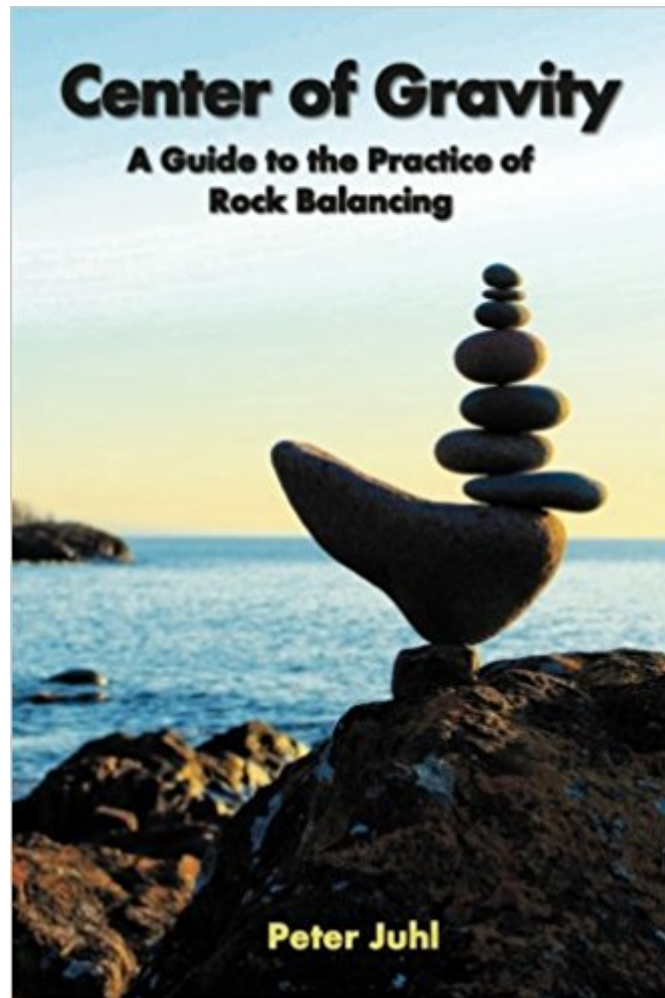




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Center Of Gravity: A Guide To The Practice Of Rock Balancing



Synopsis

Rock balancing is a growing art form that uses ordinary rocks to create startling ephemeral sculptures. Artist Peter Juhl tells about how he discovered the magic that could be worked with just a few stones, and how like-minded balancers around the world have found one another, forming a generous and cohesive community. Using photos from well-known balance artists, he illustrates a sampling of popular styles and techniques. The rocks are kept in place by shape, weight and friction alone: No glue, metal rods, photo manipulation, or other artificial means are used. A comprehensive Why and How section first explains the physics behind the art, then gives a detailed tutorial that applies those principles with exercises in real-world balancing. Beginning with the most basic skill, and working up to the more challenging, the tutorial uses plenty of diagrams to illustrate the creation of various styles of balance art. For those who want to take their new interest further, a Beyond the Basics section shows how to create more interesting and compelling work, and how to use photography to capture it. A collection of miscellaneous tips and techniques help to make the creation of this fascinating art easier and more fun. Whether you are new to balancing and want to learn from the ground up, or have some experience and seek to broaden your artistic skills, this book gives you a comprehensive guide and reference to the art of rock balancing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Juhl has been creating and photographing balanced rock art for twenty years. He has shown his photography in several Twin Cities galleries, and has taught balancing at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Art in Bayfront Park, and Lake Harriet in Minneapolis.

There is magic in this book. It will make you start balancing rocks to the puzzlement of family and friends and the amazement of neighborhood kids. It lets out the kid inside you.

As a life-long rock balancer, and a teacher of balanced rock sculpture for over 7 years, I'm thrilled (and a bit awed) to see such a skillful and comprehensive guide. The "how-to" section for beginners includes a series of "lessons" with carefully considered instructions, elegant diagrams, and suggested materials for learning and exploring an array of basic techniques. The "Beyond the Basics" section delivers on the promise of its title, including a wide array of information extending even to techniques for photography and a discussion of the "illusion of impossibility" elicited by some balanced rock sculptures. The currently active worldwide network of rock balancers are using a wide variety of techniques - well represented in inspiring color photos throughout. I'll be recommending this book to my students, and have purchased a few copies to bring to my public events.

Great advise on getting started rock balancing. Went out the first day and was balancing right along side my husband. The tips and tricks and basic physics were easy to follow and understand.

A delightful read- very informative and witty too! I've always been entranced by rock balancing, and now that I have a better understanding of this artform, I'm more confident and ready to practice on my own. I look forward to reading more from this author, and would highly recommend this title to anyone wanting to start working with rocks in a new way.

I really enjoyed this book, which describes how one can create art/meditate/commune with nature/seek peace using perhaps the simplest and most plentiful artistic medium available to humans: the lowly, or perhaps exalted, rocks and stones that you can find on a shoreline or in a ditch. I love how the artist/writer uses these simplest of materials to create, and photograph, temporary artwork that is truly captivating. The book recounts how the author became interested in balancing rocks, explains the physics involved in rock balancing, tells how to get started and how to improve one's rock-balancing skills, describes a number of distinct aesthetic approaches people use, and provides tips for capturing one's work photographically. It includes quite a few really interesting pictures showing the work of the author and a number of other rock balancers. The pictures are great - check out the "Look inside" feature to see a few of them. Though this is a thorough and well-organized how-to manual for aspiring rock balancers, this book is more. The

author shares his personal voice and made me feel like I was in a thoughtful conversation as much as reading a primer on how to approach an art form. I really did enjoy this as much as any book I've read in recent memory. If you have any curiosity or interest in the topic, this book will be worth your while.

This book is so very knowledgeable about rock balancing !!!! love it !!!!

Always enjoyed rock balancing, and this book has helped renew a more natural desire in me and opened my horizons to try out more skills and techniques. Thank you!

Thanks for the Inspirations...YOU Rock!

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