



World Fair Trade Day 2026

Observed on May 9, World Fair Trade Day highlights the importance of ethical sourcing, fair wages, and sustainable production across global supply chains. The day encourages consumers to support products that prioritise workers' rights, environmental protection, and transparency, from coffee and cocoa to handicrafts and clothing. Fair trade ensures that producers receive equitable compensation and safe working conditions. It also promotes gender equality and community development in vulnerable regions. By choosing fair trade goods, individuals play a small but meaningful role in building a more inclusive and responsible global economy.

#HANS HOLBEIN

"No pleasure without sorrow"

You can see the water level that fills it, these stems that are distorted by refraction, and exactly what is at stake if the container were to break



This is one of the most mind-bending, symbolically charged portraits you have ever seen in your life. And if you are 99.99 percent of people, you would have likely missed this phrase on the wall. It essentially translates to "No pleasure without sorrow" and it is the personal motto of this young gentleman named George Gize.

An extremely successful medieval merchant, who spent nearly 12 years in London, managing a lucrative trading post, and he was the man in demand. The letters scattered across the composition, pinned to the wall, dangling from straps and falling from his hands, all of which are rendered in the modern equivalent of AR, are perfectly legible and point to exactly how busy this young man was. And he wasn't just busy, but internationally engaged from all corners of Europe.

The Turkish carpet that covers the table, which is so exquisitely painted that you can see each and every one of its fibres, not only suggests his immense wealth and success, but nods to the fact that George was a participant in global trade. And yet, there is so much more. This is one of those paintings where every single detail is trying to tell you something and if you can break your eyes free from trying to read these words, or from trying to feel this rug, you might stumble on the Venetian Glass vase, a container that houses a collection of pink carnations. In the visual culture of northern Europe, these had specific association with marriage, which in this case, was true. George was leaving London and returning to Germany to be married. This symbol says that he was spoken for. But that is not all that is housed in the glass container, because there are also what appear to be sprigs of Rosemary, and when com-



The Mystery of the Frozen Wolf Pup and the Woolly Rhino



The Tumat-1 wolf puppy was discovered near the village of Tumat in Siberia, which dates back to the last Ice Age.

"Our results show that the woolly rhinos had a viable population for 15,000 years after the first humans arrived in northeastern Siberia, which suggests that climate warming rather than human hunting caused the extinction," coauthor Love Dalén, professor of Evolutionary Genomics at the Centre for Palaeogenetics, said in a statement.



One of the wolf cub siblings uncovered near Tumat.



● Verna Mohan

In the vast expanse of the Siberian steppes 14,000 years ago, a 2-month-old wolf pup gobbled down some woolly rhinoceros flesh. Moments later, its underground den collapsed, killing the pup and its sister.

The wolf's stomach contents, frozen in permafrost along with its corpse, have allowed scientists to sequence the DNA of one of the last known woolly rhinos, a horned ice giant that lived alongside mammoths. Now, the findings from the wolf's last meal are revealing clues about why the woolly rhino went extinct.

The research, which was published in the scientific journal *Genome Biology and Evolution*, represents the first time that scientists have been able to sequence the entire genome, the whole genetic code, of an animal found in the stomach of another animal, according to coauthor Camilo Chacón-Duque, a bioinformatician at the SciLifeLab Ancient DNA Unit at Uppsala University in Sweden.

"We were very excited because there are very little fossils from around this time when the woolly rhinoceros went extinct," said Chacón-Duque, who was previously a researcher at the Centre for

Palaeogenetics at the University of Stockholm, where the research was conducted. Still covered in fur, the mummified wolf pup was found entombed in permafrost near the village of Tumat in 2011. An autopsy later uncovered a small fragment of preserved tissue in its stomach. Scientists were able to retrieve DNA from the tissue, which was 14,000 years old, and DNA sequencing revealed it was a species of woolly rhinoceros known as *Coelodonta antiquitatis*.

Chacón-Duque said hair on the woolly rhino tissue was still intact, suggesting that the pup had barely begun digesting its meal before it died. "From the morphological analysis, it seems to be clear that they were just buried alive. They just died in an instant, and that's how it got to be preserved," he said. "I think there was not enough time for the digestive system to really penetrate the tissues."

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While woolly rhino fossils are relatively common in the fossil record, few remains have been found from the estimated time of its

#WILDLY TRUE



Woolly rhino by Mammoth Museum of North Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia.

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The wolf cub's sister was subsequently found in 2015, and neither showed signs of being attacked or injured. A study published last year noted they likely died when their underground den collapsed as a result of a landslide. That study suggested that wolves would have been able to hunt juvenile woolly rhinos. Adult woolly rhinos would have been similar in size to the largest living rhinoceros species.

With its long hair, the woolly rhino adapted to cold conditions and lived across northern Eurasia during the last ice age. Its range gradually contracted eastward starting 35,000 years ago, the study said, but it persisted in northeastern Siberia and had been assumed to have gone extinct sometime after 18,400 years ago.

The permafrost preserves ancient DNA particularly well, and scientists have recovered DNA molecules dating back 2 million years from the planet's northernmost reaches.

extinction, and none have yielded genetic information, making the woolly rhino's DNA sample valuable to researchers.

Chacón-Duque said that it was difficult to map the genome from the woolly rhino's DNA sample because the presence of wolf DNA in the stomach complicated the analyses. For example, both the wolf and rhinoceros were equally old, so they could not use patterns of degradation as a tool to identify the ancient DNA.

Instead, Chacón-Duque and his colleagues used the woolly rhino's closest living relative, the Sumatran rhino, as a guide. Once they had sequenced the sample, they compared the genome with two other genomes sequenced from woolly rhino fossils found preserved in the Siberian permafrost, dated to 18,000 years ago and 49,000 years ago, respectively.

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Scientists also made another surprising discovery: the DNA from the woolly rhino found in the wolf's stomach was remarkably well-preserved and healthy. This gave researchers hope that further exploration of permafrost may yield even more complete and undisturbed DNA from ancient creatures. It could be the key to unlocking more about the genetic makeup of extinct species...

Previously, the two wolf pups had been thought to be early domesticated dogs or tamed wolves. However, the 2025 study said that there was no evidence the two animals had come into contact with humans.

The DNA analysis suggests that the woolly rhino population was healthy and not dying out due to inbreeding or poor genetics. This strengthens the theory that rapid environmental shifts at the end of the last Ice Age, rather than genetic decline, led to their extinction.

Frozen in Time

The true cause of the wolf's death remains a mystery. Some speculate that it may have died due to illness, or perhaps, it fell victim to another predator. Regardless, the preserva-

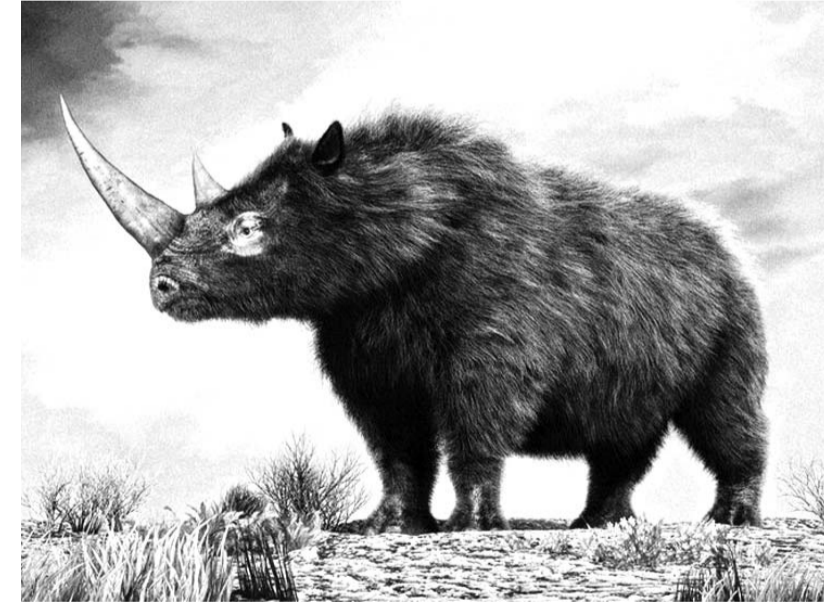


Illustration of a woolly rhinoceros.

tion of its body was nothing short of miraculous. The permafrost acted as a time capsule, preserving this wolf pup in a way that would have been impossible under normal circumstances.

The Healthy DNA of the Woolly Rhino

Scientists also made another surprising discovery: the DNA from the woolly rhino found in the wolf's stomach was remarkably well-preserved and healthy. This gave researchers hope that further exploration of permafrost may yield even more complete and undisturbed DNA from ancient creatures. It could be the key to unlocking more about the genetic makeup of extinct species, offering scientists new insights into the flora and fauna that once dominated the planet.

