

# Why Feathers?

- Throughout history, birds have symbolized flight and freedom—not only in a physical sense but also as a metaphor for spiritual elevation and transcendence.



- The oldest known feather artwork still in existence is the headdress of Aztec emperor Moctezuma, adorned with quetzal feathers and dating back over 500 years. It is on display at the Weltmuseum Wien in Vienna, Austria.

- Archaeological excavations have uncovered pottery containing intact feathers, some dating back thousands of years.
- The earliest feather discovered to date is a 150-million-year-old fossil from an Archaeopteryx—a transitional species between dinosaurs and modern birds. Scientists have evidence that feathers first evolved on non-avian dinosaurs between 250 and 230 million years ago.
- **How do feathers endure for so long?** They are composed primarily (80–90%) of beta-keratin, a highly resilient protein also found in human fingernails. It is one of the toughest biological materials known.
- When protected from moisture, bacteria, and sunlight, feathers can survive for millennia—or even millions of years.
- Each original Marin Feather Fine Art painting is preserved in an airtight shadow box and protected with UV-filtering glass to ensure long-lasting beauty.