Department of Geological Sciences
University of Colorado
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100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
October 25, 2002

Art and Artifacts in the
Benson Earth Sciences Building

This brochure is intended as a walking tour of the art and artifacts in Benson Earth Sciences. The tour starts outside on the south side of the building. The artist or donor of the art work or artifact is noted where appropriate.
The two granite globes located on the south side of the building were created from two 3000 pound blocks of 1.4 billion year old Silver Plume Granite (Precambrian) quarried near Pinewood Springs, Colorado. The blocks were shipped to Canada where they were turned into polished spheres, 34 inches in diameter. Paper templates were created using a spherical stereographic projection to map the outlines of the continents, avoiding distortions common in other map projections. The oceanic regions were masked and the continental areas sandblasted to a rough texture. The eastern sphere is a representation of the location of the continents today. The western sphere represents where geologists believe the continents were located in the Cretaceous, about 120 million years ago.
Arrow of Time:

Elaine Calzolari

Partially funded by the State of Colorado Art in Public Places in 1998, this work represents the breadth of geologic time, from the Tertiary (on the east end) to the Precambrian (on the west end). Each time period is portrayed by rock from that era and is proportional in length to the length of the period. Trace fossils of burrows and ancient sand ripples as well as leaves can be seen in some of the stones. A plaque identifying the stone used is on the north side of the work.
ATRIUM

The walls of the atrium, border of the floor and east entry, as well as the exterior of the building, are all Lyons Sandstone. Color can range from buff to red. It has been the standard for buildings at the University of Colorado, Boulder since the late 1920's and is quarried near Lyons, Colorado.

WEST WALL:

Metamorphic paragneiss

It was originally a well-layered sedimentary rock. The dark and light banding is produced by the growth of different metamorphic mineral assemblages including biotite mica (black), quartz (grey) and feldspar (white).

Sedimentary conglomerate

Widely varied sizes of sand particles, pebbles, and cobbles make up the deposit. These include igneous granitic rocks (pink) and volcanic rocks (green and black).
EAST WALL:

Metamorphic hornblende gneiss

The swirled streaks are potassium feldspar (pink) and quartz (white).

Meta-igneous tonalite

Comprised mostly of quartz, feldspar, and biotite mica. Light plagioclase-rich reaction halos occur around garnets (pink) within the rock.

Chance Anderson designed the brackets for the rock slabs in the atrium and the fossils in the stairway, as well as the bases for the two rock displays on the balcony.
Floor
Mica-garnet schist
Ashfield, MA
Goshen Formation, Lower Devonian (~400 Ma)
The floor of the atrium is schist, a rock formed by metamorphism of sedimentary deposits. Faint layers of silvery mica, small red garnets and dark blocks of hornblende can be seen in the schist.

Granite benches:
Chance Anderson
Karl Mueller
Stone: Dan Liesveld

The benches are Silver Plume Granite, a Proterozoic (~ 1.4 Billion Ma) igneous intrusion that underlies much of the Front Range between Boulder and Rocky Mountain National Park. The stone is a product of Colorado’s only active granite quarry, located near Pinewood Springs between Lyons and Estes Park. Benches are also on the second and third floors.

BALCONY

Clock
Chance Anderson

Travertine (Turkey)
and Anorthosite (Canada)
Paintings
Acrylic on Canvas

Kevan Krasnoff

California Falling

UFO over Paris

Orbicular granite

Western Australia
Precambrian (> 1 Billion)

Roy Young
Stegosaurus Cast

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Cañon City, Colorado

Mesozoic

Plastic resin cast of *Stegosaurus Stenops*.. One of the most complete skeletons ever found.
FIRST FLOOR

Photographs

Bill Bradley

West of Monument Valley, near Oljeto, Utah,
Bedrock in foreground is Cedar Mesa Sandstone (Permian)  (2)

Eastern Monument Valley, Utah and Arizona
Cliffs are De Chelly Sandstone (Permian)

Western Monument Valley, Utah and Arizona,
Cliffs are De Chelly Sandstone (Permian)

