



credits: Fuenfwerken Design AG

Decay prior to fossilisation – a lecture by Dr Mark Benecke

As a fitting and spectacular closure of the exhibition 'Rock Fossils on Tour' at Maastricht, the rock star amongst criminal biologists, Dr Mark Benecke, will give a talk on Sunday, August 30. He will take us on an exclusive journey into the world of decay, because 'Anyone who wishes to understand fossils must be familiar with the rotting processes of corpses', according to Benecke.

Dr Mark Benecke (1970) is a German forensic biologist and lover of traces, aka "The master of maggots", a title used with respect where Benecke is concerned.

Benecke was born in Rosenheim (Bavaria, Germany). After obtaining a PhD in Medical Science at Cologne University in 1997, he worked at the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Manhattan, New York from 1997 to 1999. As of 1999, he has been involved internationally in forensic cases as a freelance expert witness. He also teaches at various police academies and is a visiting professor at universities in Germany, England, Vietnam, Colombia and the Philippines.

Benecke has contributed to the identification the skulls and teeth of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun at Moscow, and is the only forensic scientist to work on the case of Colombian serial killer and rapist, Luis Garavito. Some of his forensic cases have been covered by National Geographic Channel and History Channel.

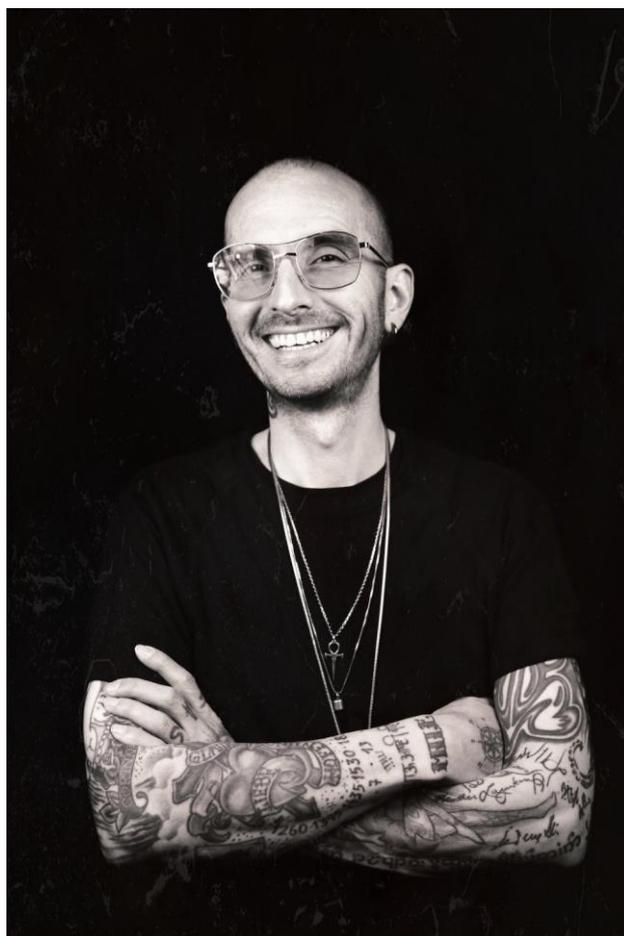
Rock star

Using the pseudonym "Belcanto Bene", Benecke was a member of the German punk band Die Blonden Burschen between 1989–2000. Check

<http://blog.luftschiff.org/notizen/category/die-blonden-burschen>

In 2011, Mark featured as a vocalist on Sara Noxx's cover of the song "Where the Wild Roses Grow" by Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds'. Check

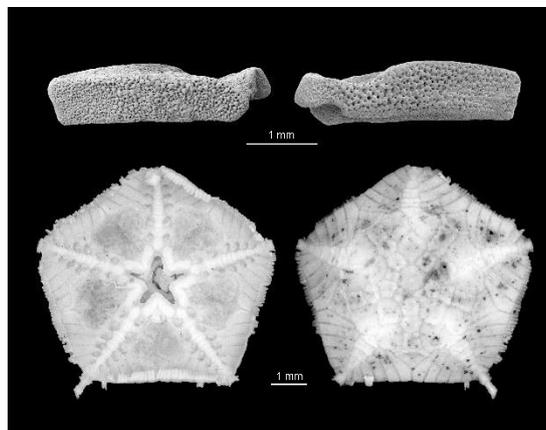
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6exAUvpUUp0>



Credits: Jara Reker

Benecke fossil

Astrophiura markbenecke is a fossil brittle star discovered in 67-million-year-old chalk rocks on the German Isle of Rügen in the Baltic Sea, which was named after forensic biologist/rock star, Dr Mark Benecke. It belongs to an odd family of brittle stars that superficially look like starfish. Living members of the family are found in the deep sea, sitting on hard substrates such as rocks, shells or discarded beer bottles. The fossil species was named after Mark Benecke in recognition of his efforts to promote scientific culture and in particular to encourage both experts and lay people to look for the unexpected and inconspicuous.



Exhibition 'Rock Fossils on Tour'

When a scientist discovers a new, completely unknown fossil, they are allowed to name their discovery. Sometimes the shape of the animal determines the name and at other times it might be the location of the discovery. But some of these scientists decide to name their fossil after their favourite rock star. The latest exhibition at the Natural History Museum of Maastricht titled Rock Fossils on Tour showcases a series of realistic models of bizarre fossils. All of these fossils have been named after a pop artist, rock star, or master of metal. Rock Fossils on Tour shows that natural history has a sense of humour too! This unique and slightly bizarre exhibition, that can be seen until 30 August at the Natural History Museum of Maastricht, brings together fossils and rock stars in an extraordinary way.

Tickets

Would you like to visit the exhibition prior to attending the lecture?

You can pick up your reserved tickets from the reception desk at the Natural History Museum from 11 am on Tuesday, August 18. One ticket for the lecture and one as a ticket for the museum. (Valid only on the day of purchase) So make sure not to lose it.

When: Sunday, August 30

Time: 15:00 – 16:30

Fee : € 12.50 (including museum admission)

Reservations: museum@maastricht.nl

Location: The NHM will move to a larger auditorium nearby for this lecture.

Adres: Conservatorium , Willem Hijstek auditorium

Bonnefantenstraat 15, 6211 KL|Maastricht

This lecture will be in English



Credits: Cassandra