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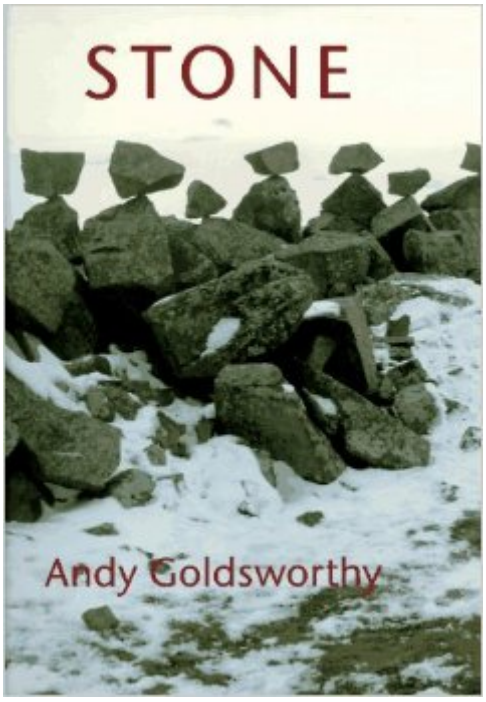

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Synopsis

This British artist uses natural materials -- rocks, boulders, sand, mud, and clay -- to create outdoor sculptures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Of this book, my mother said, "I can’t understand artwork that’s not meant to last." I replied, "That’s the whole point." The beauty of Goldworthy’s artistry is in its impermanence -- the sand sculptures will be washed out with the tide, the leaves will be carried away in a river current, the cairns will fall...and part of the artist’s charm is that he never harms the landscape. In time, his art will vanish and so will his footprints... Nature leaves us constant gifts, and it’s up to us to see them, digest their beauty -- and accept wholeheartedly that it may not be here in a few minutes, days, or weeks. A wonderful book that provides insight into the nature of art -- time -- and the physical world.

This book is a revelation! Goldsworthy’s conceptual art never fails to stir a sense of wonder and delight. As I paged through Stone, which is filled with beautiful photographs of Goldworthy’s work, not only installed in museums, but in the natural settings which harbor some of his best (and most ephemeral) works, I was constantly calling friends over to see. The freshness and astonishing beauty of Goldworthy’s work is evident on every page. All who love the beauties of art and nature should see this book.

In "Stone," as in his other books, Andy Goldsworthy takes the natural play of a child--fooling around

with sticks, leaves, water, stones, mud, and more--and elevates it to something above and beyond its natural status. He uses his adult design skills to create great manmade beauty from existing natural beauty. He never falls over the line into obvious, coy, or precious art--he simply lets nature be what it is with a tiny little bit of rearranging on his part.The results are never short of astonishing. Witness the sharp-edged rocks against which Goldsworthy has "glued" (with plain water) the leaves of brilliantly red Japanese maples, thereby making the edges look almost bloodied (p. 76). Witness the delicate, calligraphic tracery Goldsworthy stitched up by pinning together rush after rush after rush with thorns and then hanging these on a gallery wall so that it appears that either Calder or Matisse have wandered in and scribbled elegantly on the walls (p. 83). Witness the balanced oval boulders Goldsworthy lays in a curvaceous line from beach to the sea, and see how they roll and disappear from view as the tide comes crashing in (p. 101). These are but three of the many visual astonishments Goldsworthy shares in this book. The book is a never-ending source of delight and admiration for the feverish workings of one of 20th-century art's most creative minds.

Andy Goldsworthy's art is so inspiring. In this book, the art pieces focus on, as the title says, stone. It's unbelievable. He just unveils so much magic in the world with his brilliant thinking. "Otherworldly" is surely the word to describe how much of the art in this book feels. I keep thinking it couldn't possibly be this planet, but I suppose it's not even a planet anymore; it's the mind of the artist. Time also plays a significant role in this art. He builds pieces with the intent to photograph it when the day moves & the light hits it a certain way. Or he builds things that the incoming tide tears apart. In a piece I love in this book, he gathered ice from a lake & put it on the shade side of a rock. The ice gradually melted & was shed. I wish I could have listened & watched. Something that adds so wonderfully to this book's beauty made from such simple natural materials is that he also accompanies photographs with very Haiku-like, very poetic, short descriptions of the art pieces & how they existed in time & in the act of his making them.

Stone gives us one of the best records of earth's story. We have used it reliably for many things that were designed for protection, shelter and to honor our heroes just to mention a few. Here is a catalog of fantastical uses unlike any I have seen before. After you read this book your eyes and mind will be readied to enjoy the life in stone just waiting to be repurposed.

The front cover is impressive and the inside never fails to impress. First of all you are hit by the beauty of Goldsworthy's sculptures and in equal parts by the way in which they are captured

photographically. The production is superb and does justice to the sculpture and photography. The book is divided into sections for different types of sculptures made from stone. Each chapter has an introduction with insights into Goldsworthy's feelings, thoughts, direction and creative vision. The sculptures were created in various sites between 1990 and 1993 and included materials other than stone. Internationally recognised and appreciated, Goldsworthy creates sculptures that are part of the landscape - boulders wrapped in twigs, stone covered in leaves, a dead tree draped with red sand or something as ephemeral as overnight frost. His creations may be fleeting, may disappear from the landscape but the sculptures stay in the mind. He uses debris and creates an everlasting image, erased in time but imprinted on the brain. Maple leaves edge boulders like the back of a stegosaurus, the sun glinting through their thin substance. This is a beautiful book and would look great on the coffee table, but do read it, do look at it often and frequently and wonder at the beauty of things that lie around and what we can make of this world. This review first appeared on Karen Platt's book review website.

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