

# Stone Portraits

Overlooked Fragments of Nature Become a Collectible Work of Art

**Mehmet Salih Kanber**

*MSK*



2026 Collection

## Artist Statement - Stone Portraits

Sea pebbles are among the most overlooked masterpieces of nature. Shaped over millions of years by water, pressure, and time, these small stones carry the memory of the Earth's geological history.

Mehmet Salih Kanber (MSK) collects a limited selection of these natural forms. Using an imaging system he developed, called *Stonograph*, he captures macro photographs that reveal the extraordinary textures and hidden structures within their surfaces.

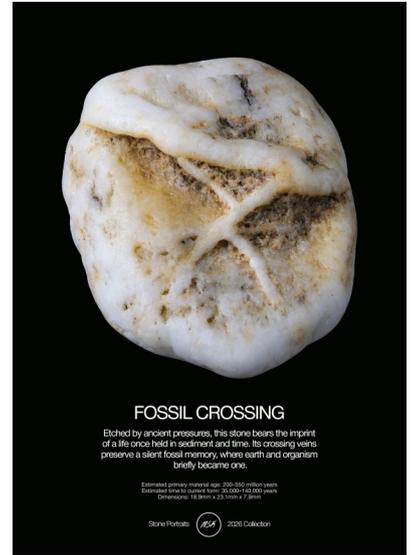
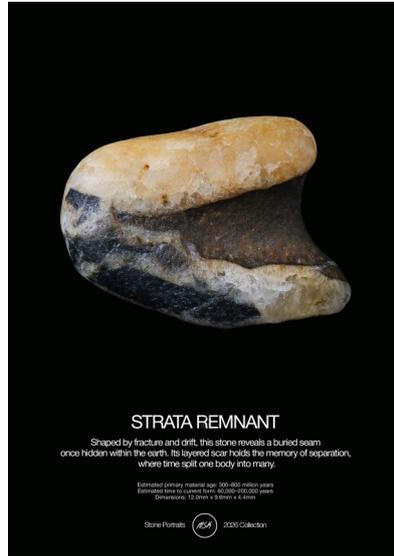
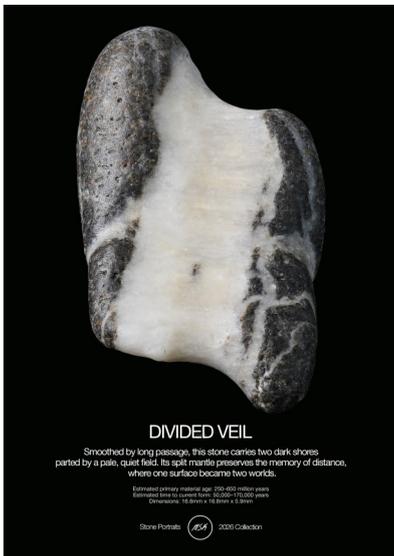
Within these intricate landscapes, MSK discovers emerging characters, faces, creatures, and unexpected forms naturally embedded in the stone. Each is given a name and narrative, transforming an ordinary pebble into a silent portrait shaped not by human hands, but by geological time.

Through this process, what was once an overlooked pebble becomes a work of art that invites viewers to pause and reconsider the unnoticed beauty that surrounds us.

