

JEWELRY

David Yurman loans crystal vein to American Museum of Natural History

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With the loan of a 4,000-pound ultra-clear quartz installation, the jeweler offers hands-on education to those visiting the New York landmark. Image courtesy of David Yurman

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. jeweler David Yurman is bringing together a love of gems, geology and education.

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The company has loaned a 70-foot vein of clear crystal quartz to the newly-renovated American Museum of Natural History. Painstakingly pieced together to replicate its natural state, the 19-foot-long "Yurman Family Crystalline Pass" installation offers hands-on education to those visiting the New York City landmark.

"As you'll see in our collections, so much of what we do is all about the beauty of the earth, what comes to us naturally every stone," said Sybil Yurman, cofounder of [David Yurman](#), in a statement.

"We hope that everyone who sees the Crystalline Pass feels as inspired as we do by nature's infinite possibilities."

Educational gems

The apparatus connects the American Museum of Natural History's newly-renovated Allison and Roberto Mignone Halls of Gems and Minerals, home to over 5,000 gems including those donated by the Yurman family from their personal collections to the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation, a recent addition to the institution.

The planet is a central source of inspiration for the company, a muse reflected in recent advertising campaigns ([see story](#)). As a patron of raw, naturally-formed stones across the brand's collections, the installation recalls David Yurman's longstanding appreciation of nature's gems.

"When I saw the expanse of the crystal vein at the Vortex mine, I thought if we could recreate this, it would be dramatic, beautiful, and informative about geology," said George Harlow, curator emeritus of the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at the American Museum of Natural History, in a statement.



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A post shared by David Yurman (@davidyurman)

"The idea is to both show something that is fantastic and to educate people about what it represents."

The pass recreates the large mineral vein in Arkansas' Ouachita Mountains, made up of 4,000 pounds of clear crystalline quartz from the site. David Yurman notes that the vessel began forming about 485 million years ago.



Members of the Yurman family frequented Arkansas' Avant mining site for the excavation, which took many years to complete. Image credit: David Yurman

Geologists carefully removed topsoil layers and hard rock bit by bit, eventually reaching the crystals in the Vortex Vein, which had to be removed by hand.

As of May 4, 2023, those wanting to learn about crystal formation or simply want to see something beautiful have access to the wonder, an active addition to a series of local philanthropic causes spearheaded by the brand ([see story](#)).

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