

**Title:** *DARK MATTER*

**Dimensions:** 2 panels and bases; each panel approx. 20"H x 71"W x 1"T

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**Program:** Bachelor of Art

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*Dark Matter* was inspired by the astronomy theory of invisible, non-luminous matter. While constituting the majority of matter in the universe, dark matter is observable only because of its' gravitational effects on light and on visible material. The horrors of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and current manifestations of the systemic aggression towards African Americans constitute another kind of *Dark Matter*.

Research of the manifests of slaver vessels, first person accounts of slaves and traders, and an investigation of insurance records informed the sculpture. Relevant historical documents including schematics of slave ships revealed how to process "Black gold" and maximize profits.

Visual metaphors include 1) Ambrosia Birds-Eye maple wood chosen for the two panels forming the lower and mid-decks connecting the tiny "birds-eyes" of the grain pattern to the heads of the slaves; 2) burned-in images referring to the violent act of branding slaves; 3) the CNC-router-shaping of the ripple pattern of one drop of water in the Atlantic Ocean alludes to the fact that this vessel was only one of the thousands which transported and often lost such "human cargo".

