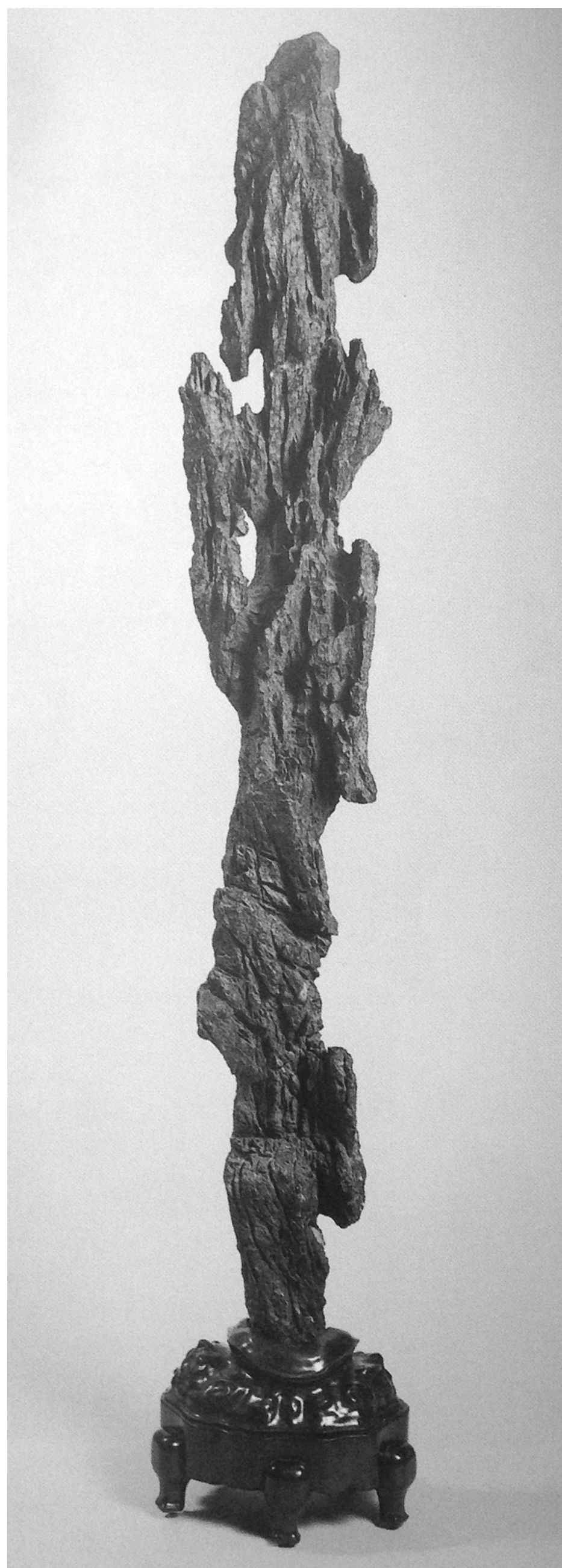


WALTER ZURKO

looking up to look down



The Honorable Old Man rock
China, collected during the Ming dynasty,
17th century
Ying limestone
67 h x 10 1/4 w x 7 1/2 d (inches)
Rosenblum Family Collection
The Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Scholar rocks are carefully selected limestone fragments or roots that first appeared in China during the Song Dynasty (CE 960–1279). Typically found in the scholar's studio, they functioned as objects for contemplation by encouraging the scholar to “look up” at the big picture—nature. Walter Zurko's new sculptures riff on this idea by recycling construction materials to rephrase the originals' resemblance to mountains, promontories, and other geological phenomena.

Unlike traditional scholar stones, Zurko's sculptures are crafted from cheaply manufactured products such as Oriented Strand Board (OSB), plywood, and cardboard. By "looking down" and returning such quotidian and visually unappealing substrates and packing materials to the ideal of the natural world, Zurko conflates time, histories, and place to reflect on the evolution of scholarship.

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- Kitty McManus Zurko, CWAM Director/Curator

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Walter Zurko studied ceramics at The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Selected solo exhibitions include those at the Weston Art Gallery, Cincinnati, OH; Olin Art Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH; and the Hudson Walker Gallery, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA. Zurko received Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowships in 1986, 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2006. He has been an artist-in-residence at: Anderson Ranch, Snowmass, CO; The Artists' Residence, Herziliya, Israel; the Foundation Svoboda, Prague, Czech Republic; and the Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA. Zurko taught a weeklong course on woodworking and sculpture at Anderson Ranch in 2010, and was an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson VT, in Summer 2011. A Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at The College of Wooster since 1981, Zurko teaches ceramics, sculpture, and drawing, in addition to other courses,