



lecture and exhibition in Galerie Metal, Denmark

# RARE ANIMALS AND THE MISSING LINK

## Evolution in Jewellery

corresponding lecture to the exhibition in Galerie Metal,  
Copenhagen, Denmark

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to be here in Kopenhagen and I would like to  
welcome you to my lecture.

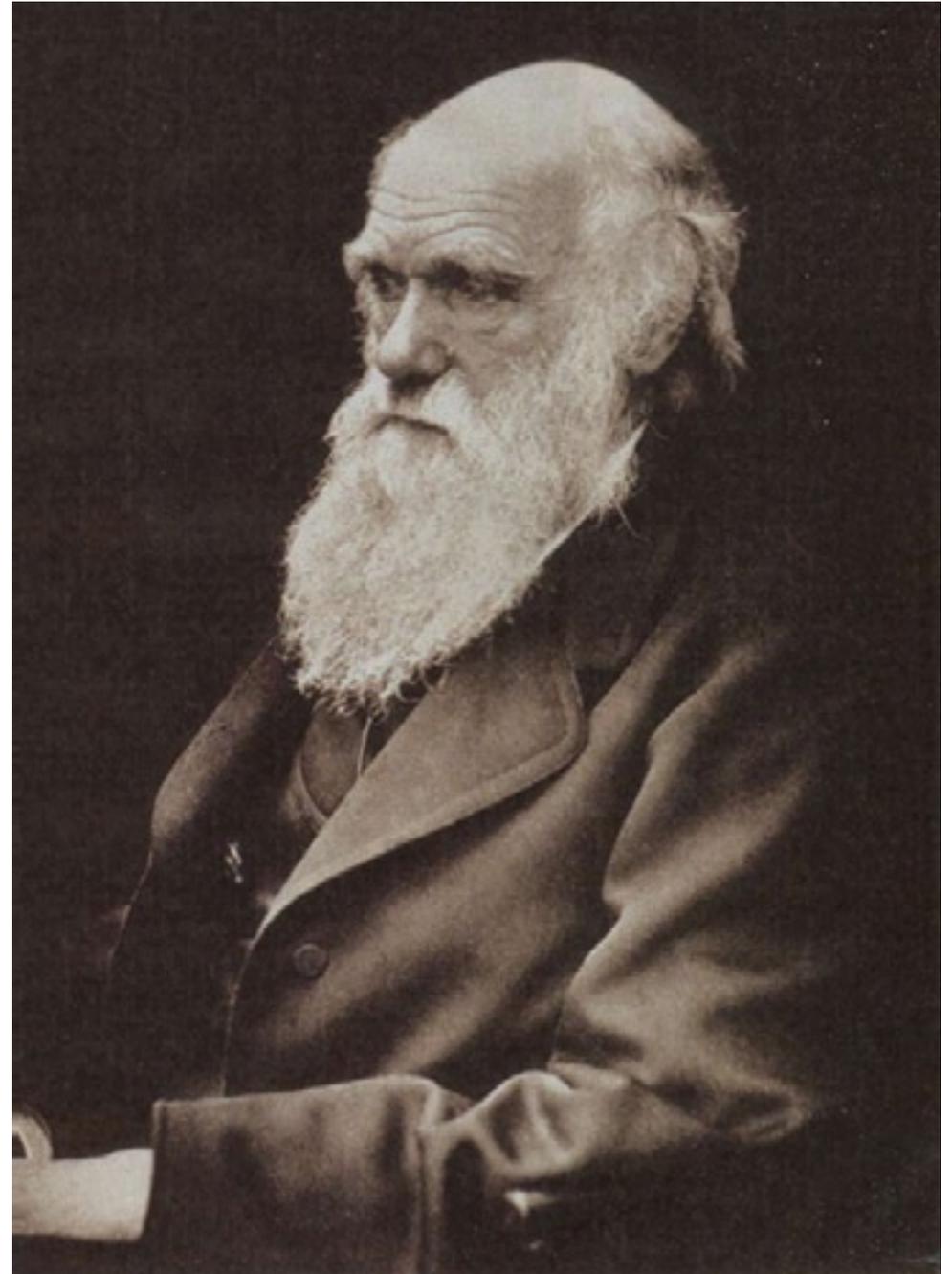
This Year, 2009, is entitled as the Darwin-Year, because  
Charles Darwin, the british natural scientist was born 200  
Jears before. So my lecture and my exhibition is called  
“Rare animals and the missing link“ and will show up the  
process of evolution which has to be, in my opinion, com-  
pletely revised.

