

Excerpts from AARC Community Art Exhibit Discussion Panel, Opening Reception July 15, 2016

Artist: Marlon Chen
Exhibit: Suiseki Rocks: Finding Your Universe

I am from a small city in Taiwan. My grandma's house had a river and there were lots of rocks. I went there to pick rocks and bring them home. My father bought rocks. I moved to a big city, Taipei, when I was 25. I went to many rock shows there as well.



Installation view of Suiseki Rocks: Finding Your Universe on view at the AARC.

I really appreciate the natural forms of rocks. I don't cut or alter it for my art. I put in a lot of time for each rock. I need to go to the fields to find the rock; I need to design and make wooden stands for each individual rock. When I am in the fields, I look at a specific rock, and I am already imagining how the rock will look on display. When rocks are on the ground. They are just rocks. I discover the rocks, take them home, clean them.

I want to encourage you to go outside and find your own rock because we are all different and we are inspired by different forms. I also want to remind those who go out to respect the surrounding, the environment. When you are out picking rocks, try not to damage the surroundings. I really want you to find a rock that touches your heart.



On view at the AARC: Left- Marlon Chen, Suiseki Rock 12, Chihuahuan rock and ebony wood. Right- Marlon Chen, Suiseki Rock 16, Chihuahuan rock and zebra wood.



On view at the AARC: Marlon Chen, Suiseki Rock 7, Chihuahuan rock and walnut wood.