

88 GALLERY

LONDON



Anonymous

Petrified wood table tops

Petrified wood is the name given to a special type of fossilized remains of terrestrial vegetation. Petrification is the result of a tree or tree-like plants having been replaced by stone via a mineralization process. This involves the organic materials making up cell walls being replicated with minerals (mostly silica in the form of opal, chalcedony, or quartz). Unlike other plant fossils, which are typically impressions or compressions, petrified wood is a three-dimensional representation of the original organic material.

The petrification process occurs underground, when wood becomes buried in water-saturated sediment or volcanic ash. The presence of water reduces the availability of oxygen which inhibits aerobic decomposition by bacteria and fungi. Mineral-laden water flowing through the sediments may lead to permineralization, which occurs when minerals precipitate out of solution filling the interiors of cells and other empty spaces. During replacement, the plant's cell walls act as a template for mineralization.

Approximate dimensions of each piece: 69 cm x 56 cm x 5.5 cm; 66 cm x 66 cm x 5 cm; 60 cm x 48 cm x 5.5 cm

They can sit on legs of 30, 40 or 70 cm high.

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