

SHARON GAINSBURG

Of all the materials in the world, few are more durable and enduring than stone. Even today, marble columns uphold the history-laden weight of Athens' Acropolis, and far away on the English moors, the rough stones of Stonehenge keep a silent guard over the passing centuries. For sculptor Sharon Gainsburg, stone is much more than a simple artistic material; it allows one to work with nature, rather than against it, to create timeless beauty. "For me," she says, "stone holds the truth of the earth. It imparts energy with tactile fluency and I feel its history and sense its essence. When I carve, I feel connected to the earth and a universal consciousness."

This passion for stone is especially evident in her alabaster wine stones, which were sculpted from stones quarried near ancient geysers in the American Southwest that created extremely rare colors and formations within each work of art. In some of them, fossils can be found, telling a story of the Earth through the millennia. Since Gainsburg's wine stones are carved from natural stone, they retain the coolness of the room and therefore keep the wine at an even temperature. Each wine rack is hand-signed and lovingly shaped into a work of art that serves as a fabulous centerpiece.

Gainsburg discovered her love of stone more than thirty years ago, and that love soon led her to carve stone in the famed landscape surrounding Carrara, Italy, where Michelangelo selected the marble that would be carved into some of the most breathtakingly lifelike sculptures of the Italian Renaissance. Soon after, Gainsburg returned to America where she taught sculpture for more than twenty-five years in New Jersey before relocating to Las Vegas in 2005. In addition, she has also appeared as a guest instructor for a number of workshops, most notably in Florida and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. For Gainsburg, teaching was a rich experience that allowed her to help others find their creative voices while discovering unforeseen paths in her own creative development.

Since then, Gainsburg's art has caught the attention of many, and her sculptures have been exhibited widely throughout the United States. Today, her sculptures are in the collections of national corporations, including General Electric, New Jersey Power Company, AT&T, and USA Today Publications, in addition to many private collections.

Stone, Gainsburg reminds us, is a composite of all the ancient elements: fire, earth, air, and water—a totality of all matter. In her wine stones, nature, utility, and human artistic expression all become one in a magnificent sculpture that can be enjoyed anew with each new day. "My sculptures," Gainsburg says, "are a mirror of my soul's journey and my spiritual connections," and countless collectors have found that her art has enriched their lives as well by bringing them closer to a powerful natural world that slips ever farther away.