



Born out of 2 researches: What is a monolith? and Can versatility create a new use for concrete?

What is a monolith?

Monolith as "one-stone" can be found everywhere. Study into what makes the strongest monolith resulted in contrast. Contrast with its surroundings and/or contrast within itself. Contrast as an unexpected commodity, a monolith where you do not expect it.

“There is no quality in this world that is not what it is merely by contrast. Nothing exists in itself.”

*Herman Melville*

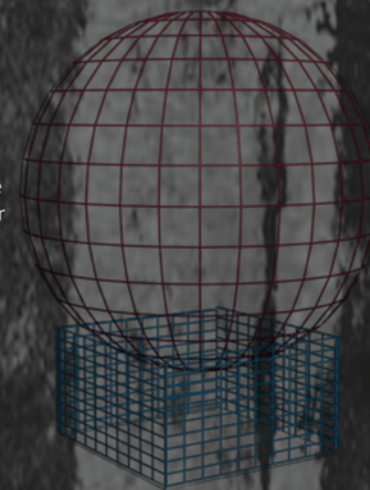
As such the power of contrast. In no field easier to discern than that of the monolith. A rock among rocks, a skyscraper among skyscrapers, merging in with the crowds. Then there is the surprise, the skyscraper in the middle of nowhere (if that even exists), a stone the size of a car on the road. Standing out, they are true monoliths. The monolith is thus heavily dependant on his environment. A monolith, more so than anything else, can not exist in itself.

The monolith is recognized as a sphere. But it is not a sphere. It aspires to be a sphere, and maybe one day, it will actually become one in reality, not just in our minds. We see it floating above us, like a full sphere resting on the walls with only the bottom part in sight. Like an iceberg, we know there is more under the surface (in the monolith's case above the surface), but we can't see or touch it. The contrast is ambiguous, the surprise of the hovering sphere in a room, and the contrast within itself, of not being a sphere.



Bleeding

In order to strengthen the effect of the hovering aspiring-sphere, versatility is introduced in its surface. The surface of the sphere is light, shiny. It reflects perfectly, as far as possible for concrete. These characteristics disappear when the concrete starts to bleed. Gently the water feed from inside the monolith seeps through the concrete to the surface. The surface of concrete dries rapidly under room-conditions, yet a constant feed darkens the concrete for as long as is required. Darker concrete, the heavy floating sphere becomes heavier. The change in surface is rapid in both directions and strengthens the heaviness of the sphere. The floating monolith and its versatility signal that nothing really is what it is. And nothing exists in itself...



The wet- stage- darker complexion, and hidden reflections.



The dry- stage- reflections give the concrete a certain shine.



during the proces of getting wet, the concrete absorbes water and zzzthe reflections disappear.

# Hidden Reflections / Bleeding Concrete