

press release

KUNSTHAL ROTTERDAM

Antony Gormley Between you and me

12 July to 14 September 2008

This summer Kunsthall Rotterdam dedicates an exhibition to the internationally renowned contemporary artist Antony Gormley, the first one devoted to the sculptor in the Netherlands. The exhibition marks the purchase of the art work entitled *Another Time II*, which will be permanently positioned at the park side of the Kunsthall. During the exhibition, the sculpture is part of a spectacular installation entitled *Event Horizon*, which will be spread over eighteen buildings, silhouetted against the skyline of Rotterdam. In the monumental daylight hall of the building by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, Gormley stages two of his prominent installations, *Allotment II* (1996) and *Critical Mass II* (1995), together weighing as much as 100 tons, which have been transported to the Kunsthall by special flatbed trailers.

Between you and me

Antony Gormley radically re-investigates the central theme of art: human being. His powerful sculptures make us aware of the space we (literally) occupy. The basis of his oeuvre is the relation between 'internal' and 'external', the space inside and outside the human body. The exhibition focuses on the installations *Allotment II* and *Critical Mass II*, which both engage with the architecture of the Kunsthall, as well as a selection of key historical works. In his investigation of the physical boundaries of the human body, Gormley often uses moulds of his own body, as with the compelling work *Sense* (1991) which presents this body as a concentrated silent space locked in concrete. *Critical Mass II* is built up from sixty cast-iron moulds of Gormley thrown on the ground and suspended in the air. *Allotment II* consists of three hundred life-sized concrete elements based on the exact same number of inhabitants of the city of Malmö, Sweden. The petrified landscape of bunker-like figures conveys a claustrophobic and terrifying image of the collective urban body.

Event Horizon

To Gormley the (lived) interaction between visitor and work is essential. That is why he chooses to work in public space. For *Event Horizon*, Gormley will position 21 moulds of his body on the roofs of a number of prominent buildings, amongst which Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Erasmus MC, Hogeschool Rotterdam and the Euromast, all situated within a radius of 1 kilometer from the Kunsthall. The figures confuse the perception of passengers-by, a disturbing infection of Rotterdam for both inhabitants and visitors alike. Attention is also paid to the project entitled *Exposure*, the 6th Flevoland landscape commission in Lelystad, to be completed in 2008. *Exposure* is a squatting 25-metre high body-space-frame overlooking the Markermeer. In size and impact *Exposure* can be ranged amongst big projects such as *the Angel of the North*.

Antony Gormley

Antony Gormley (1950) studied at Goldsmiths College. In 1994 he won the prestigious British Turner Prize. He is internationally renowned for major art projects, such as *Angel of the North* (1998, Gateshead) and *Another Place* (1997), which is now permanently stationed at Crosby Beach, Liverpool. In the Netherlands, his work *Domain Field* was displayed in the AaBe factories in Tilburg during the exhibition *Space Now and Then* (2005).

The exhibition travels onwards to the Musée d'Art Contemporain in St. Etienne, France (September 2008 – February 2009) and to the Artium Museum in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country (March – September 2009).

A special book on *Event Horizon* and *Another Time II* is to appear this summer through Veenman Publishers, and Gallery Thaddaeus Ropac is publishing a catalogue to accompany the traveling exhibition (ISBN 2910055-1-0).

Press preview with guided tour

The press preview of the exhibition *Between you and me* will take place on **Friday afternoon July 11th** with a guided tour between 3 and 4 p.m. by Antony Gormley himself. If you would like to attend this press meeting you can subscribe at communicatie@kunsthall.nl



For additional press information and/or photographs, please contact the Communications Department of the Kunsthall Rotterdam: Mariëtte Maaskant, tel: +31 (0)10 4400321 / +31-(0)6 14437789; Willemijn van Drunen, tel: +31 (0)10 4400323 / 06-15830703; fax: +31 (0) 10 4367152, email: communicatie@kunsthall.nl

Please include our telephone number and website in your publication: **info + 31 (0) 10 4400301, www.kunsthall.nl**
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