

KNOWING STONE

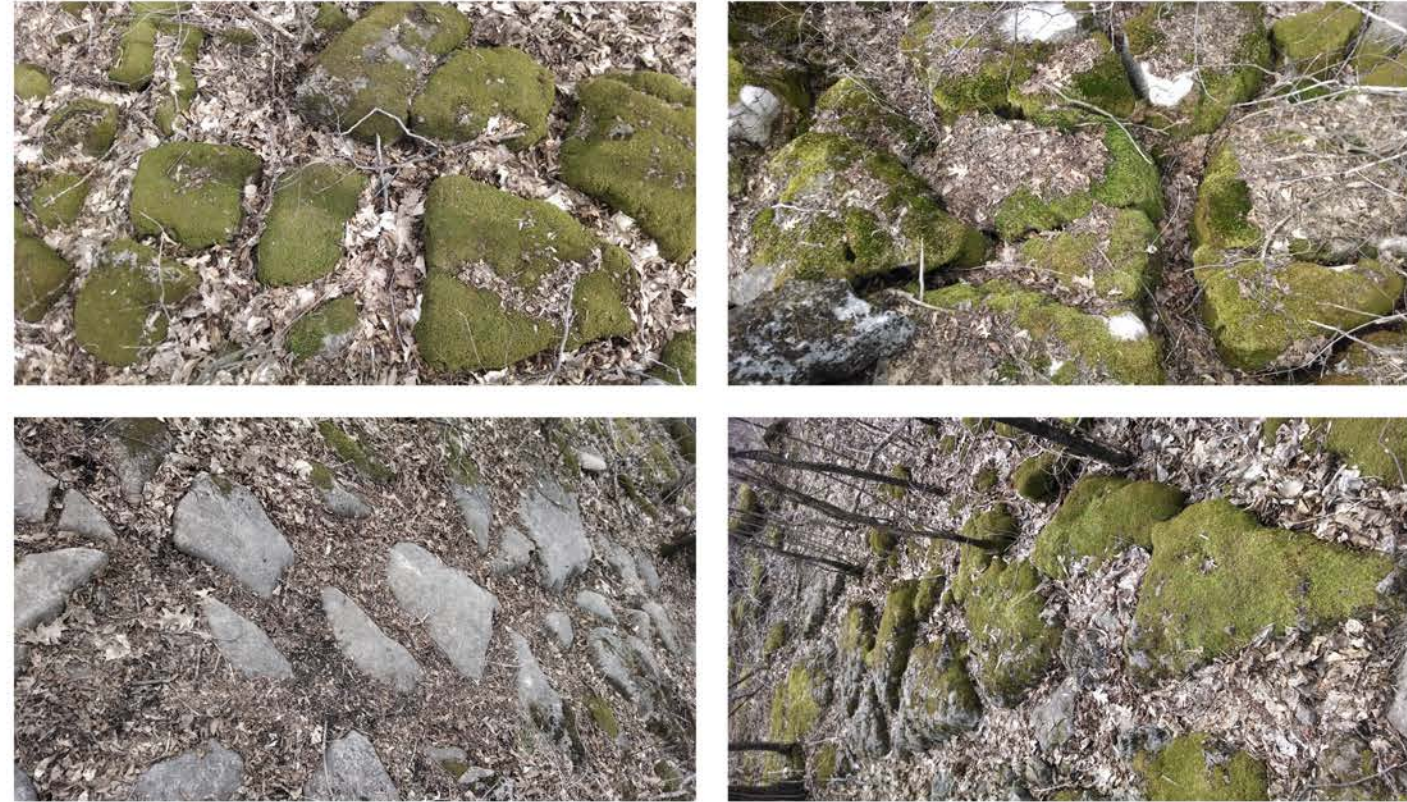
The process of learning a material. Skytop Quarry, Syracuse, NY.