With my exhibition and my lecture I would like to reveal  
some extraordinary new scientific findings about evolu-  
tion and the origin of mankind.

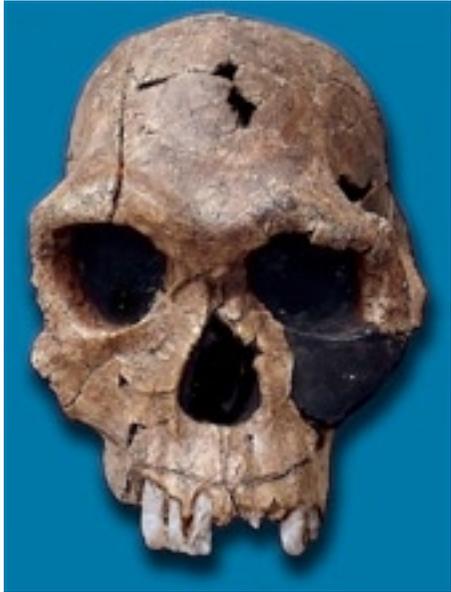
Charles Darwin, as we all know, founded the theory of  
evolution. By this theory every species is continuously  
changing in small steps. Though these changes  
produced in any one generation are small, differences  
accumulate with each generation and can, over time,  
cause substantial changes in the organisms.

This process can produce completely new species.  
Indeed, the similarities between organisms suggest  
that all known species come from a common ancestor  
through this process of gradual change.

Therefore, ever it was an important aim of every natu-  
ral scientist, to discover the origin of mankind and find  
the “missing link“, the connection of the modern human  
being and its originally ape-like ancestors.



# Missing Link



This skull was found 1959 in East Afrika. Later it was entitled as the "Homo Habilis".

It was considered to be a relic of the first human being, it closed the gap in the human's family tree. We could trace back our origin much more further and make the connection to former species.

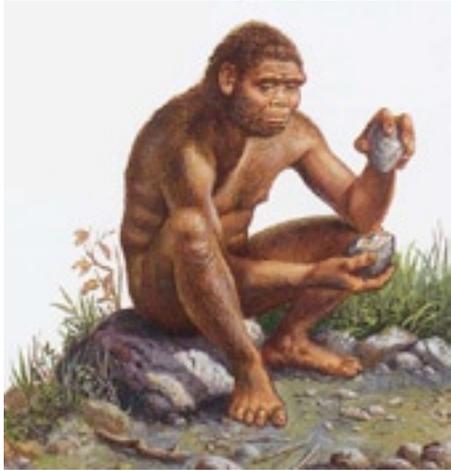
But recent new discoveries deny the classification of this homo habilis as an early human being.

The central piece of my exhibition, "The Missing Link", shows our dark past in a clear, bright light.

When we compare this extraordinary piece to the skull of the homo habilis, we can notice some strong differences. The most peculiar is the shape of the teeth. We can assume, that our ancestors came from rodents, small mammals maybe with rabbit-like shape with an affection to carrots and vegetables.



# Where we came from



For a long time we had a particular picture in mind, how our ancestor has looked like. This illustration shows a popular visualization.

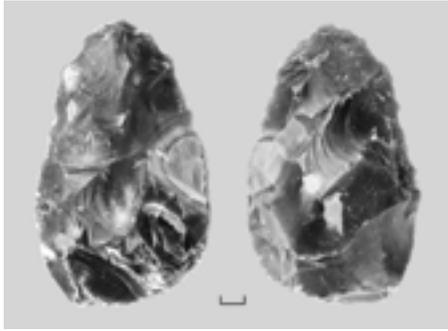
Nowadays we can be sure, that our ancestor did look rather more like on the picture at the right side. This wood-carved artefakt shows the early rabbit-like species, which has been our true ancestor.

Still, the expression of this creature is somehow creepy. You get the impression of real animal instincts. But also there is clearly to see the intelligent action of which this creature is capable.

And we can guess, on which way our ancestor have left the trees. He already shows a certain determination to be a successful species.



# Cult Objects



My thesis can be confirmed by these objects from stoneage.

Before they were considered to be the first tools. These examples are rough shaped out of stone, they were considered to serve a purpose of hitting and scraping.

But nowadays we know that the early human being was much more advanced.



In fact, these objects were the first pieces of art or even more they had, obviously, a ritual character.

The early human wanted to indicate his connection to his real ancestors by applying these artefakts to his body and performing ritual celebrations.

