

SET IN STONE GALLERY



2020 Collection

AXIS MUNDI

Set in Stone Gallery Presents a Collection of Quartz

“I only work with lost and found things.”
— Clarice Lispector, *The Stream of Life*

I descended down a shaky 15-metre ladder, into darkness. My feet touched the ground, and my eyes slowly adjusted to the unfamiliar environs. The mine owner, my guide, shone a torch through the tunnel. I followed him, my back hunched against the earthen wall, the twists in our seemingly endless hole meandering deeper and deeper. At some point, he noted that we were 150 metres below ground level. He pointed out different pockets containing an array of minerals: tourmaline, feldspar, albite, and of course, quartz...

For last year's Set in Stone exhibition catalogue, I wrote about crossing a stream while feeling the stones as a metaphor to describe my eventual discovery of the brilliant, variegated realm of crystals and minerals. Shortly after the show closed, I flew to Brazil to visit the same mines that had produced my proudest specimen yet, a 156-kilogram citrine quartz point of astonishing clarity.

I feel like I *found* Brazil. It is a land of welcoming, warm hearts and immense beauty. Its stunning vistas touched me. Its cuisine is now arguably my favourite. Its culture is rich, although still largely undiscovered by the rest of the world. For this letter, my partner drew my attention to the sensitive writings of Clarice Lispector, an acclaimed Brazilian author. And at the very heart of this land — or *coração da terra* — as they say in Portuguese, is its quartz.

The mines in the region of Minas Gerais give it its name (literally, “general mines”). If you have any quartz in your home, they are probably sourced from this humble, countryside state. The miners there are similarly unassuming — yet I could not fathom their proficiency in discerning the quality of superficially dull rocks.

As I moved through the depths of this quarry in silence, I pondered the profundity of my guide's vocation. Mining is finding that which has been long lost to time. The stones of this region are said to have been formed 400 million years ago. They are even older than the dinosaurs. Upon discovery, the miners send the specimens to craftsmen, cutters and polishers, who spend months carving out their beauty, so they emerge from the caves like diamonds from the rough. For our 2020 Collection, master blacksmiths have finished the long process, customising bronze pedestals for each piece. In my mind, these works are more than jewellery for your home — they crystallise the deep earth and its untold history. Lispector's lucid words ring true for me; these crystals that were lost, then found, are indeed timeless.

In many ancient cultures and religions, the cave is a universal trope and locus for the gestation of the sacred. Many an earth and water god has come forth from a cavern. Even Jesus was born again from a rock-hewn tomb. In this *axis mundi*, or centre of the world, the cosmic and magical manifests itself. Considering their origins deep in the geomantic mines, it is no wonder that crystals are considered auspicious.

I climbed back up the ramshackle ladder, the broad light dazzling my eyes after hours of darkness. Warmed again by the sun, the journey upwards felt like a rebirth. Perhaps in these most challenging of times, we need to look for a different kind of light — a light that will show us how to find all that was formerly lost — the manifold treasures this precious earth has to offer.

Thank you for following this journey with Set in Stone thus far. We have miles yet to go, with both old and new things on the horizon.

Cliff Hartono
Founder, Set in Stone Gallery





We are excited to present our latest collection of crystals sourced from Brazil — Axis Mundi. Gallery founder Cliff Hartono spent a few weeks in various regions of this vast country to explore the mines and caves where these exquisite crystals were found. Many of them appear to be dull-coloured rocks when first discovered. After a few months of meticulous work by expert cutters and polishers, they emerge as beautiful wonders forged by both man and nature.

Citrine Point Crystal I

Origin: Minas Gerais, Brazil

Dimensions: 33 cm in height without pedestal

Polished citrine-coloured quartz crystal. Set on a custom bronze pedestal with internal lighting attached.



Citrine Point Crystal II

Origin: Minas Gerais, Brazil

Dimensions: 34 cm in height without pedestal

Polished quartz crystal with light citrine colour and small cathedral structures on the back. Set on a custom bronze pedestal with internal lighting attached.

