Kelvin Dizon

Art 103

Durie

Reading #3

Q1. From the podcast, how has our understanding of what dinosaurs really look like evolved? Describe the progression of how we portrayed them and how might this effect our understanding of what Archeology is saying about them.

Prior to dinosaur renaissance, they were portrayed as dumb flabby creatures living in swamps. The earlier paintings suggested that they were slow-moving unintelligent cold blooded-reptiles. We viewed them as extinct, a forgotten history. However, through paleontologist and paleo-artist Bob Bakker's significant contributions in a ground-breaking fossil discovery and never-seen-before illustrations, there came an enlightenment on how we saw the dinosaurs. Compared to the bones that were found, the young Bakker also dissected other animal creatures to have a better understanding of different anatomies. With Bakker's artistic skill and scientific discoveries, he began to illustrate that dinosaurs were bird-like, and they were actually extremely agile, athletic, and intelligent. They were actually superior creatures.

Q2. The artist/archeologist John Conway who is doing interpretations of dinosaurs is obviously taking liberty with what could be the actual truth of how these creatures existed. What other fields of science, creative based disciplines and forms of studies use similar techniques that reminds you of this method or process. Please elaborate with your examples both written as well as images and links.

The other field of science that is similar to this technique that I am reminded of is genetic cancer testing, specifically in finding out if a type of cancer is hereditary. I recently learned about this after meeting with my mom's genetic counselor. This science, although has been around, is quite a new field of study.
After the tumor was taken out during surgery, it is sent to the laboratory for genetic testing. The tumor carries a DNA that can show the genetic infrastructure. As for my mom's lab, there were 2 types of genes that are present which made the doctors and researchers suspect that the type of cancer is hereditary. To confirm and further investigate, the next step is to do the actual genetic test through saliva sample or blood works. If the test comes positive, there is a possibility that her siblings and children can develop the same type of cancer. But, the beauty of this science is not only to track the roots of cancer but to provide information to the family to prevent it early from developing. The DNA found in the tumor is like finding the fossils of the dinosaurs to see what it's made up.

https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/cancer-genetics-and-prevention-program
https://www.ucsfhealth.org/education/faq-genetic-testing-for-hereditary-cancer

Q3. First, summarize in your own words the characteristics of 'Material Speculation' as described in the second article. Then given this article's examples for possible future products, how can this same technique also be used to create objects that refer to the past?

The characteristics of Material Speculation is utilizing some carefully designed and crafted fictional artifacts for the purpose of inquiring a possible world. This technique can be used by taking some discovered historical artifacts like the London Hammer that was enveloped in a rock which was 400 million years old, and fuse it with a fictional artifact to inquire what type or level of technology was used to create a modern tool during that time.