



MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA

Celebrating the Colorado Plateau

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT Cristen Crujido, Director of Marketing, ccrujido@musnaz.org, 928.774.5211, ext. 273



**Museum of Northern Arizona mounts natural science, art exhibition
Colorado Plateau mammals featured in *Four on the Floor: Audubon's Quadrupeds***

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) March 23, 2017 – More than 100 lithograph prints by American naturalist and artist John James Audubon, as well as mounted specimens of Colorado Plateau mammals, are featured in the Museum of Northern Arizona's newest exhibition *Four on the Floor: Audubon's Quadrupeds*. The exhibition is on view through May 29, 2017. The Museum is located at 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff.

Four on the Floor draws its inspiration from Audubon's final artistic compendium, the *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*, considered the definitive study on American wildlife in the 19th century. Printed between 1845 and 1848, Audubon completed the work with his sons, traveling across the United States collecting and documenting animals.

"Audubon's creative strength was in advancing natural history illustration, and his work was based upon extensive field observations of the animals' lifeways and habitats in order to create dynamic imagery," said Curator of Fine Arts Alan Petersen. "He knew that his work would be evaluated not only by his artistic achievement, but also on his contributions to natural science."

Four on the Floor features this entire portfolio, as well as a selection of mounted specimens that bring Audubon's richly detailed illustrations to life. The exhibition includes displays for children of all ages including photographs of baby animals, a variety of animal skulls and animal facts. The exhibition also includes an in-depth ecological review of 12 Colorado Plateau mammals by MNA Curator of Ecology and Conservation Dr. Larry Stevens.

"Since Audubon's fieldwork, species native to the Colorado Plateau have been subjected to environmental impacts like human population expansion and climate change," said Stevens. "This has resulted in shrinking ranges and extinction for some species. Through this exhibition, we hope to raise awareness and appreciation of these remarkable species, with whom we share our environment."

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Four on the Floor is the Museum's first natural science exhibition since *Mountain Lion* in 2012.

A series of public programs are scheduled in conjunction with the exhibition and include:

- **Thursday, May 4, 6 pm** Book Discussion: *John James Audubon, The Making of an American*
- **Thursday, May 18, 6 pm** Gallery Talk: *Mammals of the Grand Canyon Region* with MNA Curator of Ecology Dr. Larry Stevens

The Museum of Northern Arizona is located at 3101 N. Fort Valley Road in Flagstaff, Arizona. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors (67+), students (with ID), American Indians (10+ with tribal affiliation) and youths 10-17. Children under 10 are free.

For more information, call the Museum of Northern Arizona at 928.774.5213 or visit musnaz.org.

The **Museum of Northern Arizona** inspires a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. Founded in 1928, the 200-acre campus includes an historic exhibit building with nine galleries showcasing the geology, anthropology and art of the region; research and collections facilities; a museum shop and bookstore; and more than 450 public programs annually.

Location: Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N. Fort Valley Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Phone & Website: 928.774.5213, musnaz.org

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