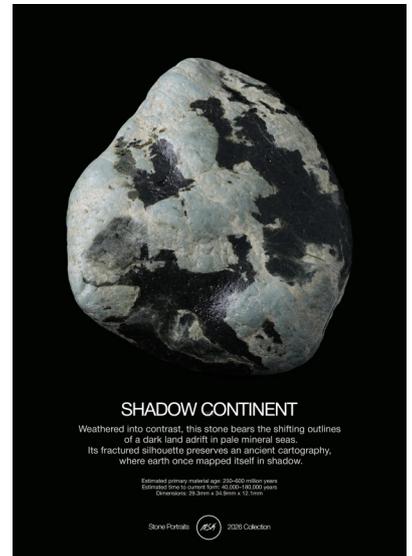
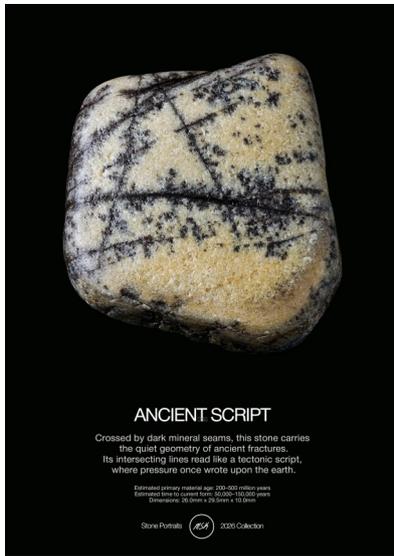
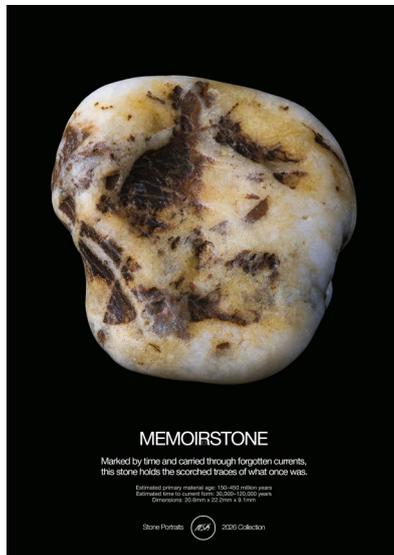
In this practice, MSK reveals the spirit of each portrait, while the collector determines its physical form. Once realized by the Artgineer, each work becomes a fixed expression, existing in a limited number of forms while preserving the identity of the discovered stone.



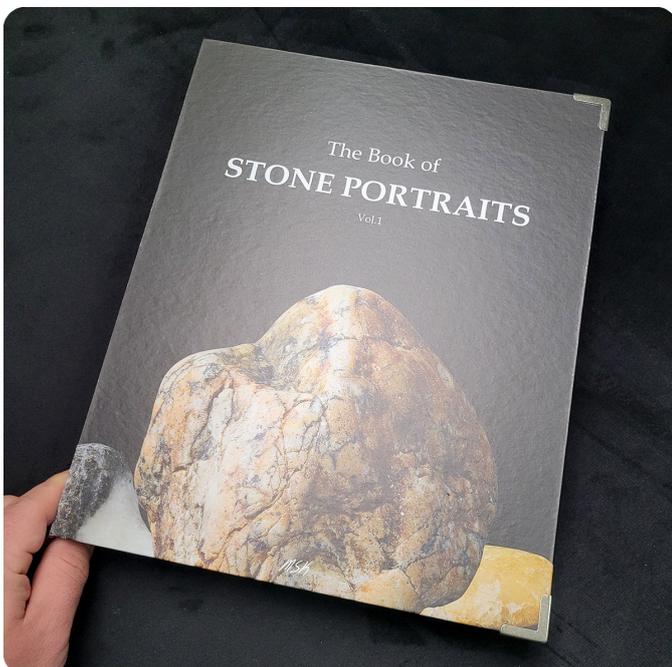
The stones collected for *Stone Portraits* are miniature natural forms ranging from around 2 to 30 mm in size. Through macro-scale artistic interpretation, their hidden beauty is revealed and experienced at a much larger visual scale.



A collection where micro-scale beauties are revealed and elevated into the macro realm.