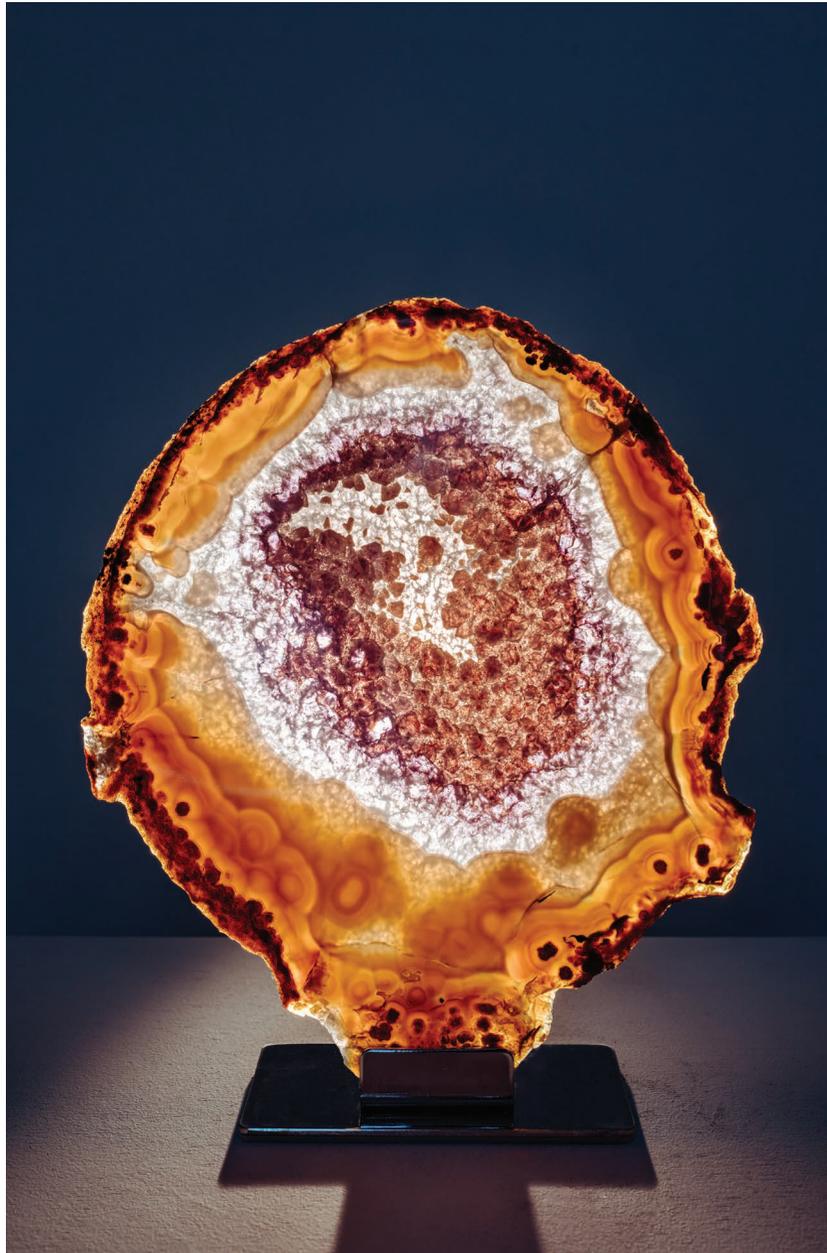


Citrine Point Crystal III

Origin: Minas Gerais, Brazil

Dimensions: 29 cm in height without pedestal

Polished quartz crystal with smoky citrine colour. Set on a custom bronze pedestal with internal lighting attached.

