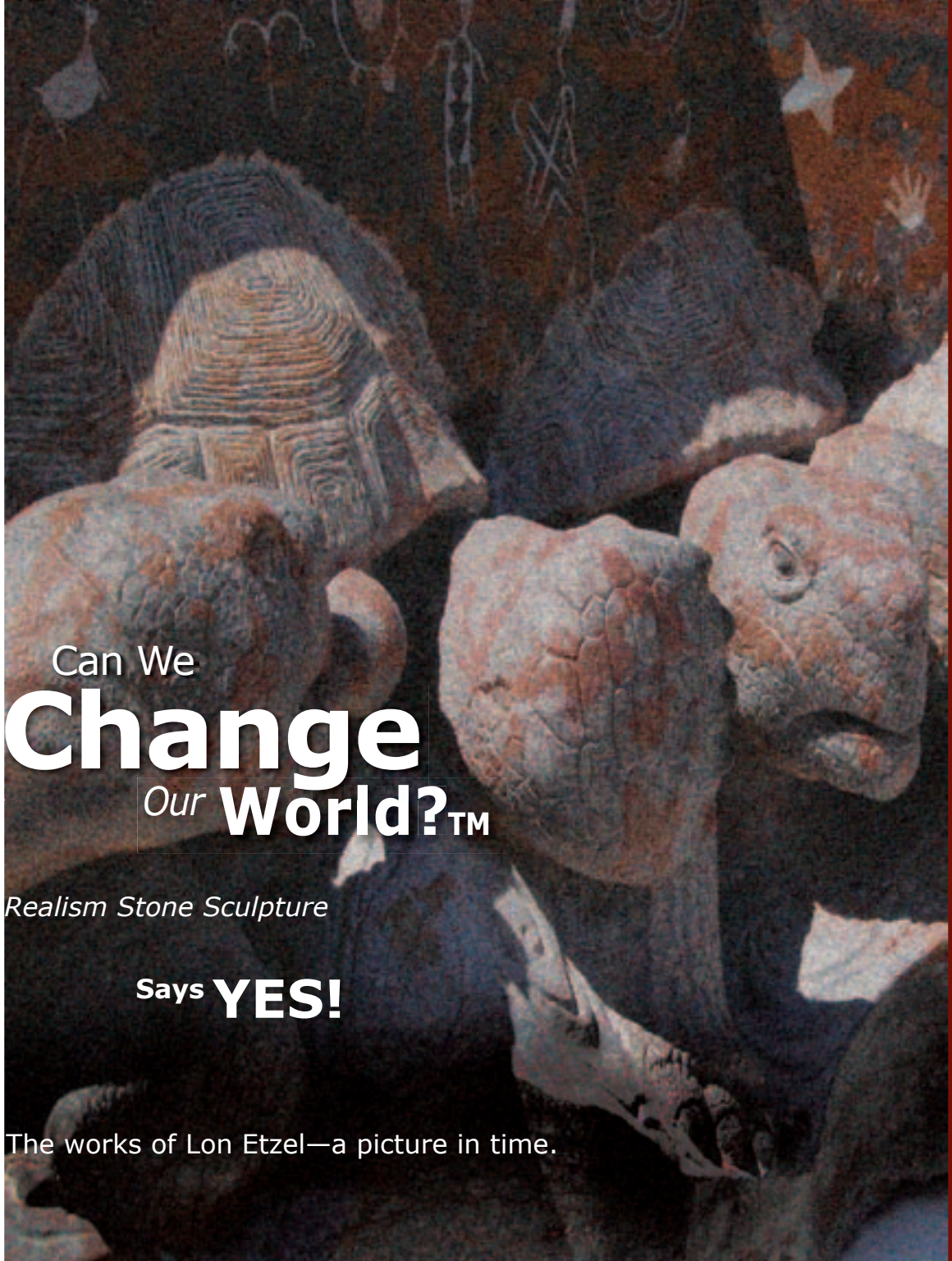


Can We

Change

Our **World?™**

Lon Etzel Realism Stone Sculpture

Says YES!

The works of Lon Etzel—a picture in time.

An Open Mind

Beauty is found in every art form and in today's fast-paced, ever changing world, it is so easy to take for granted. As a society, we have forgotten how to take a step back and separate ourselves from our busy lifestyles and focus on the true beauty this world has to offer, whether it be a sunset, a body of water, an animal, a tree…even a stone. Art can truly impact the way we view the world, all we have to do is take a moment to stop and take that look. You may be surprised. So the question is "Can we change our world?" The answer is "Yes, we can" —through art.

Lon Etzel - Sculptor

The origins of stone sculpting can be traced back to BC, when survival depended on hunting and fishing skills. The hunter's intimacy with the animals they sought, not only provided them with what they needed to live, it gave them a form of artistic expression. Working with stone tools, they would peck and grind stone upon stone, the mind's images, capturing the story of their day-to-day life in rock form. Today, findings of these sculptures serve as a reminder of these ancient civilizations and show us how these artifacts paved the way for modern sculpting today.

Behind every sculpture, there is a meaning and a reason for which it was created. Much like the way our ancient ancestors sculpted subjects that portrayed their everyday occurrences, Lon Etzel's sculptures create a lasting awareness, immortalizing subjects

sculpted with accuracy and integrity. When you see a Lon Etzel sculpture, you not only see a work of art, you see a time, a place, a culture, a people…a way of life.

