

# ARTIST INTERVIEWS

# and TIME TRIALS

These two audio projects can be found on the nearby iPod Nano. You may manipulate the Nano’s controls to hear the selection of your choice: you can choose to hear Time Trials or Artist Interviews, and you can choose to hear specific selections within each project. Please wear the headphones to hear the projects.

## TIME TRIALS

This is a participatory project. Chris gave participants a list of 30 dinosaur names, selected for their complex spelling and confusing pronunciation. The challenge was to read all the names aloud as quickly as possible.

This challenge not only tests how easily people can pronounce these complex names, but also gives a sense of how people think they are pronounced. Dinosaur names are chimeric fabrications from many languages, including Greek, Latin, and Chinese, so their pronunciation is at least somewhat subjective.

Dinosaur books often offer pronunciation guides, but one soon notices that they contradict each other on a regular basis.

For example, here are five different ways books say you should pronounce “diplodocus”:

dip´loe doe´kus  
dip´loe duk´us  
di ploeh´di kus  
di plahd´i kus  
dip lahd´i kus

The complexity of dinosaur names is a frequent joke among the general public. This project takes that criticism and embraces it by providing an opportunity to see how people deal with these names under pressure conditions.

There have been 17 *Time Trials* participants so far. You can hear their speed-reading attempts on the iPod, ranked by their times.

The *Time Trials* List of Dinosaur Names:

1. Compsognathus
2. Diplodocus
3. Parasaurolophus
4. Micropachycephalosaurus
5. Archeopteryx
6. Sinornithosaurus
7. Baryonyx
8. Monoclonius
9. Anatotitan
10. Brachyceratops
11. Coelophysis
12. Cryolophosaurus
13. Deinonychus
14. Dilophosaurus
15. Dromaeosaurus
16. Euoplocephalus
17. Giganotosaurus
18. Muttaborrasaurus
19. Psittacosaurus
20. Stygimoloch
21. Unenlagia
22. Therizinosaurus
23. Carcharodontosaurus
24. Gallimimus
25. Tuojiangosaurus
26. Liaoningosaurus
27. Mamenchisaurus
28. Tropeognathus
29. Acrocanthosaurus
30. Ramphorynchus

Try it yourself—see how quickly you can say their names out loud. Can you beat the best times of the previous contestants?

Best *Time Trials* Times so Far:

- |                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| 1. Richard            | 0’27’’ |
| 2. Ilaya              | 0’29’’ |
| 3. Andrew             | 1’02’’ |
| 4. Kevin              | 1’04’’ |
| 5. Kelly              | 1’04’’ |
| 6. Sophie             | 1’10’’ |
| 7. John               | 1’16’’ |
| 8. Kathia             | 1’16’’ |
| 9. Sarah              | 1’19’’ |
| 10. Clare             | 1’20’’ |
| 11. Olivia            | 1’20’’ |
| 12. Michael           | 1’23’’ |
| 13. Ruth              | 1’24’’ |
| 14. Rosie             | 1’39’’ |
| 15. Marko, attempt #2 | 1’40’’ |
| 16. Marko, attempt #1 | 1’57’’ |
| 17. Adrian            | 2’00’’ |

## ARTIST INTERVIEWS

As part of his project to study dinosaur aesthetics, or why we think dinosaurs looked the way we think they looked, Chris interviewed some of the people most involved in creating our perceptions of dinosaurs: the artists who draw, paint, design, model, illustrate, animate, and otherwise create images of dinosaurs.

These interviews took place over the phone and by email. The phone interviews were recorded as audio files. The email interviews were run through an artificial digital voice generator so that they can be heard as audio files as well. The interviews vary in length and topic, based on how much time the artists were able to spare from their very busy schedules, their particular areas of expertise, recent projects of interest, etc.

Chris would like to thank all these artists for participating in this project. They were all extremely kind with their time and thoughts, which reflects just how much consideration and effort goes into their works.

*This is a list of the artists Chris has interviewed, along with a brief description of their accomplishments. You can decide who you want to listen to on the iPod by selecting their name from the menu.*

**RICHARD KISSEL**, paleontologist and Director of Teacher Programs at the Museum of the Earth. He is co-author of the book *The Evolving Planet*, and is no stranger to the world of drawing. He ran a booth at a recent Museum of the Earth *Dinosaur Train* event where he drew a free dinosaur cartoon for anyone who asked. **35 minutes.**

**GAIL GIBBONS**, author and illustrator of more than 135 fascinating non-fiction books on every subject in the world. She has made two dinosaur books, *Dinosaurs!* and *Dinosaur Discoveries*. **37 minutes.**

**ALIKI BRANDENBERG**, author and/or illustrator of at least 100 non-fiction books on a similarly-large range of subjects. She has created at least four incredible dinosaur books: *Fossils Tell of Long Ago*, *Dinosaurs are Different*, *Dinosaur Bones*, and *Digging up Dinosaurs*. **30 minutes.**

**JOHN W. MERCK, JR.**, paleontologist and associate director of the Earth, Life, and Time program of College Park Scholars at the University of Maryland, College Park. He collaborated in the creation of the digital skeletal illustrations in *The Mistaken Extinction: Dinosaur Evolution and the Origin of Birds*, and also worked on the accompanying educational CD-ROM, *The Age of Dinosaurs*. **37 minutes.**

**MICHAEL EMBERLEY**, celebrated children’s book artist and writer, created the how-to-draw *Dinosaurs!* and *More Dinosaurs!* books. **1 hour.**

**MATTHEW REINHART**, renowned pop-up book artist, created *Encyclopedia Prehistorica: Dinosaurs* with Michael Sabuda. **30 minutes.**

**JAMES GURNEY**, Hugo-winner and creator of the *Dinotopia* series. This interview was originally done over email, and is here read out loud by a digital voice generator set up by Joanna Spitzner. **6 minutes.**

**JOHN SIBBICK**, acclaimed paleo-artist, has worked with *National Geographic*, the BBC, and the National History Museum in London, and has illustrated many books such as *The Illustrated Book of Dinosaurs* and *The Evolution and Extinction of Dinosaurs*. This interview was originally done over email, and is here read out loud by a digital voice generator set up by Joanna Spitzner. **20 minutes.**

**JEFF BALLINGER** was Chris’ very first interview, in a proto version of this project in 2005. He was a BFA student in design at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and he showed a series of paleo-art drawings as his thesis exhibition. The field of paleo-art has a very wide range of practitioners, from hobbyists to highly engaged and skilled amateurs to professionals. While Jeff may not yet have achieved the level of repute of some of the other interviewees in this series, his thoughts and interest nicely illustrate the diversity of points of view that can be found in this field. **10 minutes.**

### To Use the iPod:

Run your finger back and forth along the “Click Wheel” to move up and down the menus. Click the top of the circle to move up to the menu above the one you are on now. Click the center of the circle to select an item.

This is the total menu hierarchy on the iPod:

