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Traces Montréal

For World Expo 2020 Dubai, delayed for a year due to COVID, Montréal-based firm KANVA conceived TRACES at the Canada Pavilion. The exhibition, a response to climate change and disappearing habitats and living species, anchors the expo's entry plaza with eight boxes showcasing artistically rendered fossilization.

“The artistic interpretation of these critical issues seeks to bring forward a delicate installation that highlights the beauty of living species, their present state of urgency, and to promote the positive change that humans can bring, both individually and collectively,” says KANVA partner Rami Bebawi. “Both for Canada and our firm, it conveys a responsible commitment to addressing climatic concerns while deploying art as a medium to promote awareness.”

One box, for example, features initially handcrafted birds, which were 3D scanned and digitally animated to capture different moments in flight. Wiring systems anchor the birds, which are immersed within a resin medium that yields an exothermic reaction reminiscent of amber fossils. “As visitors enter each of these microcosms, there is a sense of full immersion and a meaningful dialogue with living species,” Bebawi adds. “It highlights the potential of artistic narratives as vehicles for critical thinking.”



Photo by GERRY O'LEARY