They are made out of artificial fur, maybe, not to anger the souls of the forefathers.



# Early Idols



Photo: MatthiasKabel

For a long time we had only known this or similar idols as an evidence of prehistorical religion or cult.

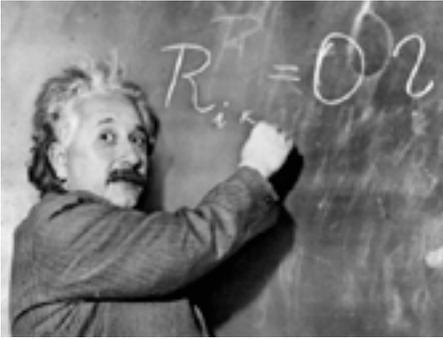
This is a picture of the „Venus von Willendorf“, at about 25.000 years old.

The following, newly discovered idol shows in comparison a much more positive, life-affirming attitude. Also a quite modern one, because all of us as modern humans can feel a closeness to this character in our struggle to loose weight and be in a fit shape. The idol is carved out of wood, the use of gold for the sports equipment shows the importance of the action.

The Venus, however, refers with her faceless sex-appeal to former, long forgotten and overcome ages.



# Back to the Beginnings



You see that the history of evolution and mankind has to be written completely anew.

In our journey to evolution I want to bring you back to the beginnings. We have to start again with creation and the beginning of all life.

Albert Einstein, the extraordinary physicist, came after a long life of research and calculations to the conclusion: „god does not play dice“.

But Darwin told us, that the central point in evolution is the coincidence, meaning the small genetic changes in every species just by chance - so we are faced with a dilemma.

Again, I can claim to be able to prove Darwin's thesis by the following artefact:

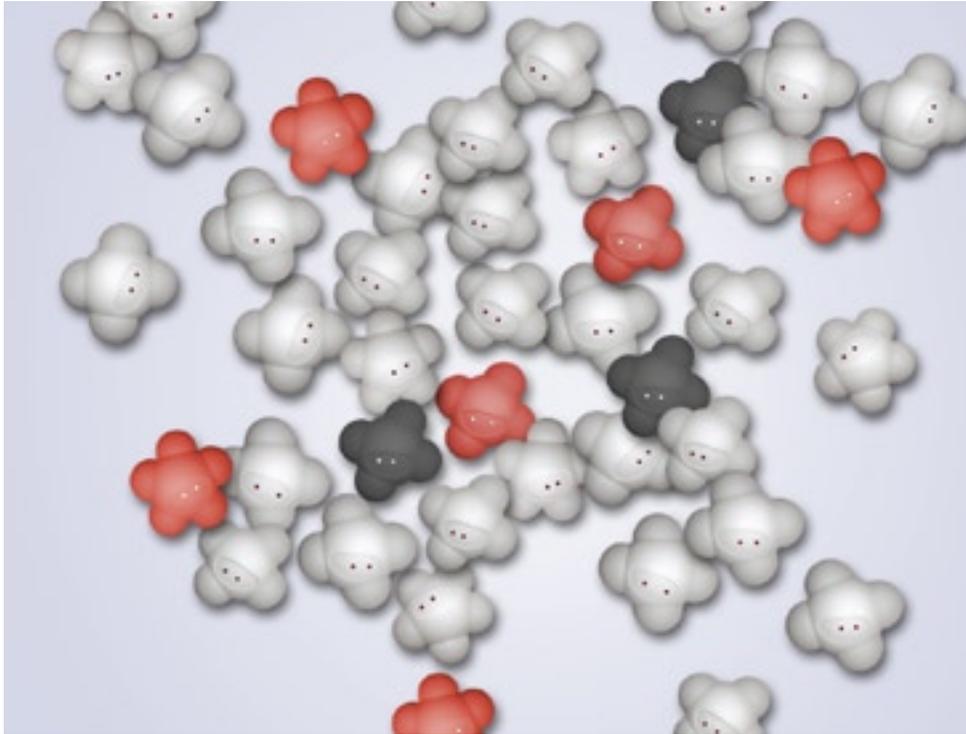
A device for generating coincidence. Since it is completely made out of silver, it would have been a highly important ritual device to display the fear of god.

In modern times we still know this former cult as a party game. You turn the bottle, it spins around and will stop and point at one person sitting in a group around the table. This person has to do something, mostly silly and embarrassing things.

When god didn't play dice, he might have used this.



# Simple Life



After the creation, everything started with a first organism: the virus. These viruses are a serial work – means, they appear in masses - to remind on the most obvious attribute of the virus: the radical, ruthless multiplication.



