



Colorado Artist Susan A. Judy (b. 1955)

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Colorado Artist Susan A. Judy (b. 1955)

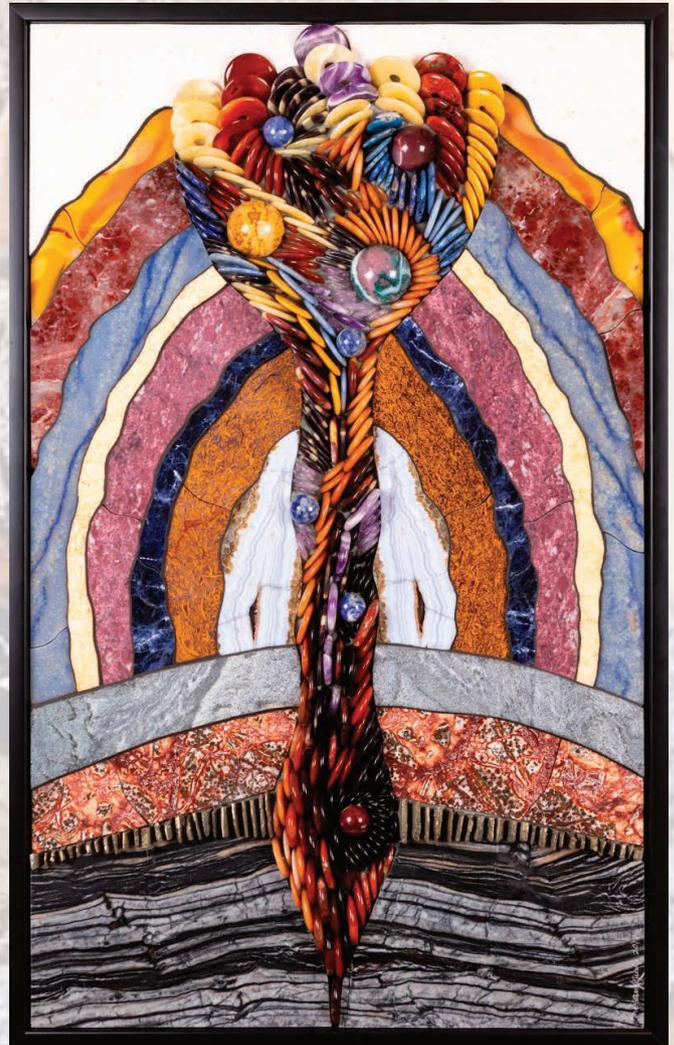


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☀ Figure 1. *Wing on the Wind*, 2018; 19.75" × 25"; grunerite, silicified porcelanite, amethyst, other slabs, and apophyllite on stilbite.



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☀ Figure 2. *Enemy Within: Mt. Erebus Volcanism and Ozone Depletion*, 2017; 17.25" × 27.25"; marble, conglomerate, other slabs, and more than three hundred stone discs, spheres, and pyrite pieces.

Susan Robinson is a freelance artist specializing in painting mineral and gem specimens as well as birds and wildlife.

Susan A. Judy's talent and education in both geography and geology provide a solid foundation for this featured artist's choice of mediums: using all kinds of rocks, minerals, and fossils in her art. She earned a master's degree in geography from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's degree in geology from the College of Mines at the University of Idaho. Judy has exhibited and sold her work at mineral shows in both Denver and Tucson.

Judy says: "As an intuitive thinker and trained geologist I am interested in melding the unknown with the known. My stone relief sculpture is created from a variety of earth materials that are inlaid into 2- and 3-D artwork. . . . When I close my eyes, images come unconsciously and often take the form of surrealistic images that I want to explore with stone. My geologic designs are carefully researched and accurately illustrate geologic terranes. As an artist I create each composition with an eye to the color, contrast, and texture, but the geologist-on-my-shoulder is looking deeper into the stories that the materials tell."

