

ANTONY GORMLEY

MODEL ROOM, 2012

Making is a form of physical thinking. It is difficult to know whether these things - some very tentative, some more confident - made themselves, or whether they were made. Sitting at a table, sticking sticks together, making something that might be a tower or might become a loose chain of frames, the forms evolve almost like a game. This model room shares something fluid between mass and space, drawing and object, solid and void, darkness and light, and anyone can make the connections. I think of these tables as raised beds showing different ways of growing things. Some, like SPACE STATION, are actual models that we used to make finished works. Others are just loose ideas. All are in conversation with each other. Working at different scales allows openness and play; you could be an ant, a mouse or an elephant and at each scale what is apprehended changes. For me, sculpture is increasingly about seeing how things might cohere, putting one thing against, on top of, to the side of or below another, tentatively drawing places and spaces that become frames and objects. It's not particularly goal-oriented; rather, it has to do with allowing bodies to become places. There is no end to the possibilities. The gaps created between things when they fall or the way one form overtakes another when they expand excites and intrigues me. It is as much about how form eats space or space eats mass as it is about form itself. How does feeling become involved with form? What calls to us or what blocks us? What allows a thing - a space, a place, a structure - to summon our feeling? These are things and ideas. They are physical thinking manifested as line, as plane, as mass, as dark, as light, as iron, as wood, as stone, as plastic. Sometimes the material is just a carrier, sometimes it is the thing. These pieces were made by many hands, in many ways guided by a kind of collective urge to make things that extend into space and call on us to find our place within them.

The MODEL ROOM was exhibited as part of the MODEL exhibition at White Cube Bermondsey, 2012.
