

BURNETT MILLER
G A L L E R Y

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Artist: ANTONY GORMLEY
Title: *Baring Light*
Dates: 5 January through 17 February, 1990
Location: BURNETT MILLER GALLERY
964 North La Brea Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90038
(213) 874. 4757/ FAX (213) 874. 7478

The Burnett Miller Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of Antony Gormley's second one-man exhibition in Los Angeles.

Continuing his search for contemporary images of freedom the main work in this exhibition is a 27 foot wing span " Case For An Angel ", a lead covered mould taken from the artists own body which has been married to specially made glider wings. The work stands upright, axial to the space. The wings forming a barrier, or membrane across it. The viewer is implicated in a field that is a foil to passage or a barrier to vision- while also holding the promise of transcendence.

Encoded in its somatic effect is the feeling (common to Gormley's work as a whole) of the hubris of technological man- as well as of the stillness and balance that are requirements of an impending flight.

Unlike other artists, notably Keifer, who has been obsessed with the images of Icarus, Gormley is not content to deal simply with the bankruptcy of the spiritual in our time, but attempts to project the implications of the work forward to the future.

Gormley's work can be seen as a continuation of a northern romantic tradition and dark warnings with promises of a flight to another world are also embodied in " seeds " a small pile of hundreds of lead bullets- also projectiles with the potential for flight - which are the agency for transference from one level of existence to another.

BURNETT MILLER

G A L L E R Y

Gormley has now used lead for over ten years- a material associated with Nigredo the black stage of putrifaction at the foundation of the alchemical process of sublimation. It is integral to the meaning of the work. It is also the way that lead both absorbs and reflects light, an elusive quality that it shares with water, which amplifies a sense of transmutation.

In the second room is a single work " Baring Light " a case for a four month old girl child with its navel plugged with a red rubber stopper. This becomes the focus of energy for the entire room-as the point of transference between the potential within the case and the space without.

In all the works exhibited there is a promise and an invitation for change, an engagement with the future of the world in which man is seen as the agent. For this reason the necessary means may be figurative but the subject is consciousness in its relation to space and to matter.

Gormley has been invited to represent Britain this year in two British Council group exhibitions that will travel in Russia and Japan. He has completed a number of important public commissions notably for Martinsplatz, Kassel West Germany and the city walls Derry, Northern Ireland.