

NEW RELEASE

Elaine Ling

Talking Stones

Texts by Elaine Ling, Wade Davis, William Fox

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The legacy of the descendents of runaway slaves in Suriname and French Guiana

A shaman stone sends its song across the Gobi desert. Tibetan prayer flags flutter in the wind sending prayers to the blue sky from a celebratory rock at Namtso Lake. Pictograms found in cliffs in the American Southwest, Africa, Australia, and Asia bear witness to the close relationship of man to the spirit world. Natural rocks stand majestically at their empowered sites. For 30 years, photographer Elaine Ling wandered through deserts, canyons and jungles gathering the mythology of »stones«. Across four continents, she travels with her strong cultural sensitivities: her birth heritage from the East and her philosophies from the West where she lived from the age of nine and studied medicine. In trust, we place a certain permanence in stones. But their fragility is at risk of destruction by the erosive forces of nature and the destructive forces of war. This book offers a stunning global view of a very unique presentation of natural and ancient stones. Listen to the polyphonic voice of *Talking Stones*.

Elaine Ling is an exuberant adventurer, traveler, and photographer who is most at home while backpacking her view camera across the great deserts of the world, sleeping under the stars. Ling's photographs, widely exhibited and published, are in the permanent collections of numerous museum and private collections including the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris; Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark; Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi, Belgium; Fototeca de Cuba, Havana; Lishui Museum of Photography, China; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Southeast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida; Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro Brazil; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; The Ryer-

son Image Centre, Toronto; and the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Her international publications include work in View Camera, Photo Technique International, The Polaroid Book, Italian ZOOM Magazine, Orion Magazine, Viktor Magazine, BMJ, New Scientist and Aperture.

Born in Hong Kong, Elaine Ling has lived in Canada since the age of nine. Since receiving her medical degree from the University of Toronto, she has practiced family medicine among First Nations peoples in Canada's North and Pacific Northwest as well as among indigenous people in other parts of the world, in Abu Dhabi and Nepal. She is a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. When not pursuing photographic projects, Dr. Ling practices family medicine in Toronto and plays cello in Orchestra Toronto, a community orchestra.

Her photographic publications include: Mongolia, Land of the Deer Stone, Lodima Press, PA, USA 2009, which won a Nautilus Silver Book Award.

Much of human history is gleaned from the marks left in stone by our ancestors. Elaine Ling has travelled the world gathering what may be the most comprehensive body of work by a visual artist about the most compelling and spiritually charged stones still residing among us. These beautiful black-and-white images, made from the now extinct Polaroid Type-55 black-and-white negatives, are a fitting medium with which to capture these human histories. This beautiful and timely book arrives as the anxiety of our times causes many of us to wonder just how long our current monuments of stone will endure.

