



Introduction To Lapidary (Jewelry Crafts)

Pansy D. Kraus

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"An authoritative introduction to all aspects of lapidary is provided here by Pansy Kraus. She describes the processes, tools, and equipment of each branch of this fascinating hobby, helping the reader choose a technique, get started the right way, and determine which tools will work best to achieve specific results. Kraus describes the considerable rewards of tumbling rocks, making cabochons, carving gem materials, lapping, cutting spheres, making beads, and faceting. She provides a coherent overview of a vast and complex field, from the elements of getting started to studio visits with lapidary artist, where we discover what may be possible. Olive M. Colhour produces breathtaking Florentine pietre dure portraits by color-matching stones to paintings. Then, she cuts and polishes each rock separately before assembling her sculptured mosaics. Jerry Muchna facets three-dimensional quartz sculptures. His "Great Moments in America" series includes The Spirit of St. Louis, with 695 facets, and Iwo Jima, with 6,511 facets. Hing Wa Lee combines traditional Chinese technique - using a fixed shaft with a foot treadle - with the use of a modern flex shaft to produce carvings of astonishing intricacy. Working with traditional jadeite and nephrite - as well as more unusual materials, such as sugilite - he achieves a unique blend of antiquity and modernity. Their work is shown in 27 exciting color plates, along with that of other artists featured in the studio visits."

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