CONDITION

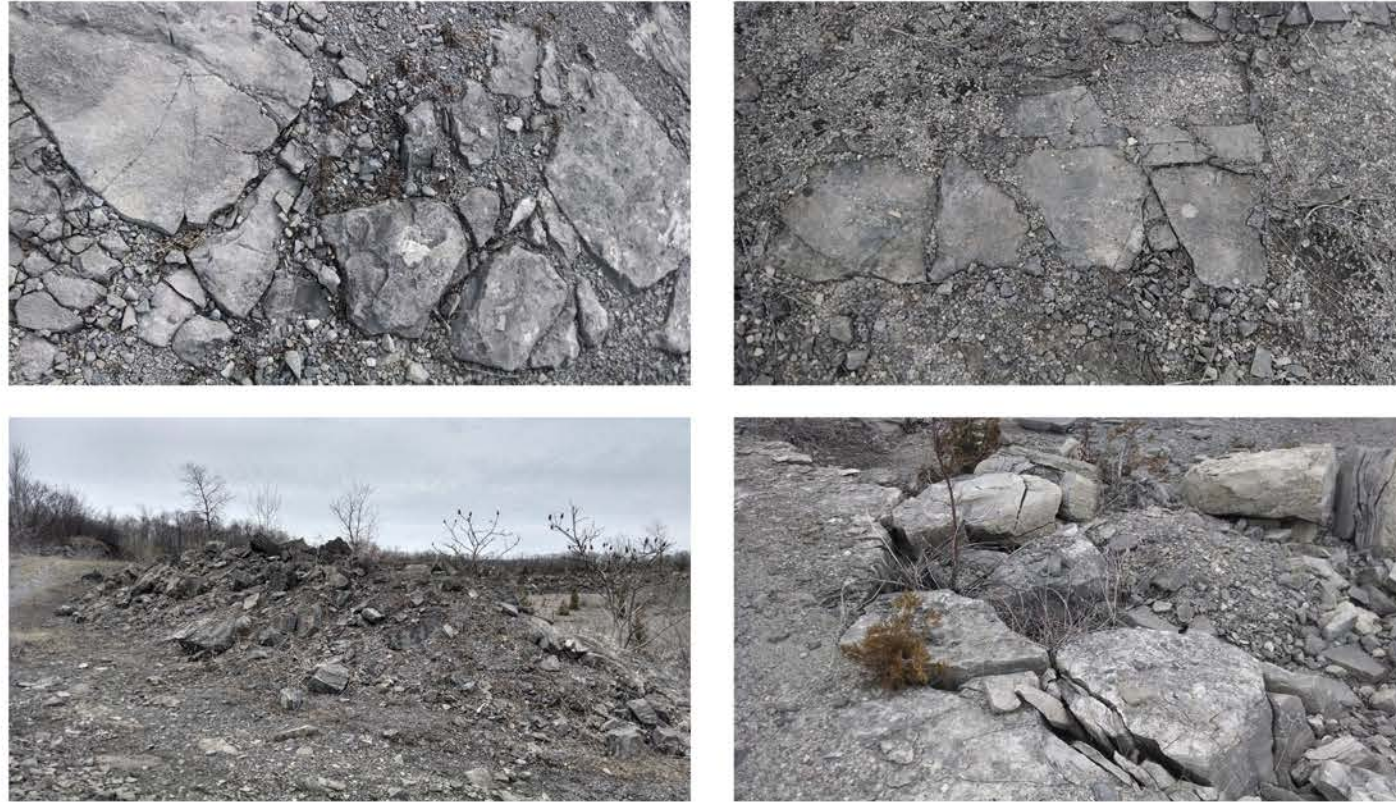
Both within the quarry and on the surrounding hillsides the rocks underfoot demonstrate a character of breaking into smaller pieces at the edges of larger slabs. While the rocks on the cliff undergo this process slowly their counterparts in the pit experience it at a much accelerated rate. The way in which they rest also differs. Rocks on the outside lay where they split, the cracks

between them slowly widening across years and filling with dirt and moss to create a beautiful aesthetic. Down below they are unceremoniously heaped into large piles where they are left to languish on the barren quarry floor. By connecting the stones across the range of their conditions the cracks reveal a deeper dialogue of time and treatment. When they have

been afforded the time and space to exist on their own and be shaped by natural processes the result is stunning. When they have been ripped from the earth and piled carelessly the effect is lost. Knowing stone is an attempt to hold up the human end of the conversation, by taking the time to learn its character and unlock its potential.



Surrounding Stone



Quarry Stone



"The moment when something collapses it's intensely disappointing, and this is the fourth time it's fallen. And each time I got to know the stone a little bit more. It got higher each time. So it grew in proportion to my understanding of the stone. And that is really one of the things my art is trying to do, it's trying to understand the stone. I obviously don't understand it well enough yet."

- Andy Goldsworthy

PURPOSE

To learn the material. To shape it via process. To understand where it comes from and where it's going. To try things that won't work. To create something beautiful.

POTENTIAL



"The sea came in and the cairn just disappeared, and was gone. But it was still there, a work that I had only just finished making so my contact with the stone was still very, very strong so I was with it down there but I still couldn't see it."

- Andy Goldsworthy

18 April