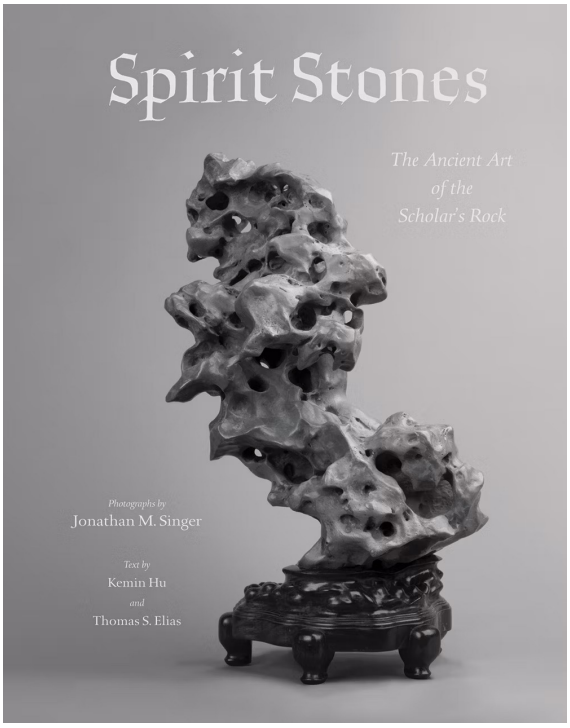
TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



Spirit Stones

The Ancient Art of the Scholar's Rock

Photographs by Jonathan M. Singer

Text by Thomas S. Elias

Text by Kemin Hu

ISBN	9780789211521
Publisher	Abbeville Press
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Australia
Size	398 mm x 322 mm
Pages	216 Pages
Price	£63.99

- Brilliant photographs of scholars' rocks, or Chinese ornamental stones, from a leading collection

Shaped by nature and selected by man, scholars' rocks, or *gongshi*, have been prized by Chinese intellectuals since the Tang dynasty, and are now sought after by Western collectors as well.

They are a natural subject for the photographer Jonathan Singer, most recently acclaimed for his images of those other remarkable hybrids of art and nature, Japanese bonsai.

Here Singer turns his lens on some 150 fine *gongshi*, ancient and modern, from the world-class collection of Kemin Hu, a recognised authority on this art form. In his photographs, Singer captures the spiritual qualities of these stones as never thought possible in two dimensions; he shows us that scholars' rocks truly are, in Hu's words, "condensations of the vital essence and energy of heaven and earth."

Hu contributes an introductory essay on the history and aesthetics of scholars' rocks, explaining the traditional terms of stone appreciation, such as *shou* (thin), *zhou* (wrinkled), *lou* (channels), and *tou* (holes). She also provides a narrative caption for each stone, describing its history and characteristics.

Jonathan Singer's double-elephant folio of *Botanica Magnifica* is kept in the Cullman Rare Book Room at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Dr. Singer was named a Hasselblad Laureate Award winner based on his contribution to fine art photography and to "our perception and appreciation of the botanical world."

Thomas S. Elias, Ph.D., is chairman of the Viewing Stone Association of North America and a former director of the U.S. National Arboretum. He is the author or editor of seven books including *Chrysanthemum Stones, The Story of Stone Flowers.*

Kemin Hu, one of the foremost experts on scholars' stones, has authored several books on the subject, including *Modern Chinese Scholars' Rocks, Scholars' Rocks in Ancient China: The Suyuan Stone Catalogue*, and *The Spirit of Gongshi.*

Published 28th Jan 2014