

The land is the source of my materials and the source of my ideas. The unique origin and history of a material sparks my imagination.

Stone embodies and imbues time. Liquid magma spews from the earth's core, merges with air or seawater, and as it cools, forms granite and basalt. I find this elemental and alchemic process awe-inspiring. As an artist I go through a similar alchemical process. I take a nebulous idea and transform it into a painting or sculpture. When I created the sculpture *Memory of Rain*, I cut and polished the solid basalt, melding its molten origins into the shape of falling raindrops or tears.

My sculptures *River Mouth*, *History of Water* and *Web* are made of bronze horsetail grasses and stone. Horsetail or *equisetum* has flourished on earth for a hundred million years. It is a living fossil. I use ceramic shell molds to direct cast horsetail grasses into bronze. NASA engineers invented ceramic shell because they required a material to withstand the intense heat of a rocket hurling through earth's atmosphere. The principal ingredient of ceramic shell is silica and it's also the primary element in horsetails.

Silica is also a basic part of stone and of course is the sand on the beach. When I walk barefoot on the beach, and when I make art, I am physically, philosophically and spiritually at the heart of the whole fabulous complexity of life.

With knowledge, inspiration, training and tools, I enter the unknown, striving to convey the fluidity of time, the weight of mountains, the openness of sky.

Rebecca Johnson