"My art is a picture in time. I think it communicates to and about the different cultural aspects of life — what was then, and what is now."

Lon Etzel grew up in California's Santa Ynez Valley spending most of his time running wild outdoors. Lon often kept tarantulas, rattlesnakes, and other unusual pets. Growing up, he participated in Indian Guides and 4H, and spent many hours playing with clay, cutting firewood, hiking, bicycling and riding off-road motorcycles. Lon attended Santa Barbara City College and the University of California Santa Barbara for seven years, and truly enjoyed his education, for it was there his passion for sculpting arose. Lon loves traveling, listening to people talk, and learning about cultures and history. He roughed-it in Alaska, Australia, and Italy with his father, and has spent two months wandering Israel and Egypt. Reading, self-education, sculpting, and playing with his one-year-old son, Mason, are his favorite pastimes today.

Inspiration and devotion can be spoken through the artist's subject matter. Lon's appreciation of the Western genre, and Native American cultures and traditions comprise most of his works.

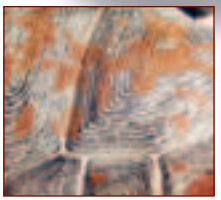
His artistic desire is to move towards sculpting more meaningful pieces that will both engage and influence our society, particularly sculptures that speak for the voiceless or oppressed, to motivate people to help protect endangered species, our environment, and diminishing cultures. Whether a sculpture as simplistic as a bowl, a complex Indian portrait displaying the intricacy of every facial line, the detail of a rattlesnake's scales or turtle's shell, Lon captures the spirit of his subject, mesmerizing the viewer.

We are in control of our destiny and lives. It is up to us to follow our dreams. Lon Etzel has achieved that sought-after fulfillment and self-enrichment through his artistic creations. His goal is to impact society through his sculptures, communicate to future generations through his legacy of art, and relay the message that "Yes, we can change our world into a better place." He is well on his way. Take a moment, look, and believe that you and art can make a difference.

Live Your Dream

Passion

"Like Mt. Rushmore — people from all over the world come to view that piece of history. I would like to share my work with the world. I have a romantic relationship with this art form and my subject I choose to sculpt, and I want to communicate that through my art."



"California Earthquakes Indian Legend"

While on a trip to see the La Purisima Mission in Lompoc, CA, Lon watched a reenactment put on by the Chumash Indians. One of the men told him an old Chumash myth that has stuck with him all his life. In a time long ago, some ordinary tortoises burrowed underground to escape the summer heat, and hibernate for the winter. The Indians believe that some of the tortoises waited too long before returning to the sea and were trapped under the earth. They continued to grow until the entire land mass of California rode on their backs. These tortoises grew so large and became cramped together, pushing and snapping at one another causing the earth to tremble, creating an earthquake. Decades after hearing the fascinating tale, Lon was inspired to create this magnificent sculpture. The detail and character of this piece is extraordinary.

Integrity

"Reality of the Old West"

"I chose to depict tools of the law to share visions of legends from times past. My fascination with the Old West is fueled by learning what America was, and appreciating the hardship of early pioneer life."

There is life within each stone that tells a story. Like a fingerprint or a snowflake, every rock is unique. Lon Etzel creates realism stone sculptures like no other artist in history. Inspired by the Italian artist Gianlorenzo Bernini, whom many enthusiasts would say to be the greatest sculptor of the 17th century, Lon brings his visions to life through stone. First analyzing the volume of the stone, Lon then visualizes how his composition will fit into it. The result is a breathtaking, one-of-a-kind masterpiece that gives new meaning to the phrase "set in stone."

Awareness

"Culture of Our Native Americans"

"The Native American culture is founded on a great love and respect for our environment and each other. Sharing those same values, I wanted to pay tribute to a civilization that has such love, but endured such sorrow."

It is the realism that makes a Lon Etzel sculpture unique. Lon brings forth the character of the stone with his impeccable eye for detail. What is so amazing about Lon's sculptures is that often times, people mistake his work as separate pieces, fastened together or placed on top or beside one another. In actuality, Lon sculpts from a single piece of marble or stone. Time to time, Lon will place precious stones within the sculpture for minor accents but for the most part…what the admirer sees is entirely one work of art.

Respect

"Preserving Endangered Species and Wildlife"

"As an artist, I pour my heart and soul into my sculptures. If I can raise awareness of our endangered species to even one person, then I have become that much closer to accomplishing my goal of changing our world."

Lon's sculptures are highly textural with varying degrees of contrast. He works in several mediums, including bronze and wood, but prefers marble. He first roughs the composition into the rock, then works down through the layers, concluding with the detail and finish. Lon brings out the stone's natural colors through his carving techniques and by "cooking" the rock. Beautiful shades of gray, red, orange and white are prevalent throughout Lon's creations.

Art is an opportunity for us to raise awareness of important issues and speak for those without voices. With society's support, Lon will be able to capture, communicate, and share those messages.

Lon Etzel™

REALISM STONE SCULPTURE

Lon Etzel
Realism Stone Sculpture

Vision
Use art to change our world into a better place

Purpose
Perpetually learn and be true to life's passion

Mission
Create lasting awareness of peoples, cultures, species and environments

Goals
Infuse art with a message to engage and influence society

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