



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mimaki 3DUJ-553 printer supports mission of the Smithsonian Institution

3D printer will be used to aid educational, science, research, art, and cultural exhibits and experiences

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SUWANEE, GA, Jan. 27, 2020 – Mimaki USA, a leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers and cutters, is proud to work with the Smithsonian to place a [Mimaki 3DUJ-553 full-color 3D printer](#) in the Smithsonian Exhibits' (SIE) studios, located in Landover, MD, and part of the Smithsonian Institution. SIE collaborates with museums and offices throughout the Institution and the federal government to help them plan, produce, develop, and design powerful and engaging exhibits, and produce models for public programs and research purposes.

“We are pleased to be a part of the Smithsonian Institution’s efforts to engage and inspire audiences through the increase and diffusion of knowledge,” said Josh Hope, Sr. Manager, 3D Printing & Engineering Projects at Mimaki USA. “This printer will enable the Smithsonian to use new technologies to produce exhibits in new ways, particularly for creating models and tactile elements that help bring exhibits to life for all visitors.”

The SIE team has embarked on its first project to use the Mimaki 3DUJ-553 printer, which is to create full color 3D printed models of viruses that are enlarged with great detail for hands-on engagement with visitors in the *Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World* exhibition currently on view at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. Future possible projects for the full color 3D printer include:

- Models of collection objects used for hands-on educational activities with the public
- Tactile display elements for low-vision or blind visitors such as raised-line maps to aid with wayfinding

About the Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum, education, and research complex with 19 museums and galleries, nine research centers and the National Zoo. It shapes the future by preserving the heritage of the American experience, discovering new knowledge, and sharing its resources with the world. For more information, visit <https://www.si.edu/>.

About Mimaki USA

Mimaki is an innovator and a pioneer in the development of digital printing and cutting products worldwide. The company engineers and manufactures a complete line of digital printers and cutters, and offers a total workflow solution for the many applications found in the Sign Graphics, Textile & Apparel, Industrial Products and 3D markets. In 2019, Mimaki USA celebrated 20 years of serving print service providers in the Americas. It is an operating entity of Mimaki Engineering of Japan. For more information, visit www.mimakiusa.com or on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram @MimakiUSA.

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The accompanying image, NMNH Viruses_Flu_2.jpg, should include the following caption:

This image shows the Influenza virus model, created using the Mimaki 3DUJ-553 3D printer, in an opened position. The clear disk that contains the eight purple capsids and the eight yellow RNA strands has been removed from the green envelope. Image credit: Carolyn Thome/SIE



