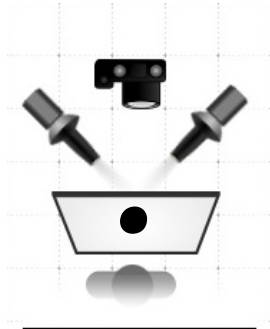


Macro Shots of Crystals and Rocks

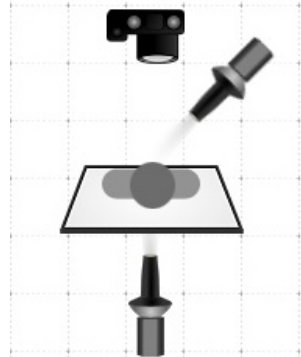
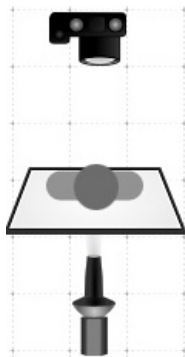
by Celian Diaz

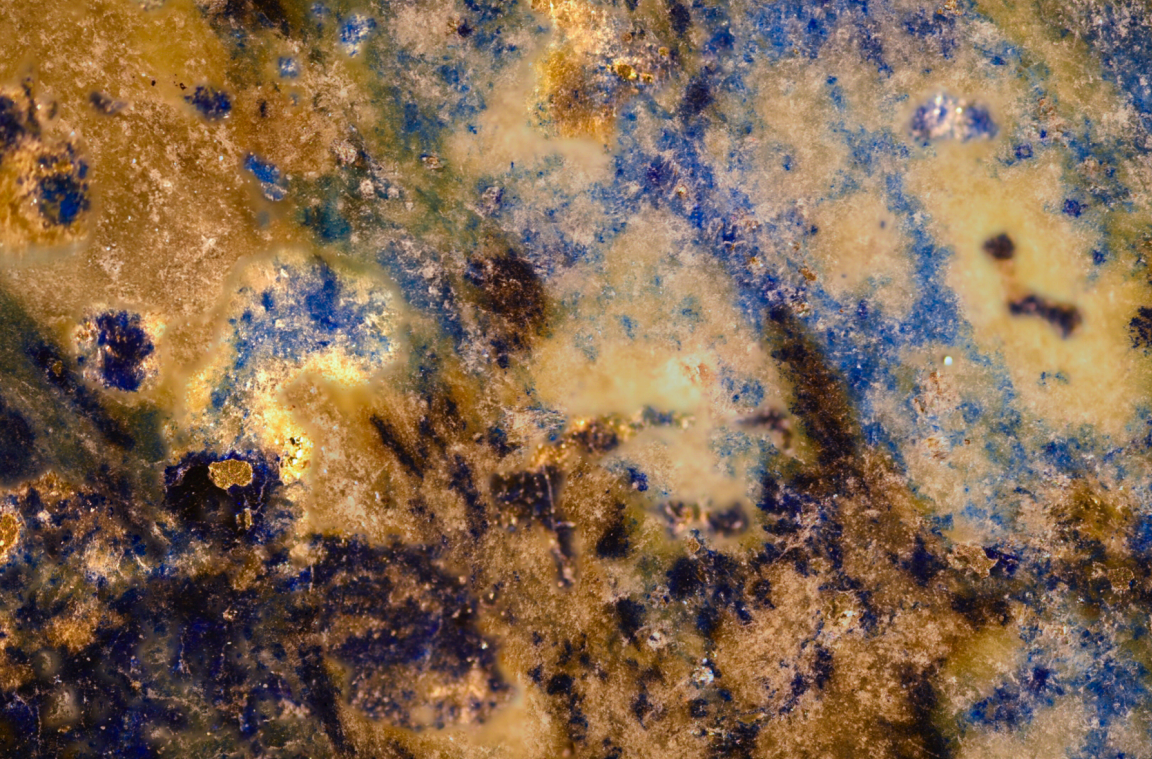
Ever since I was a kid I've been obsessed with collecting cool rocks. As I got older, my fascination morphed into collecting crystals and gems and eventually to tumbling them myself. Some people believe that crystals hold spiritual meanings . While this may not be very scientific, I'm going to talk about the names of each of the rocks, how they're formed, and any social-cultural meanings that have been associated with these crystals.

These are the three main lighting setups used.



