The Artist and the Scientists
Bringing Prehistory to Life

By Peter Trusler, Patricia Vickers-Rich, Thomas H. Rich

This stunning book follows the development of selected works of art covering the last 600 million years of the geological record. Over more than thirty years Patricia, Tom and Peter have travelled across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the Americas, Africa and Eastern Europe in search of the remains of early life, including fish, dinosaurs, birds and mammals. Told from the viewpoints of both scientist and artist, the reader is given a unique insight into the process of preserving and recording the evolution of prehistoric life.

It is a unique personal account of how three people – two scientists (eminent paleontologists Patricia Vickers-Rich and Thomas H. Rich) and one artist (Peter Trusler, one of the finest Australian artists of scientific realism) – have worked together for more than two decades to produce some of the best reconstructions of past times. The art in the book is exceptional in its accuracy and quality and each chapter represents a self-contained recollection (from both an artist’s and scientist’s perspective) of a particular field trip – the people, the geography and the fossil discoveries leading to the reconstruction of an ancient past.

Award winning author team with many publications, commissioned artworks, and exhibitions to their credit:


➤ Wildlife of Gondwana was awarded both the the Eureka Prize and the Whitley Medal (1993 - 1994)

➤ Peter Trusler has provided the art for the second largest stamp issue in the history of Australia Post on Australian Dinosaurs

➤ Peter has worked for National Geographic and together with Patricia and Tom produced the cover of Time Magazine in 1993

Double-page spread from “The Artist and the Scientists”

• Spans over a period of 600 million years
• Depicts not just dinosaurs, but also fish, birds and mammals
• Discoveries that originate from all over the world - Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the Americas, Africa and Eastern Europe
Palaeontologists

Patricia Vickers-Rich is currently the Founding Director of the Monash Science Centre. She is past President of the Australian Association of Palaeontologists.

Together they have been awarded numerous prizes for excellence in science communication including the Selwyn Medal by the Geological Society of Australia and The Clarke Medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales.

Thomas H. Rich is a Curator at the Museum of Victoria in Melbourne.