ROCK ART

Bernardo Cesare is an associate professor of petrography at the University of Padova (Italy) and a photographer of rocks under the microscope for both science and “art.” His rock photomicrographs have been displayed in art galleries in Venice (1998) and Milan (1999). They have been published in Italian photographic (IL FOTOGRAFO, 2000) and popular (AIRONE, 2000) magazines, and have been shown in exhibits in Italy, France, and Germany. He shares some of his favorite pictures.

Any piece of rock hides a microscopic universe of colors and shapes, a universe that can be revealed by observation with a polarizing microscope after proper preparation of the sample.

With the help of a camera mounted on the microscope, thin sections are photographed to reveal the inner beauty, grace, and elegance of rocks. Photomicrographs provide a sense of the ordered, geometric development of crystal structures and, on the other hand, of the chaos and irregularity that characterize the natural processes of rock formation and evolution. Thus, images may in turn be dominated by regular patterns or by a random distribution of faintly defined spots of color.

Bernardo Cesare

“Ocean Jasper,” an orbicular silicified rhyolite, from Madagascar. Width of view ~1 cm

Graphite-bearing marble from the eastern Alps (Italy). Width of view ~2 mm

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The meetings convened by the societies participating in Elements are highlighted in yellow. This meetings calendar was compiled by Andrea Kozioł. To get meeting information listed, please contact Andrea at Andrea.Kozioł@notes.udaютон.edu