more fluffy raptors we draw, the more people might accept feathered dinos.

To better understand the truth to what life once roamed our earth.

It encourages scientific competency and collaboration in a large community.

Because people could have the wrong image of prehistory or none, with paleoart people who want to see how scientists have reconstructed an organism of the past can see different reconstructions of the organism or even its habitat

Helps understanding our place in life

It is important because society must have a proper understanding of how the ancient earth was, and what its life might've looked like/

It can help the public realize that these animals/habitats were REAL, and better inform them of how the world used to be. Paleoart can expand knowledge.

It educates people and brings out the curiosity of the younger generation so they can learn about the past and develop their art skills and history skills

"Besides," as Greg Paul once wrote, "dinosaurs look neat." So do many other extinct animals.

It helps to educate the public about past life. It can even raise additional interest in these topics. This helps to widen the horizon of people consuming the art.

Average people don't find bones very compelling. But a lifelike recreation of what these creatures looked like creates a better sense that these were once living animals. Studying our planet's past is important and I don't think there's a better way to get people motivated and interested than through art.

I think that's a bigger question than you realize, but any historical study is important.

It's not. Not really. Most people don't give two fucks about things that died out thousands or millions of years ago. Sad but true.

For education and science progress, to know better history of life, filling the temporal gaps and better knowledge of evolution for example. Even to explain people how extinctions concern us.

In the end paleoart influences society's understanding of the past and helps contrast how life works today. Maybe even where it's going.

It's a form of education which is versatile, easy to consume and vastly engaging, what with the variety of styles, compositions and fauna it can depict.

It helps to get the attention of people due to being art-related, as well as helping the public get a better grasp at the paleontological discoveries and studies made.

Because it shows how science and art can be unified, and teaches in a graphic way,

It is fascinating

To educate the public on how the lives of prehistoric creatures could have been

It allows you to popularize science and allocate money for research

Yes. It helps inform the public to information they would otherwise not know.

To have a visual understanding and perception of evolution and how things come to be naturally in the world.

it helps people understand the history and present of the planet they live on, changes people's impression of prehistoric animals and extant ones by extension

It makes the past more real, and connects us through time. It also helps us understand our world through different lenses.

Paleoart is the only reason average people can think of long-extinct organisms as once living and breathing creatures.

To know about what the past looked like

"I'm not sure about future. Childrens are always fascinated by dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures. But this interest vanishes too soon. And much of this disinterest(and disdain for the resulting images) prevails in adults, laymen and even Institutions and researchers.

I believe that an option to diminish this attitude of disdain is to re-link our knowledge of Ancient life with our urgent and daily needs in present moment.

That is, reconnecting Society with its needs of knowledge about its history and its past, as a tool that allows new significances at present time.

"

As with any science, effectively communicating new discoveries in paleontology to the public can be difficult. Fossils, usually to their rather fragmentary nature, often fall short of what they represent, be it an organism, a landscape, a specific event, etc. Paleoart can both condense and emphasise large amounts of scientific data to form something tangible without requiring the viewer to have a detailed understanding of the subject. This makes paleontology as a whole more accessible and encourages the people to learn more and support scientists and scientific institutions.

Contributes to a general knowledge of paleontology and science in general

It helps promote a greater understanding of how these animals lived and looked

I don't think it is really, society at large is relatively unconcerned with the ancient past, but I do think that it should be for those same reasons I listed on the previous question.

"Largely for similar reasons as mentioned above: To make Science more accessible and more 'real' for the general public. A name like Vancleavea will sound fancy, but without an illustration showing what the animal might have looked like, it would just be 'some dead croc' to a lot of people. Showing an animal's (or ecosystem's, or plant's, or...) most likely accurate look when alive immediately creates much more association with the topic itself and can kickstart a more in-depth interest in the field for someone who, prior to that, had never been invested in the topic.

"

Same as above. Without accurate history, ours is a hopeless cause.

