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Messel - A Window into the Eocene Ecosystem



Interprospekt Special Exhibition

This exhibition is a co-production with the Messel Research and Mammalogy Department of Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt-am-Main.

It gives a comprehensive overview of the amazing biodiversity of the Messel Pit, a perfect window into the Eocene ecosystem.

A representative sample of 25 specimens have been chosen from a vast collection, to offer explanations on the history and the most recent paleontological and biological research of this UNESCO classified site.



Exceptional Preservation

In the Messel Pit Fossil Site (Hessen, Germany) sediments of a 45 MYO lake are preserved as oil-shale in a maar structure, an ancient volcanic crater lake. Messel is famous for its extraordinary preserved fossil vertebrates, insects and plants.

One significant aspect of the Messel fossil locality is that complete skeletal specimens are preserved. The skin with hair, scales or feathers are sometimes traced by fossil melanosomes and insects even flash their original coloration.





Ida - Scientific Icon

One of the masterpieces of Messel is this juvenile primate of *Darwinius masillae*, famously established as 'Ida'. This specimen has been identified as the first member of early primates, later evolving into primates and finally human beings. Remains of fur containing melanosomes also show the habitus of the animal.





Inquire with Interprospekt for prices regarding this exhibition customized for your gallery, museum or special event.

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