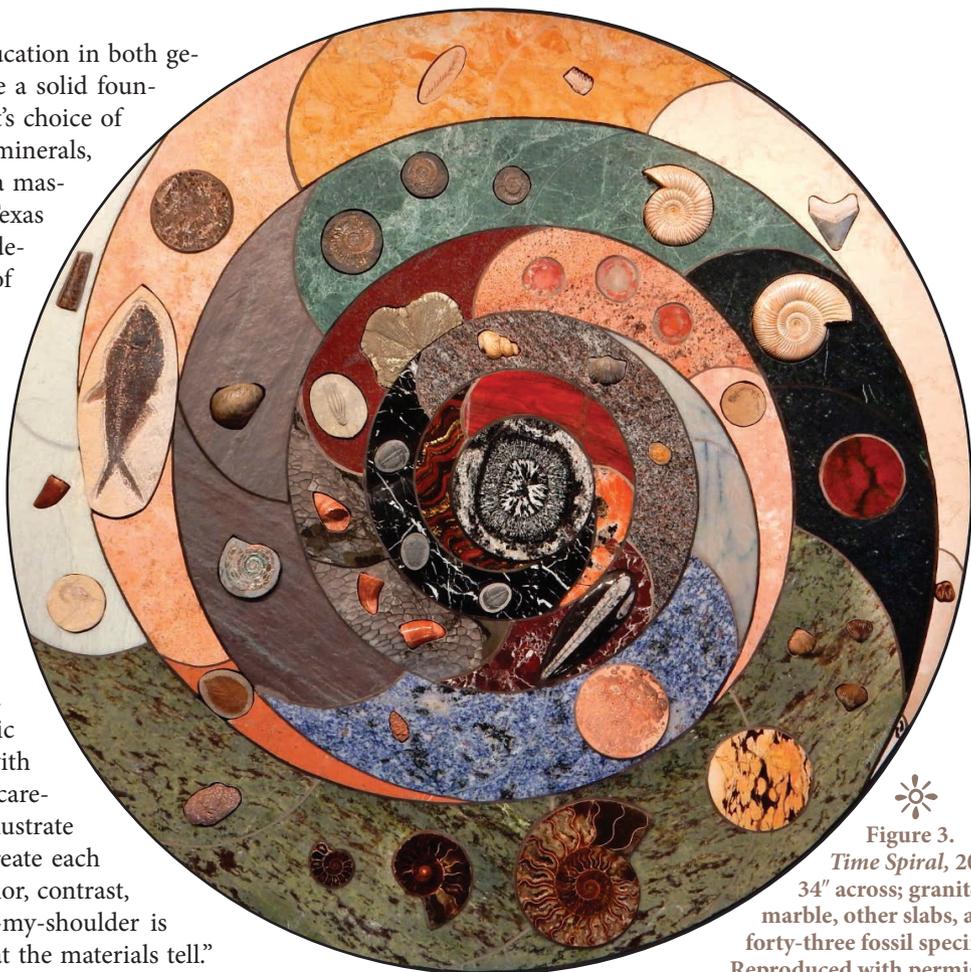


Figure 3.
Time Spiral, 2015;
34" across; granite,
marble, other slabs, and
forty-three fossil specimens.
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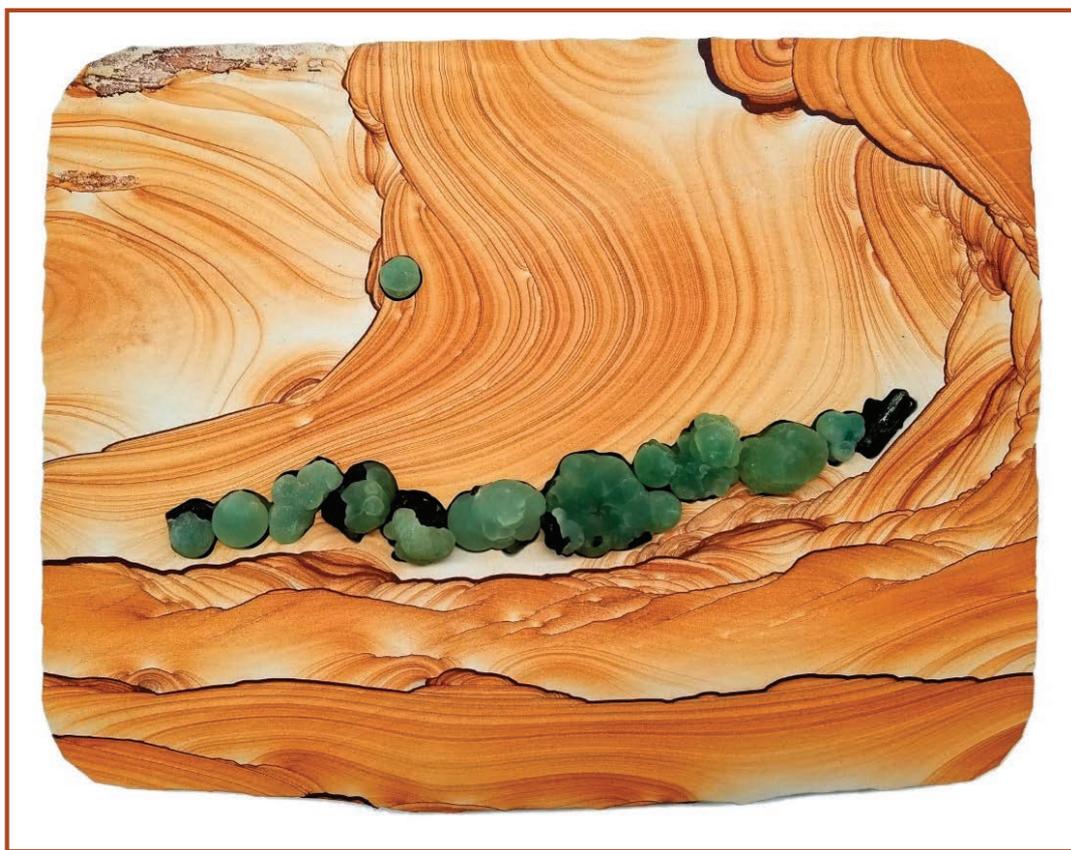
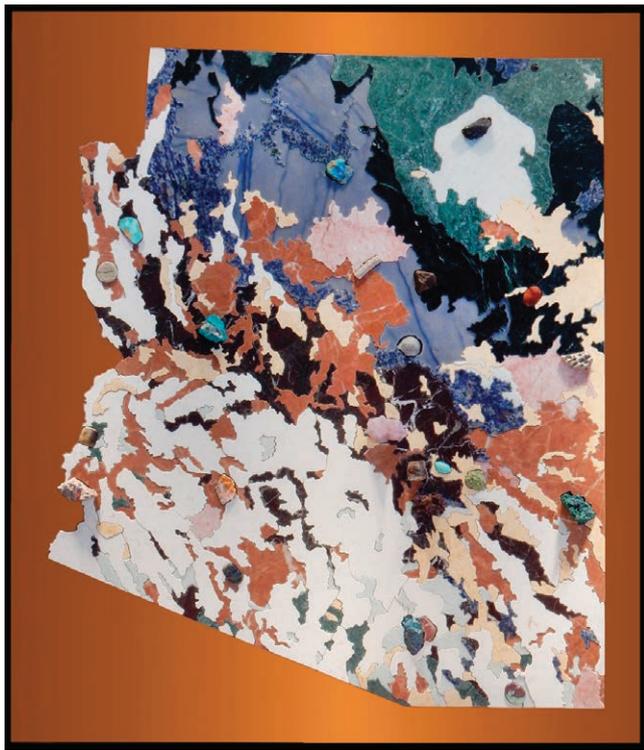


