

# DARK MATTER: THE ART OF ANTHRACITE

BY  
ANDREA  
KRUPP



National Museum of *Industrial* History

**ON VIEW**  
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## **Dark Matter: The Art of Anthracite Coal**

### **Exploring the Cultural and Environmental Significance of Anthracite Coal through Art**

Anthracite coal is a fascinating, sub-subterranean, deep-time material; a bridge between the geological past, where coal is more than a fuel. Displaced from the vein, its presence above ground is an opportunity to explore anthracite's complex cultural and environmental significance, raise awareness of the invisible energy systems that connect us, and to see coal in a new way. The artist's aim is to create a poetic and aesthetic encounter between the viewer and Pennsylvania anthracite coal.

Today, we tend to conceptualize energy in abstract terms, disconnected from the tangible materials that fuel our daily lives. Although coal is almost invisible in the urban landscape, it still powers our lights and its carbon is present in many daily products. Krupp's carvings provide a physical representation of the coal itself, making it a visual, tangible experience.

In the carvings exhibited here, pieces of anthracite make self-referential gestures - in the form of coal-port stockpiles, culm banks, and even the darkness of the coal vein itself - to express ideas about dislocation, systems of energy, nature, and geological time. The material comes from the Mammoth Vein, and was supplied by Blaschak Anthracite.

For sales and other inquiries please contact Andrea by email: [andreakrupp@mac.com](mailto:andreakrupp@mac.com)

National Museum of Industrial History

602 E. 2ND ST. BETHLEHEM, PA | 610.694.6644 | [INFO@NMIH.ORG](mailto:INFO@NMIH.ORG)