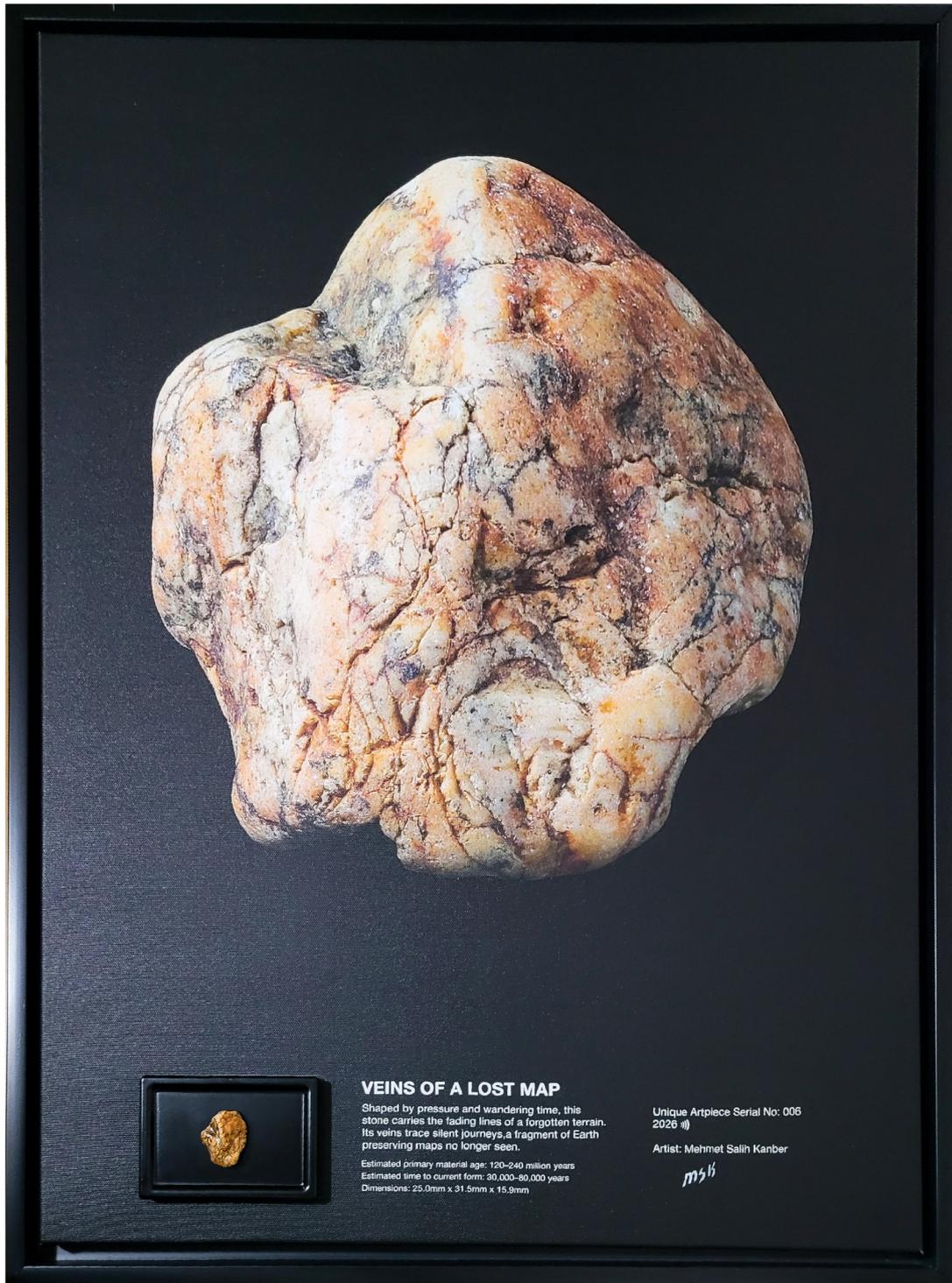


Selected Works from the Stone Portraits Collection.



## Collection

Each work presents the macro image of a stone captured from its most revealing angle and lighting. Its name, story, estimated age, and discovery details together form the spirit of the piece. These elements are documented in *Book of the Stone Portraits*, the official catalogue of the collection, available through galleries and



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VEINS OF A LOST MAP | 55x75cm | 2025

## Artwork Formats

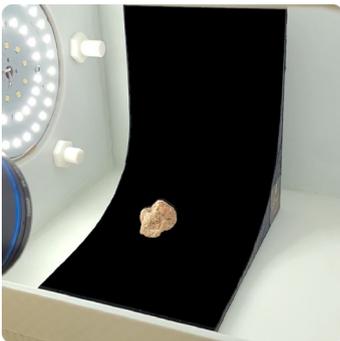
Each work documented in *The Book of Stone Portraits* may take form as a singular primary artwork and a strictly limited series of Collector's Edition prints.

# Process — The Artgineer Approach



## Stone Collection

Each month, MSK collects a limited number of sea pebbles. The location and date of discovery are carefully recorded, preserving the geological context of each stone.



## Stonograph Imaging

Using a custom imaging system he developed, called *Stonograph*, MSK photographs each stone according to principles of lithic pareidolia, revealing the hidden characters within the stone. The angle and lighting are carefully adjusted to best express the stone's texture, energy, and natural structure.



## Archiving

Once the soul of the stone portrait emerges, MSK assigns the stone a unique name and writes its narrative. Its estimated geological age and discovery location are documented, and the portrait is added to *The Book of Stone Portraits*, an evolving archive of discovered forms.



