

stone



*The great masters use three basic techniques
to fashion stone into art:*

Percussion: Artists break stone by carefully pounding a rubber-headed hammer against a chisel.

Pressure: The object is held with one hand and pressed against a tool, made of bone, wood, or stone.

Abrasion: Using polishing or rubbing stones and abrasives, stone is removed until the desired shape is achieved.

materials

Artists use granite, onyx, obsidian, semiprecious stones, as well as:

Freestone: The facades of churches, convents, and civil buildings constructed under Spanish rule are notable examples of work done with freestone. Today, stonemasons draw and design their own models.

Volcanic rock: This material is used for both architectural and decorative purposes. The basic elements used for working this type of stone are the rock itself and a chisel. The finishing process includes polishing the pieces with corncobs. Carved animal heads and other elements are used for decoration. Artists use volcanic rock to make mortars, grinding stones, ancient reproductions, ashtrays, toys, and miniatures.

Alabaster: This translucent, marble-like stone is worked with a chisel. Different abrasives are used to achieve a polished finish.