

# Studio Projects Overview

Written in Stone / Spring 2010

## **Selecting** Picking Up Stones (Ongoing)

Stones are loose pieces of rock. They can be big or small, rough or smooth. We'll be collecting stones at Brown's Creek on our field trip in Week II, but you can be collecting on your own. You'll need a variety of smaller stones ( 1/2"-3" long) and a few larger ones (8"-12" long) for the first three projects. Get a bag or a box in which to collect, carry, and keep your stones.

Things to think about: Why do you pick up the stones you do? What are your selection criteria?

## **Translating** Press Molds (due Tuesday 4/13, Week 3)

Using the process demonstrated in studio, make at least three plaster relief casts of stones from clay press molds. Each cast should be at least 6" x 6." Look for stones with interesting shapes, textures, and contrasts..

Things to think about: translation of positive form to negative form and back again; translation of form from one material into another;; light and shadow as revealers of form; the nature of relief sculpture; patterns; craft; finish.

## **Ordering** Book of Orders (due Tuesday 4/27, Week 5)

Collect about 40 stones that appeal to you, each no more than 3" in its longest dimension. Choose between 17 and 29 stones from your collection. Make five careful drawings of five different ways of ordering your selection of stones. Use the same set of stones in each drawing. Each drawing must be at least 15" in its smallest dimension, on 70 lb. or heavier white or off-white paper. Using methods discussed in class, bind the five drawings together into a Book of Orders.

Things to consider: How do you order things? By shape? Size? Color? Texture? Pattern? In rows? Circles? Grids? Spirals? How do you draw stones? How do light and shadow reveal form? How do you order your drawings?

## **Marking/Text(ing)** Sand Blasting Stones (due Thursday 4/22, Week 3)

While at Brown's Creek, find several larger, relatively flat stones, 8"-12" long. Work with your project group (two peer groups; 7-8 students) to choose a word to sandblast onto one of these stones (more on the selection process later). Cover your stone with stick-on vinyl sandblasting resist, and use an Exacto knife to cut out the letters, then sandblast them. Each team will have a chance to assemble all the stones from the class into a text on Red Square on Thursday, to get reactions from passers-by, and to document the text with photographs

Things to consider: What's the expressive potential of particular words? What word goes best on what stone? Can you see the read the stones separate from the text? Does form have meaning? How does ordering shape meaning?

## **Making** Flint Knapping (due Tuesday, 5/18, Week 8)

Using the tools, materials, and techniques introduced in the knapping workshop in week 6, make at least one knapping sample to get a better understanding of this way of shaping stone.

Things to consider: What's the relationship of time to stone? Is anything really made "by hand?" What's the relationship of memory to making? What have we forgotten how to do?

## **Final Project Shaping**

Carving Stone (due Tuesday, June 1, Wk 10)

Using the stone and hand tools provided, shape a piece of stone (pyrophyllite, chlorite, or alabaster) into a sculptural form and finish it appropriately. Make this work relate in a credible way to your other work and thinking for Written in Stone.

Things to think about: The shape of form; the shape of emptiness; texture and finish; light and shadow as revealers of form; material and pattern; meaning implicit in form and surface, the process of finding form; the significance of presentation.

## **Work Reviews**

We'll come together to review each project and to give feedback in dialogue and in writing.

## **Documentation**

You should document each of your project with careful digital images (well-chosen views, no background clutter, good lighting, good color, good focus...). Collect these images for your final digital portfolio on CD. Do them as soon as you complete the project. You may be asked to upload them to the Written in Stone Moodle Site as the quarter progresses.