Ed Burtynsky

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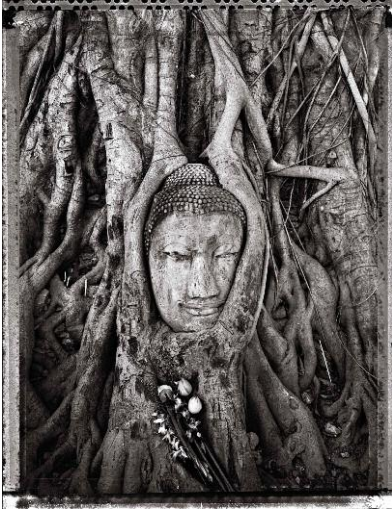
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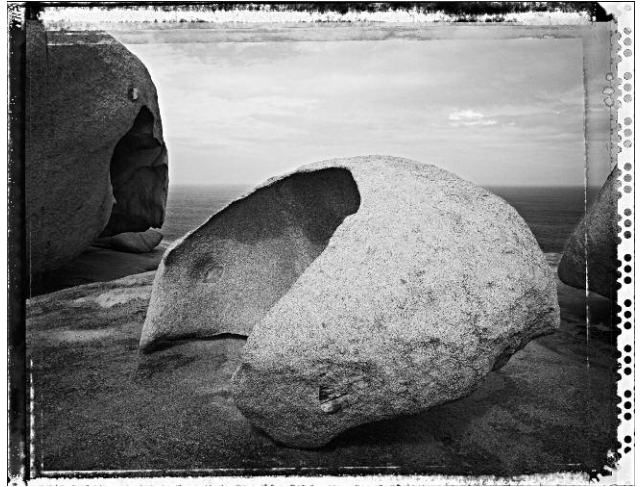
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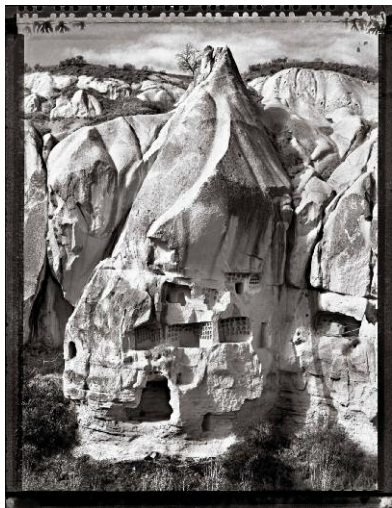
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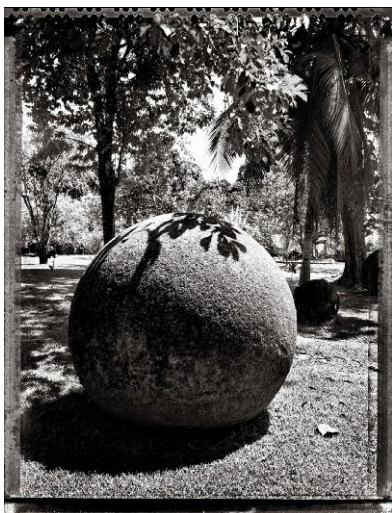
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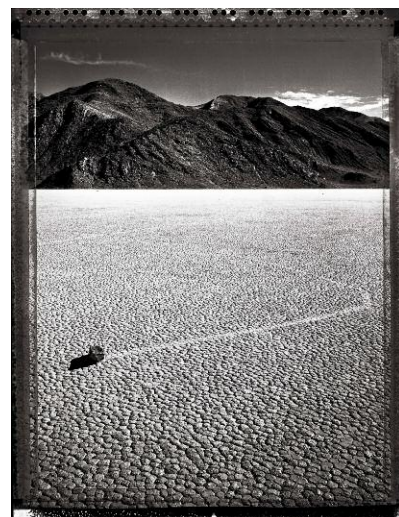
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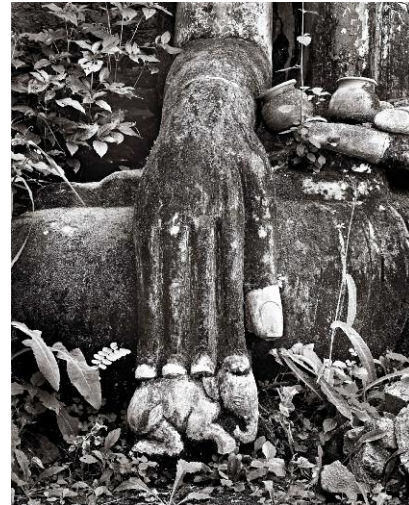
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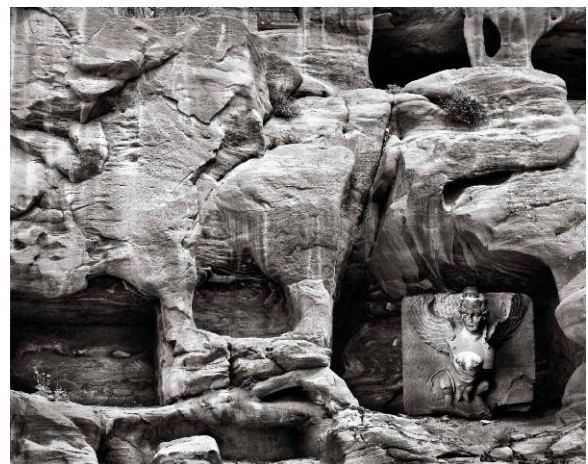
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