

NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN

BABY JANE

NEARLY COMPLETE SKULL OF A YOUNG TRICERATOPS AT BRAFA 2026

At BRAFA 2026, Galerie Grusenmeyer-Woliner unveils "Baby Jane", one of the most complete juvenile Triceratops skulls known (≈75%), discovered in the emblematic Hell Creek Formation, just a few hundred thousand years before the extinction of the dinosaurs.

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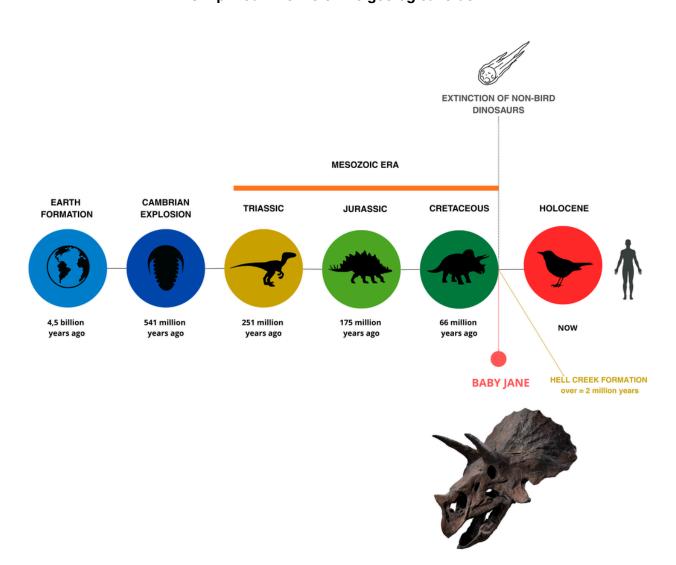


A fossil from the end of the age of dinosaurs

Baby Jane comes from the upper part of the Hell Creek Formation, a world-renowned succession of sedimentary layers located in South Dakota (USA). These deposits correspond to the very last few hundred thousand years of the Cretaceous (latest Maastrichtian) and crop out in the immediate vicinity of the Cretaceous–Paleogene (K–Pg) boundary, dated to about 66 million years ago, which marks the extinction of non-avian dinosaurs.

The skull of Baby Jane is thus a direct witness to the very final moments of the dinosaur world, a young individual frozen in time on the eve of their extinction.

Simplified timeline of the geological eras

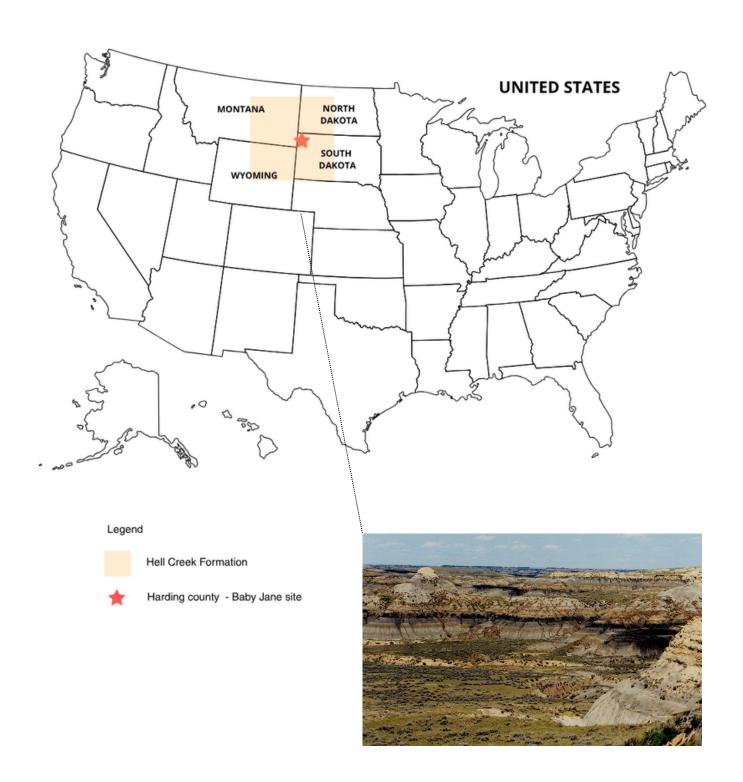


The Hell Creek Formation: a vanished landscape

The Hell Creek Formation crops out today in several states of the northwestern United States: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. It reaches roughly 90 meters in thickness and is composed of marls, clays and sands deposited in freshwater to slightly brackish environments.

