

# SUISEKI

## VIEWING STONES OF CALIFORNIA



OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 5:00 P.M.  
PRESENTATIONS: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 6:30 P.M.  
EXHIBIT REMAINS THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2013

PETER MULLINS OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Gualala Arts will present an exhibit of Suiseki / Viewing Stones from the opening reception on Friday, February 1 from 5 to 6:30 p.m., through February 24 in the Burnett Gallery, Jacob Foyer and throughout the Arts Center grounds. Following the reception, there will be presentations from exhibit curator Peter Mullins, James Greaves, Michael Reilly and Art Horvath.

Suiseki, a Japanese term pronounced *sui-ee-seck-ee*, is the abbreviation of "san-sui-kei-jyo-seki" or "landscape scene stone." Suiseki are natural stones that suggest natural scenes or animal and human figures. The display of natural stones was introduced to Japan from China some 1400 years ago, and was gradually adapted to Japanese taste and culture. Collected in the wild, these stones are objects of great beauty and are sophisticated tools for inner reflection. While honoring the history of suiseki, California collectors often depart from this tradition in color, pattern and abstract form.

California is a 'Mecca' for collectors, with the Eel River being ground zero. As curator and participant in this exhibit, our local stone collector, Peter Mullins, invited the state's uniquely qualified "stoners" to bring stones to show, for sale and to offer tales of their stone adventures.

James Greaves (Santa Monica), will discuss the collecting and displaying of viewing stones. Mr. Greave's collection measures in the thousands. James has written the authoritative book on American suiseki, *American Viewing Stones*. He is also the prime mover behind the American Viewing Stone Resource Center and has entered into a close working relationship with the Huntington Library Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA.

Michael Reilly of Albion will offer a video with commentary about his helicopter access to the Eel River to collect stones on his property. Michael recently received first place award from BCI (Bonsai Clubs International) for a "viewing rock" taken from the American River, which was featured in *Bonsai & Stone Appreciation Magazine*.

Art Horvath, of Ideal Quarry in Mt. Shasta, quarries boulders from Siskiyou, Trinity and Shasta counties and slabs them with a self-designed wire saw to make tables, benches, etc. A slab from Art's quarry is being gifted to Gualala Arts to replace the "Gualala Arts Center" entrance sign. A by-product of Art's work has produced "super-sized suiseki" pieces, ranging in weight up to 400 lbs. and growing.

On Saturday, February 2, events will move to the Mullins residence where members of the Stone Foundation (of which Peter is a member) will be working for the fifth year on a new stone project. Past projects include building a stage coach station ruin, a pyramid-shaped green house, plus numerous walls and walkways. There will also be more opportunities to purchase viewing stones. To attend the open house, go north on Highway One to Fish Rock Road, turn right onto Fish Rock to 44600 Fish Rock.

Now on display in the Jacob Foyer through February is a beautiful example of suiseki. Called "Marble Mountains," it is 104 lbs. of black and red marble, which was "walked" out of the Mojave Desert by Paul Lindhart of Art City, Ventura. It sits in a nest of red brick dust (from Castaic, CA) in a redwood daiza (a stand or platform) designed by Michael Reilly and created by John Valdez.