San Juan River, Utah
“Goosenecks”, near Medicine Hat
Paradox and Honaker Trail Formations (Pennsylvanian) with a redish cap of Halgaito Shale (Permian)

Colorado River, Utah
“The Loop”, in Canyonlands National Park, southwest of Moab
Honaker Trail Formation (Pennsylvanian) overlain by Elephant Canyon Formation and Cedar Mesa Sandstone (both Permian)

Wheeler Geologic Area, Colorado
In the La Garita Mountains, near Creed in southwestern Colorado
Tertiary volcanic rocks
INSTRUCTION ROOM:

Lake Missoula Exhibit  Bill Bradley and Suzanne Larsen

Representations of Grand Canyon formations
William Wallace Carson
Oil and pastel on silica sand

LOWER LEVEL:
Map Exhibit
FIRST FLOOR HALL

Photographs

Christopher Brown

"Sediments, Ancient and Modern"

Ice and Frozen Sand, Elephant Canyon, Canyonlands National Park, Needles District, Utah.
Ancient River Cobbles on Mud, near the San Juan River, Utah.
Emerging Crossbedded Sandstone, Paria Plateau, Utah/Arizona border.
Lightning Sandstone, Arch Canyon, Utah.

"Landscapes, Erosion and Weathering"

Colorado River in Grand Canyon, from the Toroweap Overlook, looking east.
San Juan River and Raplee Monocline, near Mexican Hat, Utah.
Green River Overlook: Juniper Tree, Green River, White Rim, Island in the Sky, Canyonlands National Park, Utah.
Colorado River in Grand Canyon, from the South Rim, looking east from Desert View Tower.

"Rock Textures"

Crystal Geyser along Green River, Utah.
Wave in Vishnu Schist, Clear Creek, Grand Canyon, Arizona.
Sandstone Tapestry, San Rafael Swell, Utah.
Sandstone Shapes, Needles District, Canyonlands National Park, Utah.
West wall, from the landing to the second floor:

**Fossil Fish Mass Mortality**
Knightia Eocene (herring)
Mioplosus Labracoides (perch)
Priscacara Serrata (sunfish)
Diplomystus Dentatus (?)
Green River Formation,
Eocene (~50Ma)
Kemmerer, Wyoming

**Petrified Araucarioxylon**
Arizonium Tree
Chinle Formation
Triassic (~240 Ma)
Holbrook, Arizona

Roy Young
East wall, from the landing to the second floor:

**Trilobite Mass Mortality**
Acadoparadoxides briareus
Cambrian (~520 Ma)
Morocco

Roy Young

**Orthoceras Nautiloid**
Silurian-Devonian (~400 Ma)
Atlas Mountains, Morocco

Roy Young
**Garnet Amphibolite Gneiss**  
Proterozoic (~1.4 Billion Ma)  
Gore Mountain, New York  
Smithsonian Institution  
Lang Farmer

**Agate**  
(Crypto-crystalline quartz)  
Miocene (~20 Ma)  
Rio Grande do Sol, Brazil  
Roy Young
DEPARTMENTAL OFFICE

Photographs

Bill Bradley

Sunset along the Inland Passage, southwest of Ketchikan

Former gold mine in the Willow Creek valley, the Talkeetna Mountains, northeast of Anchorage

Portage Lake with icebergs from Portage Glacier, Chugach Mountains, southeast of Anchorage

Knik Glacier, with Knik River in the foreground and Mt. Goode (10,610 ft.) in the background, Chugach Mountains, east of Anchorage

Painting

Kevan Krasnoff

Boulder Landforms
Acrylic on paper
THIRD FLOOR BALCONY

Mineral Collection

Dr. Alfred Chetham-Strode Memorial Collection
Harold W. Miller

Exhibit Case

Russian lapidary art
Tammy Fitzgerald

Gem and mineral collection
Estate of T.H. Seifried

Rock display designed by
Steven Jacobsen

Polished granite boxes
William Hiss

Compiled and edited by
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