After that time, all the early planet was covered with simple life forms. The whole ceature consists of one outline, just one bended thread, but they live and develop. We can also see the reproductive organs – at the bottom of the life forms – in a stage of development. Though they are simple, we can already see which shape the later species will take over.

# First Animals



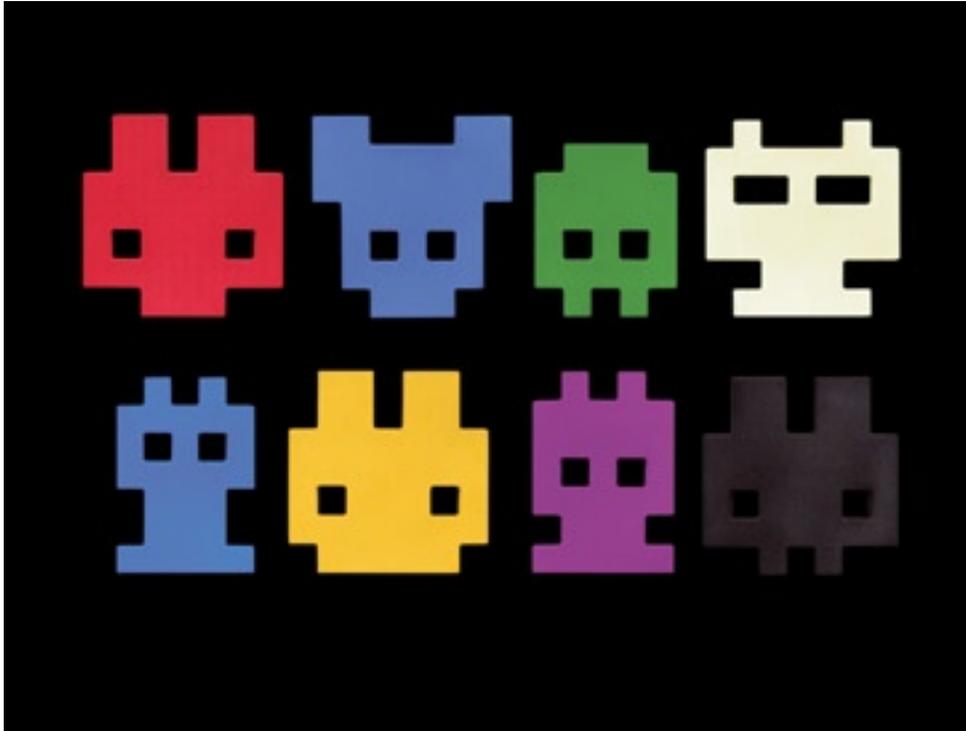
We see the next step. We can notice, that already the first variations take place. The animals are made out of mammoth ivory, this material shows a certain pureness which meets the still blank, new born expression of the different characters.



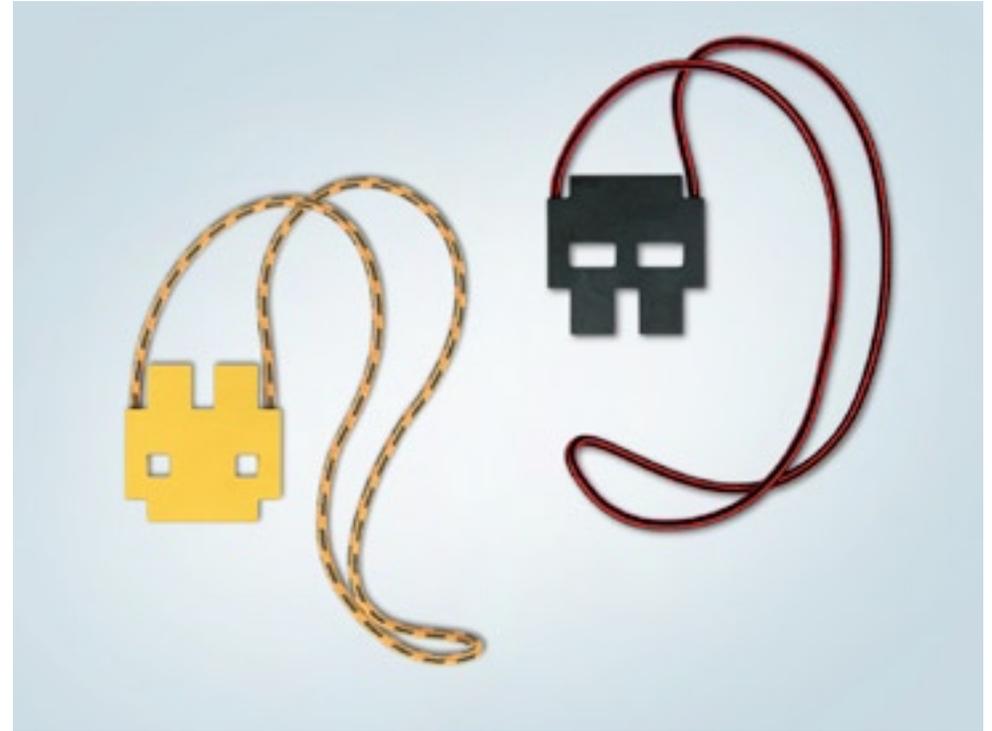
By this figure, you can already notice that it is capable of upright walking.