In Baby Jane's time, the region formed a landscape of meandering rivers, deltas and floodplains under a subtropical climate, on the margin of a vast inland sea. It was in these vegetated lowlands that *Triceratops*, *Tyrannosaurus rex* and many other species of reptiles, amphibians, mammals and fishes lived.

Within the Hell Creek Formation, *Triceratops* alone accounts for a large share of the dinosaur remains discovered, making it the "signature" fossil of this vanished landscape.





Triceratops, an icon among dinosaurs

Triceratops - literally "three-horned face" - is one of the most recognizable dinosaurs. This massive herbivore, which could reach 9 meters in length and 5 to 9 metric tons in weight, possessed an enormous skull, a wide bony frill and three spectacular horns. The large frill at the back of the skull acted as a true shield, protecting the neck and shoulders from attacks by large predators, notably *Tyrannosaurus rex*, which lived in the same region at the same time.

This impressive appearance was long interpreted mainly as a defensive arsenal against giant theropods. The study of pathologies observed on numerous fossils also shows that *Triceratops* and *Tyrannosaurus rex* frequently engaged in combat, as often depicted in popular imagery. Recent research, however, suggests that the horns and frill also played an important role in courtship displays and demonstrations of dominance within the species.





Scientific name: Triceratops horridus

Nickname: "Baby Jane"

Type of fossil: dinosaur skull (75% complete, mounted)

Skull length: ≈ 155 cm

Geological age: Late Cretaceous, latest Maastrichtian (≈ 66–68 Ma)

Formation: Hell Creek Formation (USA)

Paleo-environment: subtropical plains with rivers and deltas along the margins of an inland sea.



Baby Jane is a *Triceratops* skull discovered in the upper part of the Hell Creek Formation in the United States, dating from the very end of the Cretaceous period. Measuring around 155 cm in length, it belonged to a juvenile or subadult individual. The size and shape of its horns make it possible to identify it as a *Triceratops horridus*.

The discovery and history of Baby Jane

The fossil of Baby Jane was discovered in 1998 at the Ken Smith Ranch, near Redig in Harding County (South Dakota, USA), by Frederick Nuss, who recorded the precise GPS coordinates of the site.

Since then, the skull has undergone several stages of preparation and conservation:

- 2000: acquired by Dinoseum GmbH (Germany);
- later acquired by the company Eldonia (Gannat, France), which carried out the first full preparation and mounted the skull on a metal armature;
- 2022: further preparation and additional work were undertaken in Brussels by Raphus SPRL; this intervention confirmed that all the mounted bones belong to the same individual.

Documentation

Baby Jane was the subject of a detailed study by Dr Pascal Godefroit, palaeontologist at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, in 2023.

Exhibition

Baby Jane was exhibited at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) in Brussels, in the exhibition "From Asteroid Impacts to Planetary Defence", opened on 23 June 2022.

A brief history of Triceratops fossils

The first *Triceratops* fossils were a pair of horns discovered in 1887, initially misidentified as belonging to a Pliocene bison. After realizing his mistake, the American paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh described the two species *T. horridus* and *T. prorsus* in 1889 and 1890 respectively. The first mounted skeleton was reconstructed by the Smithsonian in 1905, where Triceratops specimens are still on display today.



The gallery specializes in sculpture and is renowned for its eclectic selection of Asian art, antiquities and Tribal Art. Great importance is attached to provenance, rarity and aesthetic excellence.

Founded in Flanders in 1960, Galerie Grusenmeyer-Woliner is today run by two partners, Karim Grusenmeyer and Damien Woliner, second-generation dealers rooted in Belgian and French traditions. Their complementary expertise in Asian art, classical antiquities, European archaeology and Tribal Art has raised the gallery to a new level, both in the quality of its operations and in the calibre of the works it presents.

Thanks to the longstanding trust of a loyal clientele of collectors built up over nearly three-quarters of a century, the gallery now has a strong presence in Europe, the Americas and Asia. Since the Covid crisis, it has favoured a more discreet approach focused on the discovery and rediscovery of exceptional works, travel, and direct contact with a circle of connoisseurs to whom it presents its major pieces, supported by indepth research.

Karim Grusenmeyer and Damien Woliner are members of the "Royal Chamber of Art Dealers" and the "Belgian Chamber of Art Experts".

Karim and Isabelle Grusenmeyer are founding members of "5 Continents Editions", established in Milan in 2002 by Eric Ghysels.

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