Figure 4. *Pocket IX: Illuminated Canyon*, 2018; 13.5" x 17.5"; Liesegang banded sandstone, prehnite, and epidote crystals.

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Figure 5. Arizona Geologic Map in Stone, 2016; 34.25" × 39.62"; limestone, marble, other slabs, and twenty-four mineral and fossil specimens.

Stone is essential for her art, and the patterns of veins and bands of minerals in the rocks are the impetus for the design of each work. Judy enjoys “juxtaposing elements that are not found together in nature. It can take years to accumulate the ideal rocks for a new work of art, but there is magic when the right balance of materials is unearthed!”

The artworks Judy creates involve lots of time. She needs to slice the rock, polish it, and then precisely cut “hundreds of those slices into pattern pieces that fit together perfectly. I challenge myself by seamlessly piecing together small slices of rare material so they create a larger ‘canvas’ from which to work.” Her recent art is more focused on the geosphere and the threat of volcanism to the biosphere. Judy is also dedicated to geo-conservation, and she hopes her creations from stones “elicit appreciation, stimulate curiosity, and leave the viewer in awe of our earth’s mysteries.”

Judy has been featured in *Rock & Gem* (December 2004 and July 2016), and numerous exhibits of her art have been shown in Colorado, Nevada, and Washington State from 2006 to the present day. Among them were several shows in Colorado, including in Golden (at the Foothills Art Center), Boulder, Lakewood, and Denver. She has completed many commissions (2004–2019), some whose titles reveal their subjects: *Sonoma County AVA Wine Map*; *Slice of Life: Cross-Section of a Cell*; *Grand Canyon Stratigraphy II*; geologic maps of eleven states, including Wyoming, Montana, and Missouri; and several company logos. Her art resides in many private collections in the United States: *Pintler Mountains* (Montana); *ESS XXV: Flash Gordon*; *ESS XX: Ammonite & Unakite*; and *Ribbons*, to name a few. She has also exhibited her art at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show (2004–2016), the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (2004–2019), the

American Association of Petroleum Geologists (every year), and several other geological gatherings.

This accomplished artist has been given many awards, including Best of Show at the Vashon Gallery, Washington State, for *Red Rupture* (2009); First Place at the Xcentricity Gallery, Denver, Colorado, for *Grand Canyon Stratigraphy* (2011); and First Place and People’s Choice Award at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, for *Enemy Within: Mt. Erebus Volcanism and Ozone Depletion* (2017). In addition, Judy has given presentations on how she creates her art at many venues: *From Stone to Paper and Back Again: Creating Geologic Maps in Stone*, American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Cheyenne, Wyoming (2019); *Creating a Geologic Time Spiral in Stone*, Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Tucson, Arizona (2018); and *On Becoming a Stone Artist: From Exploring the Earth to Exploring the Mind*, Parker Arts Guild, Parker, Colorado (2016).

Judy spends her free time traveling, journaling, taking geological field trips, hiking, reading and attending lectures about geology (power of the geosphere over the biosphere, ancient earth/geologic time, mining deposits, especially gold and geologic hot spots), caving, and reading science fiction. More of her art can be viewed at www.stonequiltedesign.com; she can be contacted at susan@stonequiltedesign.com.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

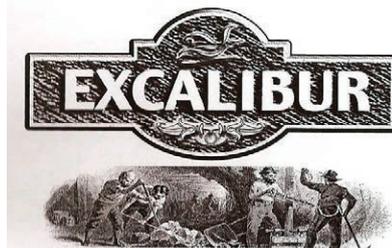
I thank Peter Modreski for bringing this artist to the attention of Marie Huizing, editor-in-chief of *Rocks & Minerals*. □

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