

For the media, 13 November 2008

ANTONY GORMLEY (b. 1950)

British sculptor Antony Gormley, artist making the first IHME Project, has over the past 20 years redefined the portrayal of the human figure in art. His piece *Clay and the Collective Body*, to be presented in Helsinki in spring 2009, continues his exploration of the collective body that started in the late 1990s.

Allotment (1996) at the Malmö Konsthall was the first work in which Gormley investigated the human condition through the collective body – bodies of the members of the community– instead of his own body. His subsequent works, such as *Domain Field* (2003), *Field* (1992–2003) and *Inside Australia* (2002–2003), have continued the exploration of these issues. His piece *Clay and the Collective Body* in Helsinki will examine, from the perspective of participatory art, the fundamental questions of art, such as who make art, how is it made and who it is for.

These questions also lie behind Gormley's proposal for a new artwork, *One and Other*, selected for presentation at the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in London next year. Having stood empty from 1841 to 1999, the plinth has since the start of the millennium served as a challenge for contemporary artists and sculptors, with works by prominent artists housed on the plinth for a year or two each. Gormley's piece will be launched in summer 2009, and will involve 2,400 volunteer members of the public who will stand on the plinth one at a time, for one hour, 24 hours a day.

Works by Gormley are currently on show at the British Museum in London in an exhibition entitled *Statuephilia: Modern Sculptors at the British Museum* (8 October 2008– 25 January 2009). Gormley's extensive touring solo exhibition *Between You and Me* will be on show at Saint Etienne, France, (Musée d'art moderne) from 12 October 2008 to 25 January 2009. From France the exhibition will travel to Artium Museum (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, 18 March – 13 October 2009). The tour started in Kunsthal Rotterdam 12 July and will finish 13 September 2008.

Antony Gormley will open his next solo exhibition in Monterrey, Mexico, on 21 November 2008, and it will close 8 March 2009.

Additional information about Antony Gormley and interview booking

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Media material will be available from 13 November 2008 at the following addresses:

- Media releases: www.proartefoundation.fi
- Press images: www.proartefoundation.fi/press
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