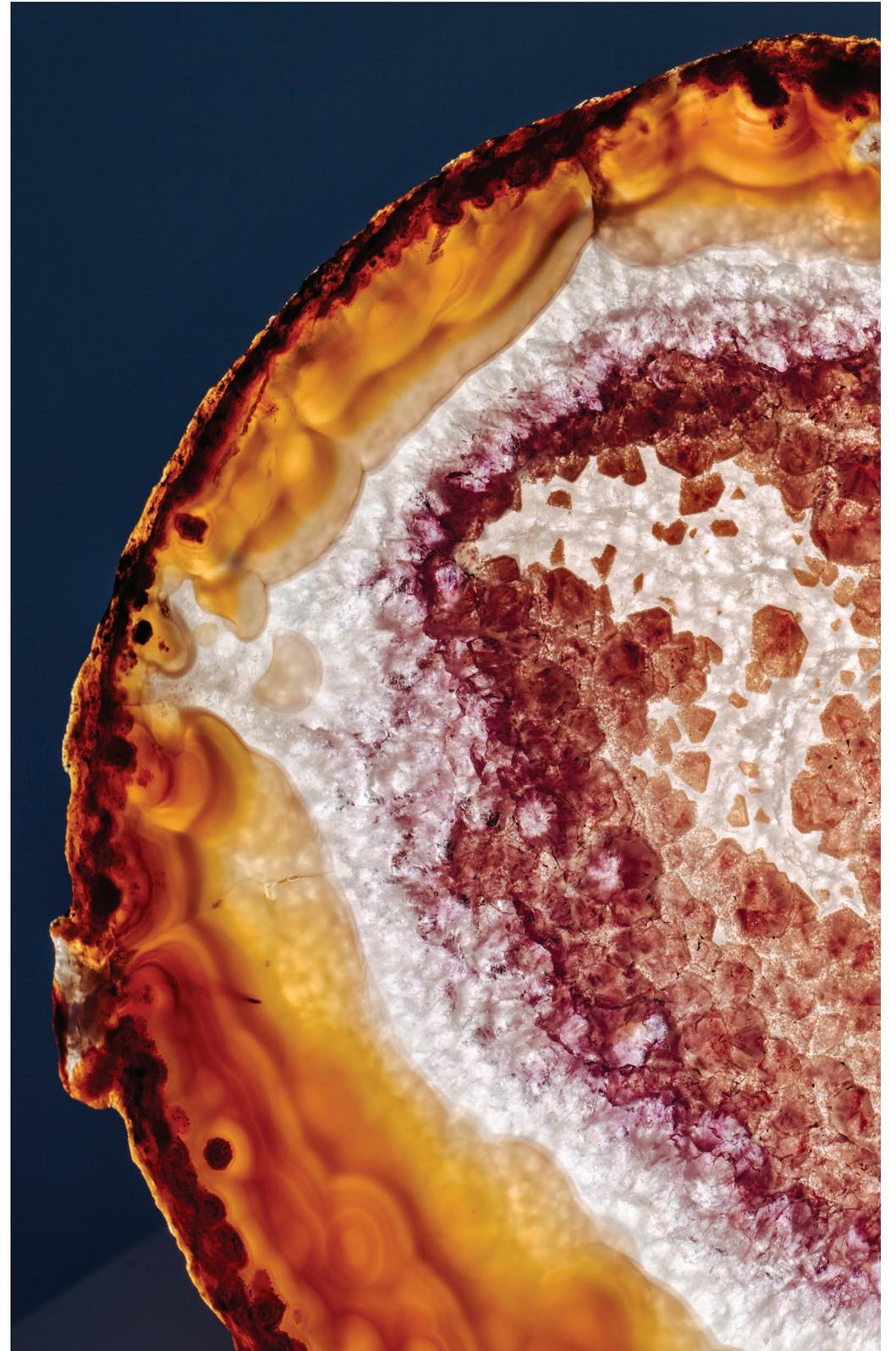


Large Agate Slab

Origin: Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Dimensions: Approximately 30 cm across

A stunning agate slab with purple and orange hues. Seven slabs were obtained from this beautiful geode and each will vary somewhat from the picture shown. Please contact us for availability.





Small Agate Slab

Origin: Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Dimensions: Approximately 20 cm in height

A stunning agate slab with orange hues. Thirteen slabs were obtained from this beautiful geode and each will vary somewhat from the picture shown. Please contact us for availability.