* i used a cylindrical diffusion card





Lapis Lazuli

Composition

- Lazurite
- Calcite
- Pyrite

The higher the percentage of lazurite, the darker the blue color.

How it's formed

Lapis is a metamorphic rock so it's formed when limestone or marble is altered by contact or hydrothermal metamorphism near igneous intrusions.

Meanings:

- Lapis is believed to aid in communication by opening up the mind, throat, and heart chakras.
- The name is derived from the Latin word "Lapis" meaning stone and the Persian word "lāzaward" meaning sky or heavens.



Moss Agate

Composition

- Manganese and iron oxides
- Chlorite
- Magnesium oxide

How it's formed

Moss agate is a semi-precious stone that forms through volcanic activity and weathering. And unlike the name it's actually not an agate but rather a Chalcedony with dendritic inclusions of Manganese.

Meanings:

- encourage tranquility and emotional balance



Moonstone

Composition

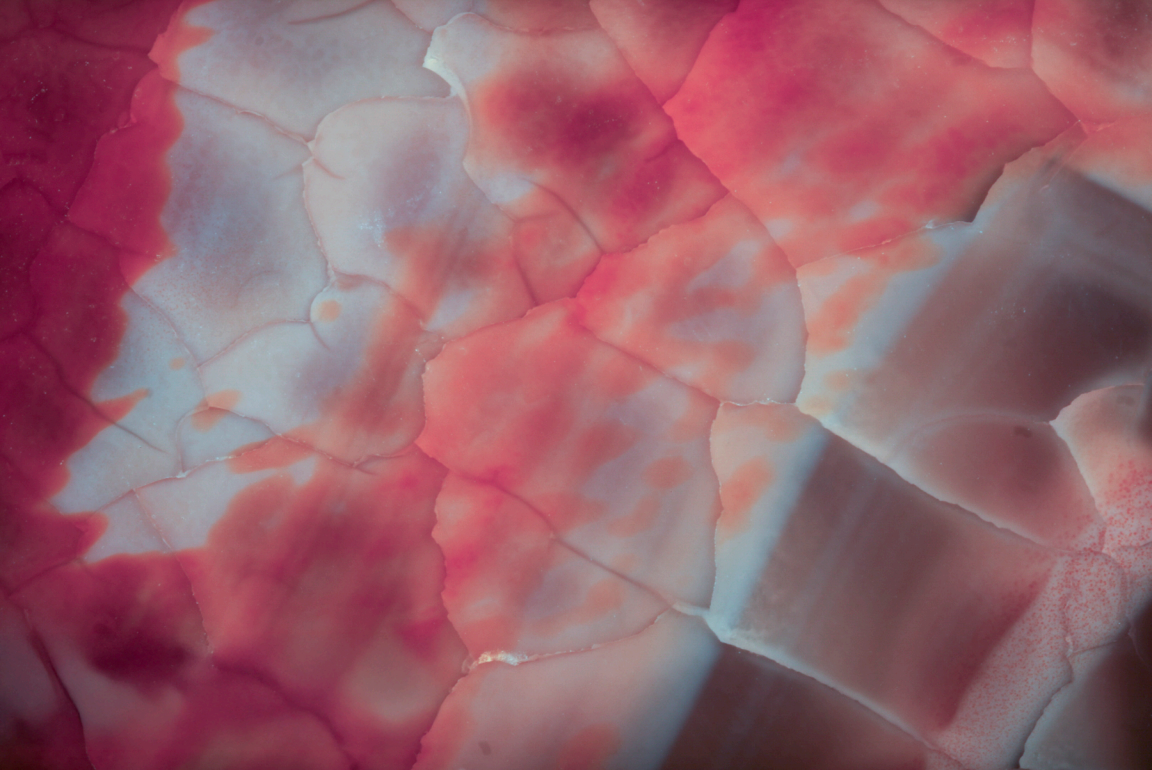
- Sodium potassium aluminum silicate
- Orthoclase
- Albite

How it's formed

Moonstone is a semi-precious gemstone that forms when orthoclase and albite separate into alternating layers under extreme heat and pressure.

