

# WALTER ZURKO

Scholar rocks are carefully selected limestone fragments or roots that first appeared in China during the Song Dynasty (CE 960–1279). Typically found in the scholar's studio, they functioned as objects for contemplation by encouraging the scholar to "look up" at the big picture—nature. Walter Zurko's new sculptures riff on this idea by recycling construction materials to rephrase the originals' resemblance to mountains, promontories, and other geological phenomena.

!!!!!!!Unlike traditional scholar stones, Zurko's sculptures are crafted from cheaply manufactured products such as Oriented Strand Board (OSB), plywood, and cardboard. By "looking down" and returning such quotidian and visually unappealing substrates and packing materials to the ideal of the