Agate Lamp

Origin: Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Dimensions: 60 cm tall

Lamp made with agate slab fragments



Agate Lamp

Origin: Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Dimensions: 40 cm tall

Lamp made with agate slab fragments



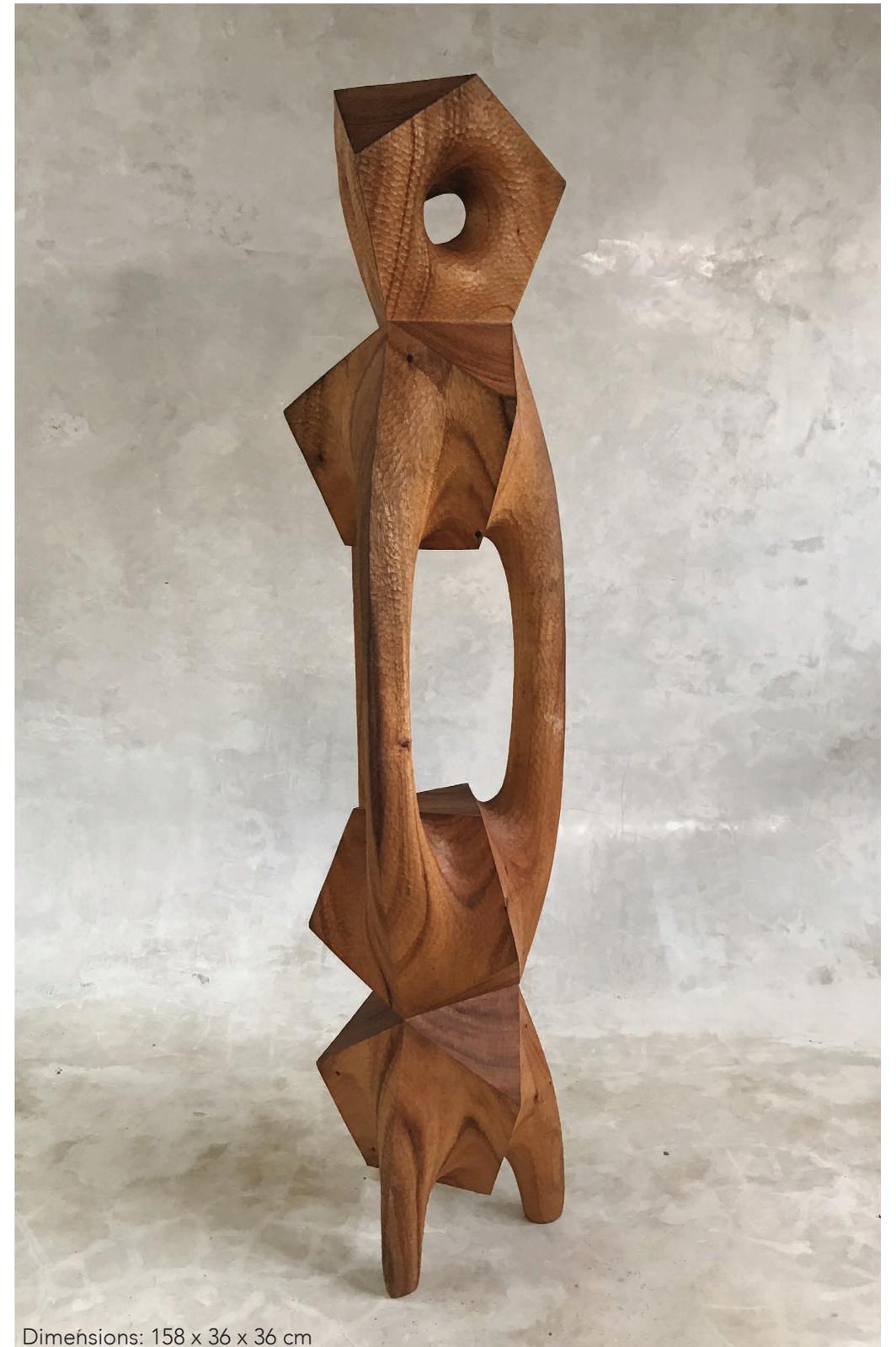
ANGLES: Set in Stone Gallery Presents Aleph Geddis