It can develop the interest in sciences (on all ages), and it motivates people to learn more about Earth's history.

It's important for popularizing science and encouraging people to learn

It shows us the past.

It helps bring attention to the topic of Paleobiology as a whole to people that might not otherwise see it

Its educational

I think people in general have an interest in history and nature, and paleoart offers a fascinating perspective on both in a way that's instantly understandable and fun.

We, as a society, can learn everything from the past! Seeing prehistoric creatures as animals rather than movie monsters allows us to see connections between the past and the future that can show us how special the world is today and how worth protecting it is.

I feel that a majority of the public has been misinformed on what prehistoric animals, and it is important as scientific thinkers that we do our best to destroy this misinformation and misconceptions. The public should have an accurate picture in their mind about what prehistoric life was actually like.

I think that it's important to educate the public

Dinos are cool, but misunderstood

it helps define the line between what hollywood shows for entertainment and what paleontology shows as science "fact" or paleoaccurate.

We don't have wildlife photographers for the past! Paleoartists - whether scientists like myself or true artists - need to imagine all this stuff and put it to paper.

It is the closest we'll get to traveling back in time and understanding our origins. Prehistoric life, and in particular vivid depictions of it, is a gateway drug to science for so many. It inspires children to take interests in science and those interests expand over time.

I do, as it helps us understand our ancient past, as well as our future. I'm hoping that it will help humanity reconsider their decision to put money over the wellbeing of earth's many life forms, especially those who happen to be endangered.

Spreading our current understanding on past animal life to masses - to "peel off" the stereotypes and make people accustomed to the fact that science marches forward (this counts to any sci-art). And that's important - science doesn't stagnate - it's always marching forward, and its constant changing is not the reason to not trust the science: it is what makes it to progress and to become better at understanding the world.

I don't think most people care. Jurassic park bald dinosaurs are the norm still

It's the most effective way of communicating palaeontology to the public. There's no better way of discussing the science of Tyrannosaurus than providing a well-researched image of a Tyrannosaurus.

A majority of our natural history is comprised of paleontological studies and the most effective way of representing the vast natural history of our earth is through paleo-art

Better understanding of the past, for the future.

Paleoart is important to society as it is one of the few gateways society has to the past.

Image talks clearest

It impacts culture and the masses' understanding of the ancient world

It captures that unknown that humans strive for; we aren't gonna ever know what a lot of these creatures looked like and so by portraying them it's like a view into a world we want to know, but cannot.

The Visualization of extinct Species or similar manages to represent the scientific and educational value in a picture that everyone can understand. And by learning about the past, we may learn more about the future and the present.

Hook people in, to care more about our natural world and respect it and preserve it

People at large and laity enjoy past life they can't witness. A museum of only bones and impressions gives a sense of scale, but it gives little sense of shape. By contrasting the known with the possible, you open a window into a universe these people have never seen. The past is a foreign country, but paleoart is the passport.

Yes, it is one of the closest ways you could (metaphorically) bring an extinct animal back to life.

Well, for one we wouldn't have Jurassic Park without it. Can you imagine pop culture without that? And it introduces people to prehistoric life in a way that isn't just bones and skulls, like "this is what this animal looked like, isn't this cool?"

Yes, I think more talented artists should create paleo art

To educate and display the products of past life, and their connections to our present and future.

It is the best way to convey our understanding of extinct creatures and ecosystems to the average person. That understanding doesn't always have value in itself, but it inspires an awe and an appreciation for both the natural world and the sciences that I think is invaluable. One of the main reasons I am science literate was because of my interest in dinosaurs which was largely fostered by illustrations for books I read as a child.

Paleoart is the way people connect with extinct life. This connection is vital to understanding our past as it relates to our future.

Same as above.

It's fun to see reconstructed animals, but really not important. Paleontology in general is really not important. It's very cool, but doesn't do anything but inform and inspire wonder. Society would be just fine without it.

