

Witho Worms

Cette montagne c'est moi

2006 - 2011

In January 2006 Witho Worms started to photograph terrils or slagheaps in Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Wales. These mountains are the visual remnants of the coal mining industry. In Europe these black pyramids are the symbols of a vanishing era that began with the industrial revolution and has now evolved into an age dominated by binary code.

“Cette montagne c'est moi is about me. Translated literally, it means ‘This mountain that's me’. It was initially an association of image and meaning that let to the subject matter. The carbon in coal is the same carbon referred to in carbon printing. Carbon printing is a photographic printing process that is excellently suited for reproducing dark tones. Moreover, the black triangle of a coal mountain silhouetted in the landscape is a fitting sequel to my earlier photographs of Dutch landscapes comprised of rectangles. For this project I developed a variation on the carbon printing process, a photographic printing technique from the 19th century. I took a bit of coal from every mountain I photographed. I then ground this coal into a pigment that I used to make photographic paper. I used this paper to make a print of a mountain with the coal originating from that mountain. In other words, the object of the photo, the mountain, has become one with the subject of the photo, the print itself.

68 slagheaps, coal prints, 12×20 inch large format photography. Edition of 5 + 2 artist proofs.



Chelm Śląski I, Poland



Niewiadom, Poland



*Farciennes (Chemin d'Aiseau),
Belgium*



Haillicourt, France



Carvin, France



Camphausen, Germany



Bochum, Germany



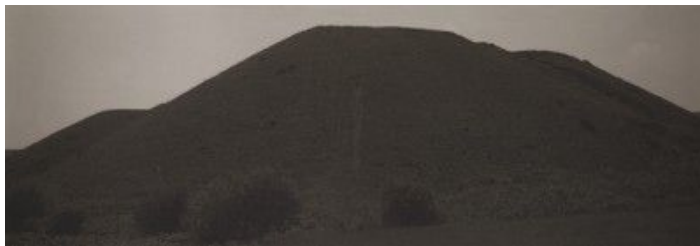
Herzogenrath, Germany



Setterich, Germany



Maerdy, Wales



Gelli, Wales