

STONE

J. Baron Nicorvo

Jay Baron Nicorvo

We're building a big, great stone.
Our stone is to be a tribute to stone
made of anything but stone.

It all makes sense on paper.

We have the six simple tools:
wedge, lever, wheel,
saw, gear and doodad.

Some joker says, *We need a screw.*

I answer: *As on-site engineer
and acting foreman,
I say the screw's a modified wedge,
so, too, the chisel.
They're luxuries, we don't need them.*

A wiseguy wants me to hand him the widget.

*No widgets manufactured nor distributed.
Also, no thingys, no thingamajigs,
no thingamabobs, gismos, dynamos, doohickeys,
no whatnots, no whatsits, etc.
We have the Goddamn doodad!
The doodad makes all this other junk
obsolete. Besides, we're building
a big, great stone. We must keep things simple.*

Deadbeat asks, *How will our stone
compete with other famous stones?*

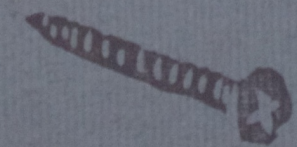
There are no other stones.

*What about the Blarney and Rosetta stones!
Stonehenge, the archetype of manhandled stones!
Every tool produced in the entire Age of Stone!*

The pyramids, stacks and stacks of stone—

*Enough, I say. Don't you see?
The flaw in those stones
is that they are stone.*

Artist: Michelle Froh




KALAMAZOO
BOOK ARTS CENTER

29/92