Set in Stone is pleased to debut our first partnership with a contemporary artist, Aleph Geddis. Raised on Orcas Island in the Pacific Northwest of America, Geddis drew early inspiration as an apprentice to his stepfather, a sculptor, carver and builder of wooden boats. Aleph's traditional, painstaking methods using handmade tools, and his proximity to Native American carvings have been joined with an intimate knowledge of Indonesian monkey pod wood, since he spends time between his carving shed studios in Bali and Washington state.

There is an elegant resonance between the Axis Mundi quartz crystal collection and Aleph Geddis' modernist geometrical sculptures. The artist carves them according to the integral shapes of Platonic solids, which he believes hold sublime truth beyond human subjectivity — a magical existence that precedes us and will outlast us. A dedicated artisan, Aleph uses these forms as a way to explore the paradoxes that surround him, and to make some offering of beauty and integrity back into the world.

"I saw a small iridescent sphere of almost unbearable brilliance...Each thing (a mirror's face, let us say) was infinite things, since I distinctly saw it from every angle of the universe."

— Jorge Luis Borges, *The Aleph*



Dimensions: 158 x 36 x 36 cm



Dimensions:
51 x 38 x 18 cm



Dimensions:
83 x 36 x 21 cm



Dimensions:
57 x 38 x 22 cm



Dimensions:
53 x 44 x 25 cm



