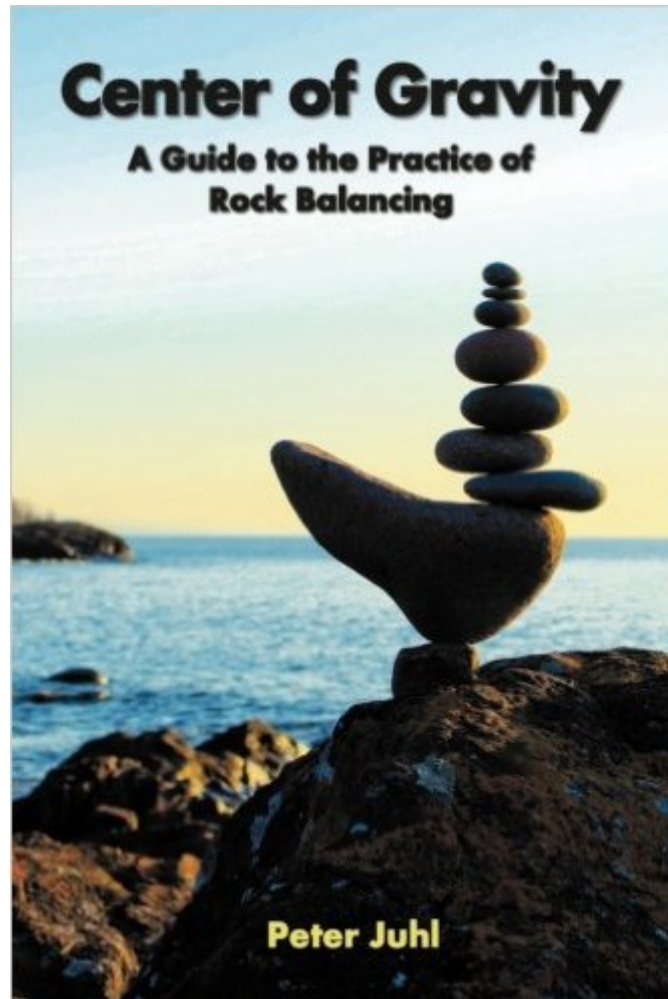


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# Center Of Gravity: A Guide To The Practice Of Rock Balancing



## Synopsis

Rock balancing is a growing art form that uses ordinary rocks to create startling ephemeral sculptures. Artist Peter Juhl tells about how he discovered the magic that could be worked with just a few stones, and how like-minded balancers around the world have found one another, forming a generous and cohesive community. Using photos from well-known balance artists, he illustrates a sampling of popular styles and techniques. The rocks are kept in place by shape, weight and friction alone: No glue, metal rods, photo manipulation, or other artificial means are used. A comprehensive Why and How section first explains the physics behind the art, then gives a detailed tutorial that applies those principles with exercises in real-world balancing. Beginning with the most basic skill, and working up to the more challenging, the tutorial uses plenty of diagrams to illustrate the creation of various styles of balance art. For those who want to take their new interest further, a Beyond the Basics section shows how to create more interesting and compelling work, and how to use photography to capture it. A collection of miscellaneous tips and techniques help to make the creation of this fascinating art easier and more fun. Whether you are new to balancing and want to learn from the ground up, or have some experience and seek to broaden your artistic skills, this book gives you a comprehensive guide and reference to the art of rock balancing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rock balancing... is it an art? A form of meditation? Is it sport? Is it play? A form of worship? In his newly released eBook, *Center of Gravity: A Guide to the Practice of Rock Balancing*, Peter Juhl writes, "I have discussed these questions with other balancers, and most would answer 'Yes' to all of them." Last summer when I interviewed Juhl on my blog at Ennyman's Territory, he had this to

say about what he does. "A good magic trick presents what we know to be a deception and makes us want to believe it's real. A good balanced rock sculpture does the opposite: We know it's real, but want to believe it's a trick." That is the essence of Peter Juhl's art. Peter Juhl's Guide to the Art of Rock Balancing begins with Juhl sharing how his rock balancing turned out to be part of a much grander fellowship of rock balancers. This small fraternity of rock balance artists has congregated in Europe and now stays in touch with one another via social media, sharing insights and photos with one another. Discovering this group and how they fit with the grander tradition was exciting for Juhl. In actuality, the group sees a connection between what they are doing and land art like Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty, except on a smaller scale. Though they differentiate themselves from the conventional stacking that many of us have seen on a trail or at the lake, they respect these first steps at exploration with rock forms. The second section of his book gives names to the various styles, from early rock art to cairns to Inuksuks. This is followed with the critical chapter on the why and how of rock balancing. Juhl explains a few physics lessons and dusts off some calculus to help us understand basic principles that carry through the rest of the book.

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