Meanings:

- Symbolizes feminine energy
- Intuition, emotional balance, and protection



Snakeskin Fire Agate

Composition

- Natural Carnelians

How its formed

Like other agates, is formed through the sedimentary process, primarily within volcanic and metamorphic rocks. The formation begins with groundwater rich in silica percolating through rock layers. It's a variety of fire agate with this unique textured formation due to the way the minerals crystallized during cooling.

Meanings:

- Vitality
- Helps release past traumas or negative patterns and embrace a new, healthier way of being.



Turritella agate/fossil agate

Composition

- Fossilized snails
- Chalcedony

How it's formed

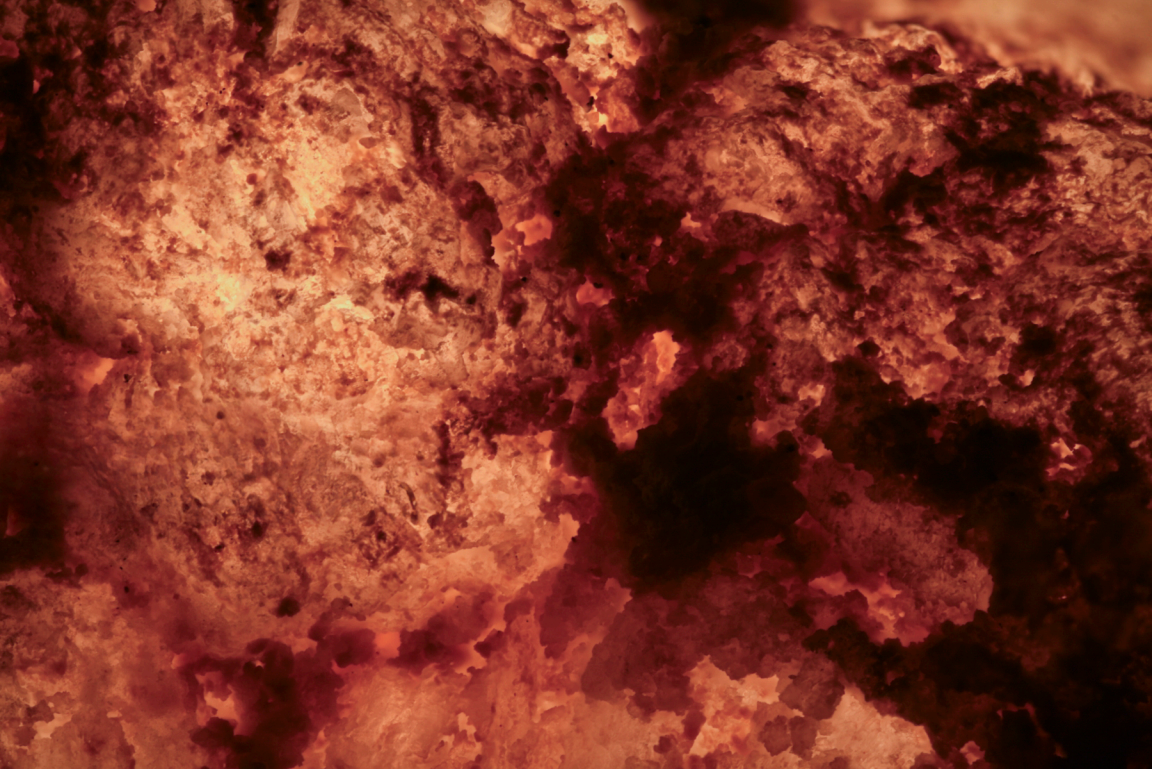
It begins when silica-rich fluids permeate cavities within sedimentary rocks. Over time, these fluids deposit layers of silica, which eventually crystallize and form the agate. The fossilized Turritella snail shells become trapped within the silica-rich solutions and are preserved within the agate.

Meanings:

- Longevity, resilience, and the continuity of life
- Indigenous cultures of North America believed that turritella agate carried the energy of ancient spirits.







The last three images are from a Quartz geode I cracked open myself. Geodes form when air pockets are trapped within rocks, often occurring after volcanic eruptions as lava cools around air bubbles. These pockets create space for groundwater to seep in. However, it's not the water that creates geodes—it carries minerals that remain in the rock after the water evaporates.

I used the back-lit lighting setup to highlight the exterior of the geode since light will pass through it. The most difficult parts of shooting these were finding the right angle without reflections and removing the dust in the crystals.

All imaged were 4x magnification image stacks with roughly around 40 slices each.