## Embodiment of the Artwork

When a collector selects a portrait, MSK realizes the artwork in the spatial dimensions chosen for the piece. Each work is produced as a limited expression that preserves the identity of the original stone.

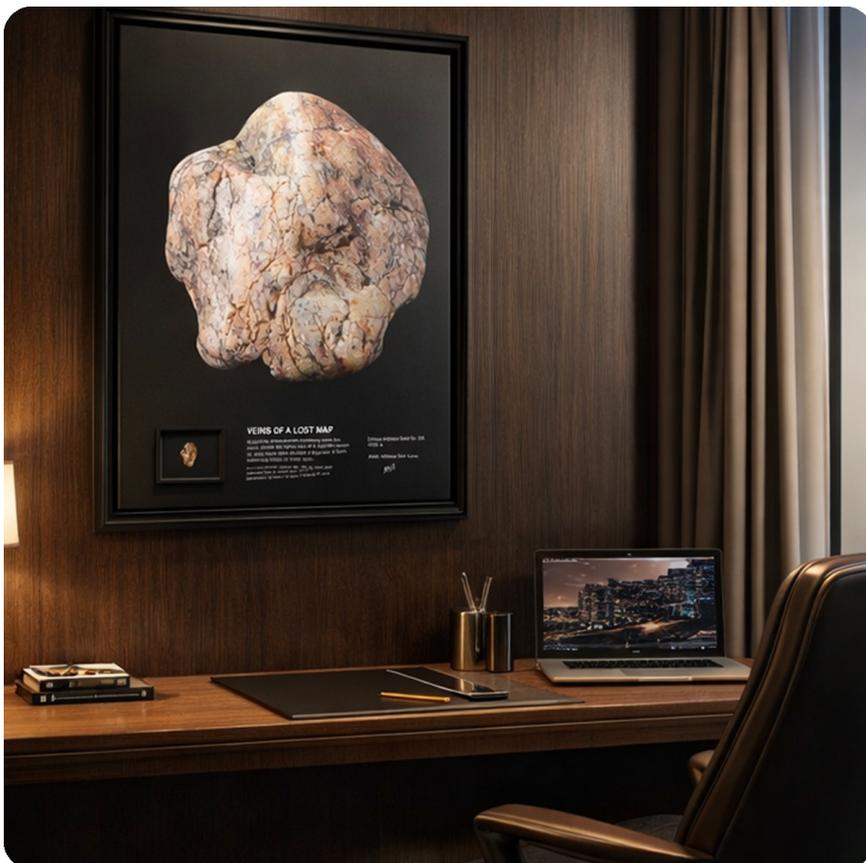


## Authentication

Every artwork is accompanied by an NFC-enabled certificate of authenticity, signed by MSK and digitally linked to the artwork through embedded NFC information.

# Spatial Presence

Stone Portraits invite viewers to pause, reconsider the unnoticed beauty that surrounds them, and discover the experience of lithic pareidolia within the work.





## Artist Bio

MSK, the Artgineer in pursuit of unnoticed beauty.

Following a quietly transformative experience, Mehmet Salih Kanber (MSK) turned to art and started working at the intersection of engineering, time, and material behavior. He invents machines and then creates engineered artworks that render overlooked beauty perceptible. Extending beyond traditional exhibition spaces, his practice enters urban environments, prompting unexpected pauses and renewed ways of seeing.

Having contributed, through engineering, to the construction of a hyper-accelerated and rational world, he seeks through his art to reclaim the slowness it has taken from us.

*My Existence Within a  
Deliberate, Unresolved Contradiction*  
**MSK**

His practice is driven by a **persistent and unresolved main question:**

*As time flows through life,  
what makes us overlook and which beauties do we miss?*

MSK pioneers **Lithic Pareidolism**, revealing hidden faces within sea stones shaped by millions of years of natural forces. These interpretations, can be explored in the *Stone Portraits* book and through the accompanying interpretation videos.

## Education & Background



Mehmet Salih Kanber (MSK) holds a degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Middle East Technical University (METU) and a Master's degree from Akdeniz University.

With a background spanning energy systems, automation, and robotics, his practice bridges engineering precision with artistic exploration. His work focuses on revealing hidden structures and visual narratives within natural materials.

Alongside his artistic practice, he develops functional products through 3D printing, exploring the relationship between material, process, and perception.

## Connect

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