

SUISEKI: A BRIEF HISTORY

The art of Suiseki was introduced to Japan from China in the reign of Empress Regent Suiko, A.D. 593 to 628. It quickly caught on in Japanese intellectual and artistic circles, where it was changed and refined to reflect the styles and tastes of the period. Suiseki were seen as artistic objects, similar to paintings, songs or poems.

This stone appreciation art form values stability, longevity and immortality.

Formed through time by wind and water, stones can take several sizes and shapes, reminding us of natural objects e.g. animal stones, human stones, mountain stones, waterfalls, glaciers and even everyday objects.

Erosion by wind and water wears landscapes into landforms, landforms into boulders, and boulders into rocks. Most of the stones here are metamorphic, transformed by heat and pressure at the bottom of the ocean within the last 50,000,000 years.

These Suiseki stones were selected for the colour and hardness created by metamorphosis but also for the shape and patina created by a slow process of water erosion as they travelled over time to the points at which they were found.