



LECTURE ABSTRACT

“Plastination of Sperm Whale”

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Plastination has become the gold standard for the preservation of anatomical specimens by replacing tissue fluid with a curable polymer. The longevity of plastinates is advantageous for the preservation of biological tissue, but especially rare or unique specimens of inherent scientific and educational interest. Such was the case with the world's first plastination of sperm whales. In 2016, two adult male sperm whales were stranded on the beach of Yangkou Port in Nantong City, Jiangsu Province, China. The local government plans to preserve two sperm whales by making specimens, one of which was entrusted to Dalian Hongfeng Biological Co., Ltd., the first sperm whale to be plastinated and preserved in world history. The plastination of a large marine mammal shows the mutual adaptability of its internal structure, living environment, and living habits. And the plastination process also provides a new method for studying the anatomy of large animals in the future. The plastinated sperm whales promise to be an enduring asset of tremendous scientific, educational and artistic value.

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