This is one of the first pieces which shows our ancestors quite clearly, in this upright manner. But when you look into his eyes, you will be sure, that the intelligent thinking is developed only rudimentarily. Cultural and social behaviour will evolve later.

# Variations in Shape



The shapes of beings is changing constantly. Here is an example of one species with its constant changes. All of the pieces are made by the same principle: it is a matrix of seven by seven dots in a square, the dots are put together in a different way. This allows to create a huge amount of different characters.



They are worn as pendants, and seem to be an archaic fetish. The material is anodized aluminium and still we find these characters in our modern time by pixel-graphics, videogames and computer generated character design.

# Creepy Insects

Insects, however, have a special place in evolution. They developed themselves quite early but remained for a long time in the same shape. Therefore they are considered as the most successful species, but are regarded as creepy and dubious, almost never as beautiful at the same time.

Here we have an example of two of the most dubious, dirty insects: the dung beetle and the mean fly. The real insects are conserved, cast in acrylic, and used like a precious stone in the center of a medal.

These pieces can be understood as an approval to the insects, at the other hand they can be understood as a disapproval of honor and medals.



# Unclassified Objects

These pieces are hard to classify. Are they abstract insects or totems? Or are they models for the first wood construction of an asian shrine? Indicate they the beginning of an early, developed culture?

Epoxy as a plastic material refers to modern technology but the character is like a meaning we once have known, but already have forgotten.



# The technical Age

Also undefinably remains the classification of these objects – brooches and pendants. They are made out of ebony wood, constructed, joined and pinned together with golden rivets.

They could be the first attempt to display greater meanings or religious views of early cultures, but they could be also the remains of highly developed technical instruments of a culture yet to come.

Anyway, they prove the dawn of the technical age.



# The rest is Science Fiction

Formed and squeezed plastic parts, they show mysterious labels and registration numbers, these objects seem to be very important pieces of an unknown space mission.

The „Missing link society“ is expanding and discovering new living spaces. We are all very expectant, what will happen in the next two million years .

I wish all the best for our human species and wish also a bright and brilliant future to you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much.



**Works:**

- p. 2: "The Missing Link" pendant - mammoth ivory
- p. 3: "Rabbit Pendant" wood, laquer, sterling silver chain
- p. 4: "Rabbit Tails" waistband clips - artificial fur, anodized aluminium clip
- p. 5: "Sports Bear" pendant - wood, gold 18k, silk string
- p. 6: "Rien ne va plus" device for playing the bottle game, sterling silver
- p. 7: "Virus" pins - plastic/epoxy, lasersintered and casted  
"Simple Life Forms" pendants - gold 18k
- p. 8: "Ivory Pets" pins - mammoth ivory, red laquer  
"Black Rabbit Brooch" water buffalo horn, white laquer, sterling silver
- p. 9: "Pixel Pendants" anodized aluminium, synthetic rope
- p. 10: "Le bousier du mérite" gold plated copper, fabric, dung beetle in acrylic
- p. 11: "Fly Medal" sterling silver, white laquer, fly in acrylic
- p. 12: Untitled brooches - epoxy, sterling silver
- p. 13: Untitled brooches - ebony, gold 18k  
Untitled pendants - ebony, gold 18k
- p. 14: "Science Fiction" pendants - epoxy, sterling silver, cotton string  
"Science Fiction" pins - epoxy

**Edited by Christoph Straube, 2009**

on occasion of the exhibition and the corresponding lecture  
"Rare Animals and the Missing Link - Evolution in Jewellery"  
in Galerie Metal, Copenhagen from 2009/5/27 to 2009/7/4