Makes paleontology more approachable and understandable

Paleoart is valuable and worthwhile because it gives a window into Nature that is millions of years ancient...it allows us to at least imagine what the world was like in the distant past and explore possibilities in ancient creatures' biology, ecology and behavior.

We learn so much every year about dinosaurs. Paleoart give people a window into seeing these animals alive and as realistic as we can get

It encourages art and science

We can show the people what species are lost on earth, and maybe make them pay attention on the survival of extant species. But maybe this opinion is too optimistic.

An interesting collective project to imagine another world.

it educates

It's important to study animals as they have been rather than what we want them to be. As much as I love Jurassic Park, the actual animals are just as fascinating and at least from an entertainment perspective could prompt a movie with more accurate dinosaurs. But also I've been to the natural history museum and it's still full of tail dragging dinosaur models despite the skeletons right there not reflecting this. Study of the past can help the study of the future, and I think it's important to be accurate in more relevant spaces at least.

Again, didactic utility.

Helps to expand the fascination for the prehistoric life.

"It engages the public and can tell them about whatever is depicted in a much better way than if they were to read about it, many people won't sit there and study journals or read about different specimens and paleoart gets them involved because they don't have to do that.

It can educate children and make paleontological discoveries accessible to everyone in an entertaining and accurate way"

Without paleoart people wouldn't really understand prehistoric life.

It's a great way to communicate palaeontology to the general public in an easily digestible way.

Paleontology is the result of many fields of science coming together (biology, geology, physics, genetics, kinematics, etc etc). Paleoart is an amalgamation of parts of that plus art, both in technique and theory. Cross-disciplinary work seems to be increasingly valuable in society. The work of paleoartists hopefully get people thinking about things they haven't thought about before, and therefore act as to seed cross-disciplinary inquiry.

As it is a concrete way to see something extinct and so connect with distant past and evolution strengths, yes.

Bringing new minds into science to improve our current understandings and future. Also it's a lot of fun possibly it helps with teaching people about prehistory.

It brings attention and recognition of the public to paleontology, potentially awakening future paleontologists.

Paleoart catalyzes an interest in science for many audiences.

To give the public an image of the earth before us

I think they're Paleoart is the best way to communicate current scientific knowledge with the public.

Because I believe misinformation is inherently harmful

It represents a palpable and visual "translation" of technical and scientific data. help in the awareness of society about the geological past of the planet.

Because it can be used to put deep time and our place in it in context.

Helps to bridge the gap between "Art and "Science."

Without it, the public's understanding of extinct animals would be the movie monsters of popular media

It better helps us to comprehend the past

It helps raise awareness of paleontology as a science, is more easily consumed information than a scientific description of a species, and also many people find it delightful (almost anything that makes people happy is worth something)

So many people think of dinosaurs as monsters instead of real animals and paleoart encourages people to do research.

Because it shows people (mostly) scientifically correct extinct flora & fauna

Makes paleontology accessible.

It is a form of science communication. Heaven knows we need that badly.

Paleoart serves as a valuable bridge between often richly complex scientific literature and the uninformed public, having the power to shape general understanding and interest in paleontology.

Paleoart can connect its audience to a larger view of life than we can possibly experience directly. I think this connection is key to appreciating and understanding our shared heritage (and our shared future) with all life on the planet.

It gives the public an idea of what prehistoric life was like, it also allows for a better appreciation of it to see it as something other than a fossil.

Yes, it promotes public interest in the sciences and paleontology, and brings more people into the field.

Captures the public imagination

it's a great support to science, educate people and refute beliefs and myths

Informing the public of updated discoveries.

Paleoart engages the public and encourages them to get involved in the mental processes used in science to extrapolate the reasons for the decisions behind the depiction in the piece of art. Why use this type of feather pattern? Why is the animal in a burrow? Why does that animal have such tiny arms? It is a fun introduction into the biological and geological sciences.

Knowing and getting excited about the science of the earth's past inspires more knowledge of science and learning in general