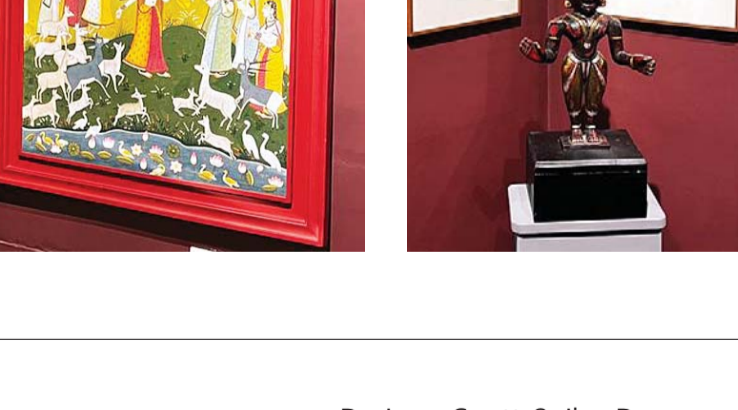
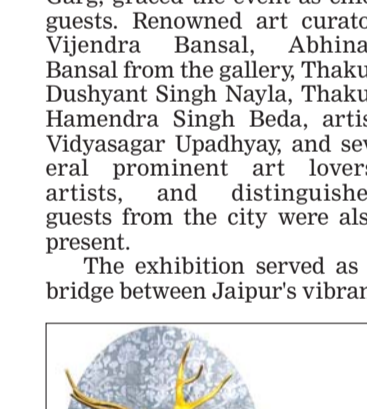
Though this discovery raises more questions than answers, it also opens up exciting possibilities. The link between the wolf and the woolly rhino offers a rare glimpse into the complexities of ancient ecosystems, how different species interacted, competed, and lived side by side in a world that no longer exists. And for the first time, thanks to the permafrost, we can peer directly into the lives of these extinct creatures, preserving their stories through science and genetic research.

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#DARSHANAM ART GALLERY

Art, Community, and a Sense of Gratitude

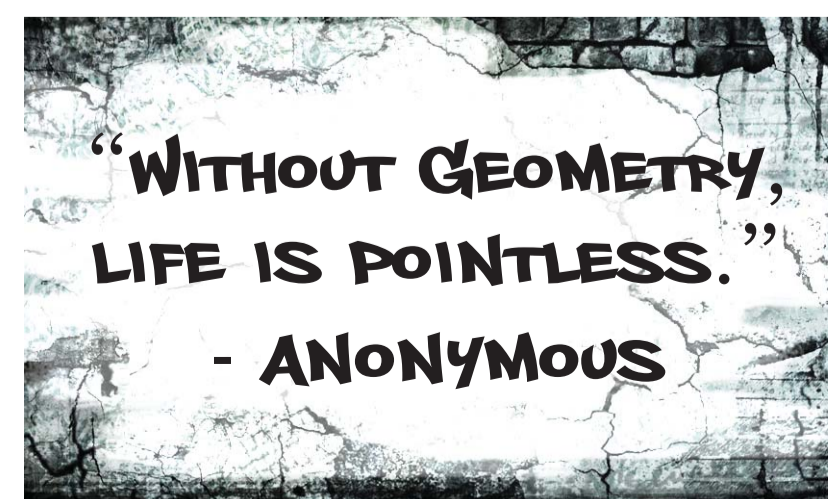
The exhibition served as a bridge between Jaipur's vibrant artistic heritage and contemporary creativity



artistic heritage and contemporary creativity. It featured exceptional works by renowned artists from across India and abroad. These included Padma Shri awardee Bhuri Bai, Chintan Upadhyay, and master artist Riyazuddin, along with several eminent artists such as Ankit Patel, Gaurishankar Soni, Wolf (Ritu and Surya), Kalu Ram Panchal, Manish Sharma, Meenu Srivastava, Nagdas, Nandan Ghiya, Namnu Singh, Prabhati Lal Saini, Raja Babu Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Sheikh Usman Tirandaz, Shishir Bhatt, Sumit Sen, Suneet Ghildiyal, Vicky Babu, Vidyasagar Upadhyay, Vinay Sharma, Yunus Khimani, Baldev Mandavi, Lado Bai, Krishnanand Jha, Prakash Jogi, Mahanama Devi, Pisadu

Ram Mandavi, Tanjima Kar Sekh, Pushpa Kumari, Teju Ben Jogi, Sudhayada S, and Sumantra Sengupta. The event was organized as a new and visionary initiative dedicated to art, community, and gratitude in the city. It was a tribute to Jaipur's cultural soul and to the artists who continuously shape and enrich its heritage.

THE WALL

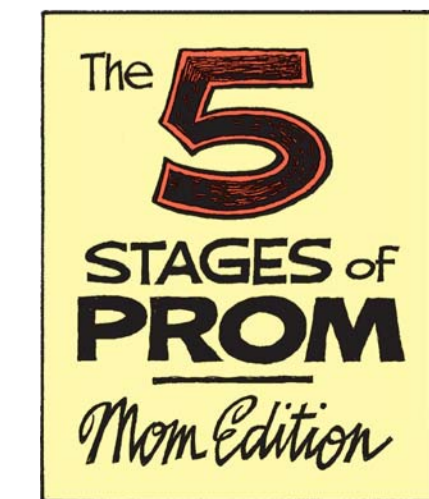


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman