

Jade 'Tendrils' by Donn Salt

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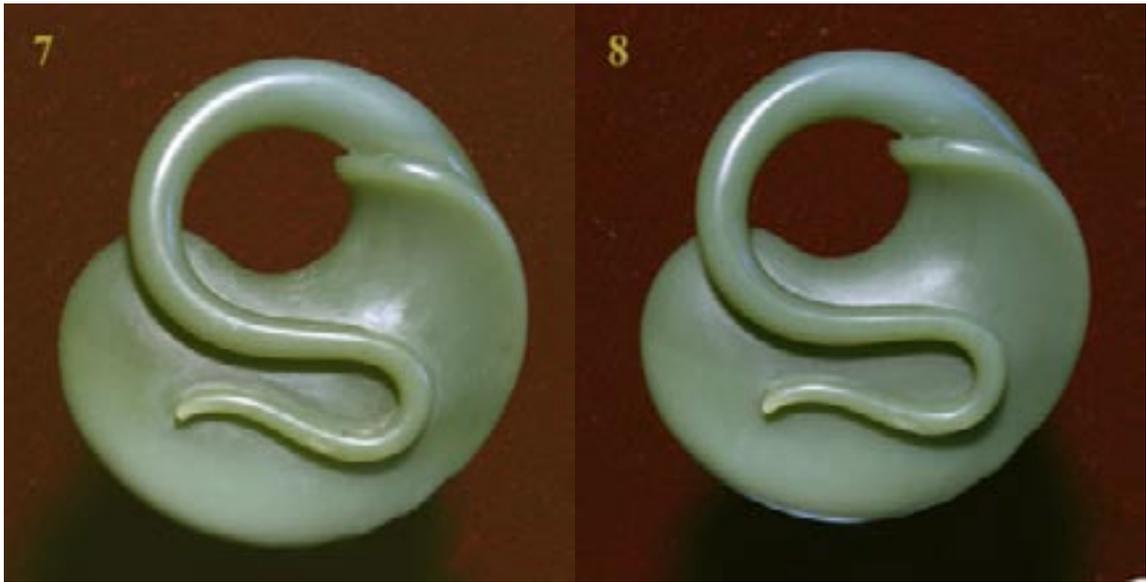


Of possible interest is a 'Tendrils' form under way for a client. Netsuke size as a pendant. Lovely, subdued color gradually blending into darker.

The color is a little off as the coarse surface texture reflects too much light for the camera to read correctly. One of those small idiosyncrasies. Will show truer shades as the carving evolves and the surface is refined.



O.K..... Here are the progressions to the final carving stages....from here on is finishing to required surface textures. Truer color coming through in last pic.... (no.6) Subtle 'vertebrae' detail on the lower right side in pic 6 is felt more on the tactile side of the senses than noticed visually. Couple more days to completion.....



Here it is finished.....A treatise on jade carving would be too much for here and could fill a book. However a quick word to the skills in this forum will no doubt be understood.

The process is 'grinding' more than the common, misleading term of 'cutting' as in bone, ivory or wood. Most of the forming tools today are electroplated nickle entrapping a layer of diamond on the surface. Ranging in size from a 1 mm needle on a 3/32 shaft, as in normal carving burrs to fit a hand piece, like the NSK Janel mentions, to larger 1/4 inch shaft with specific shapes often turned on the lathe and sent off to be plated. These being held in a mounted chuck.

In the case of this piece a 7" sintered diamond wheel for initial shaping, followed by smaller diameter burrs in an 80,000 rpm air driven, 'pencil' die grinder.

Finishing requires hours of hand work rubbing with two to three grades of diamond papers or cloths, 320 grit and finer. Also hard to access areas are dealt to using a similar sequence with silicon carbide 'slipsticks' which can be cut from old lapidary grind wheels and easily shaped to purpose on the diameter grinder. Final finishing with sanding drums, discs and wheels, again often purpose built.

It must be remembered jade is formed in the vagrancies of the earths crust and does not come in a uniform state. Every stone is peculiar to itself and often requires an altered approach. Tight, clean jade is rare but if one is fortunate in obtaining some then the term 'Stone of the Gods' or 'Stone of Heaven' takes on a whole new appreciation.

Trust this helps.....Thank you for the interest.



And last of, an oblique view. Last two pics close to true color. There is a small, partly concealed suspension hole just under the emerging tendril. Mounted at this point prevents the cord from slipping along the taper of the tendril and hanging out of balance.