Dimensions: 88 x 28 x 20 cm



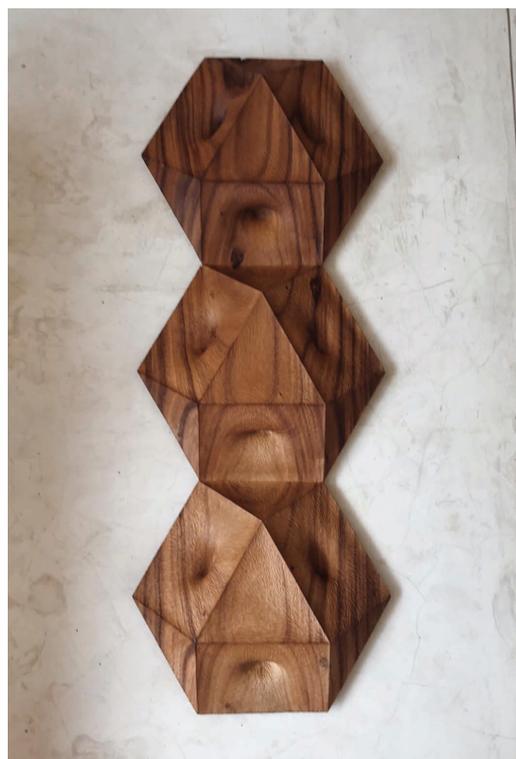
Dimensions:
48 x 18 x 18 cm



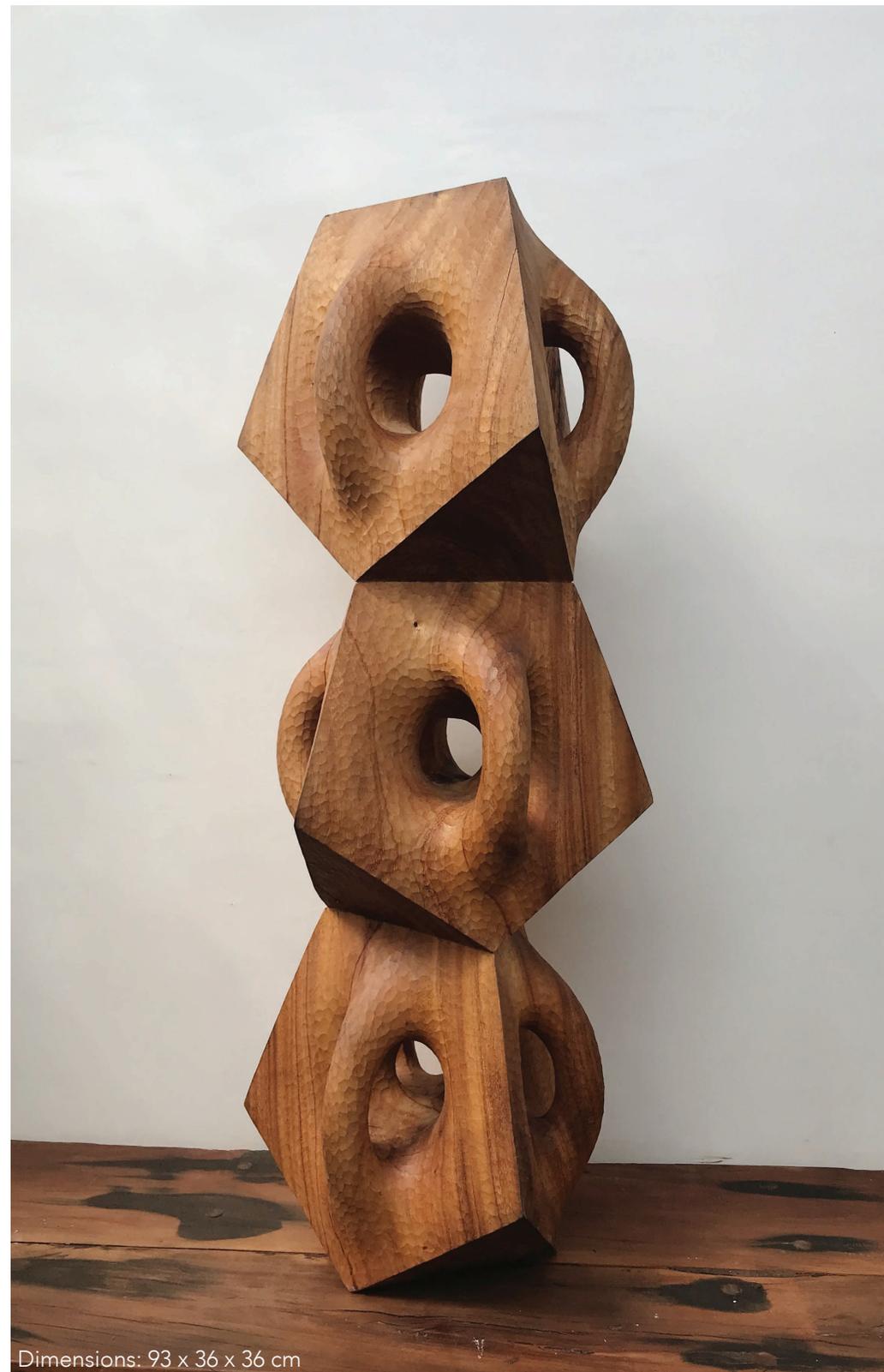
Dimensions:
73 x 50 x 5 cm



Dimensions:
133 x 38 x 25 cm



Dimensions:
128 x 49 x 9 cm



Dimensions: 93 x 36 x 36 cm

About Us

Set in Stone Gallery is Asia's premier natural history dealer. We offer specially selected fossil, crystal and mineral pieces acquired from all over the world. Presenting specimens that were previously exclusive to museums and universities, Set in Stone looks to bring millions of years of natural history directly to personal collections, living rooms and work spaces.

To coincide with the opening of its private showroom, Set in Stone will expand its offerings to contemporary art and design, honing in on fine artisans who have a storied connection to natural materials. American-born, Bali-based artist Aleph Geddis will be the first to join our roster, presenting wood carvings that reference Native Indian traditions and modernist geometry.

Set in Stone Gallery has been featured on Bloomberg, Channel News Asia, The Straits Times, broadcast radio and other publications.

www.setinstonegallery.com

Visit Us

Our private showroom is located in Singapore.

To arrange a viewing, please contact info@setinstonegallery.com or +65 9421 6800.

Address:

58 Jalan Kelabu Asap
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**SET IN STONE
GALLERY**

