

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 affect our understanding of what Archeology is saying about them.

- Since dinosaurs have lived way before our time, it is understandable that we have no evident ideas of what they actually look like besides an interpreted visualization through their skeletons or stereotypes. In the beginning, dinosaurs were seen as slow and unintelligent due to their extinction. However, the more we analyze something, the more we begin to understand that dinosaurs are more than just reptiles or lizards. They are dynamic and active creature which can be seen from their skeletal structure. Archeologists begin to question the physical appearance of them beyond the skeleton such as fat, humps, feathers, and more. Therefore, archaeology may be trying to say that there are no definite answers to what dinosaurs look like and will always be a lingering mystery.

Q2. The artist/archaeologist 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 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.

- Conway's process of interpretations reminded me of how others sought to discover creatures deriving from myths such as the Yeti or the Loch Ness monster. Reviewing other people's experiences or logs in order to find out whether there are real is intriguing. Many are based on speculation and descriptions which is similar to Conway's discovery of new possible dinosaur attributes. Myths are based on some sort of speculation, however, it is difficult to differentiate whether these creatures were mistaken for another animal or if it is exactly how people describe it.

Strange tracks are about foot long (below). Those found by British mountaineer, Dr. Ward (facing page), look like they were made by two-legged creature.



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

- Material speculation draws on the idea of possible worlds. It challenges how we think and analyze our world through the design of material artifacts. These material artifacts are designed for us to question and examine the speculations surrounding it.
- By applying a certain material, focusing on design, and providing some context, an object can be created to make a statement about the past or current moment. One person will have different interpretations than the next. But, creating a context with design will have other people wondering what the object is and what its functionalities are. Applying historical context such as referencing older art movements or even futuristic technology will guide the person towards a past world or high-tech world.