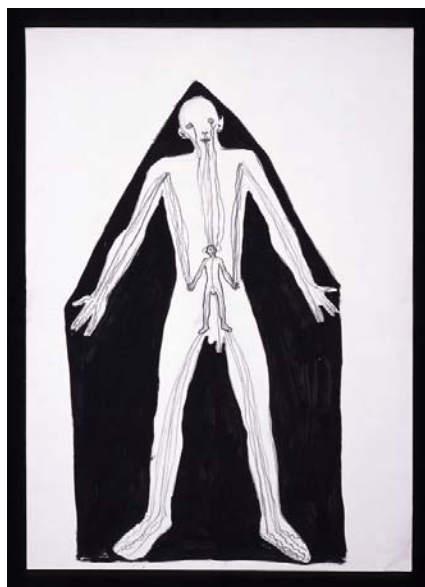


Antony Gormley *Drawing Space*



Antony Gormley, *Mansion*, 1982
Black pigment, oil, charcoal on paper, 84 x 60 cm

MACRO

Via Reggio Emilia, 54 - 00198 Rome
Second floor, on the left

26 October 2010 - 6 February 2011

Curated by Luca Massimo Barbero and Anna
Moszynska

Opening: 25 October 2010

Open to the public: 26 October 2010

MACRO – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma – is showing *Drawing Space* an exhibition by Antony Gormley, with over 80 drawings and 4 sculptures by the British artist.

Drawing Space will be the largest exhibition in Italy to date of drawings by critically acclaimed artist Antony Gormley (born London, 1950). The exhibition will comprise more than eighty works on paper from 1981 to the present day. The show brings together many hitherto unseen works from private collections, the artist's studio and a key work from the British Museum and celebrates the way that drawing and sculpture have continually played off each other throughout the artist's 30 year career. The works chart how the emphasis of Gormley's art has shifted from a concern with mass and volume to one of drawing space itself. Four key sculptures accompany the graphic works showing how line has migrated from the surface of the paper to architectural space with an intensity that connects both mediums. The exhibition is curated by Luca Massimo Barbero, director of MACRO and academic and critic Anna Moszynska.

Drawing has always been a core part of Gormley's work. Often made at night it has a spontaneity and directness that exploits all the freedoms of line, stain and pigment in a range of fluid and often unusual materials. For the artist, drawing is a means of moving away from the slow process of sculpture and of thinking and feeling beyond the body, into the abstracted condition of architecture: deep space, dark water, and the strata of geological time. Always experimental and testing the limits of the medium in moments of acute concentration, the drawings record intimate movements of the hand, the body and the artist's unconscious intuition. They have a range and intensity that characterises them as works in their own right, not simply sculptural studies. Through the behaviour of line, mineral and medium the drawings become a means by which the process of "seeing in making" is revealed.

Drawing Space begins with diagrammatic works from 1981, that the artist considers as the basis for his sculpture: "without these drawings my sculpture would not have been possible". The exhibition continues with the

night landscapes of the 1990s where connections are sought between “the body as a place” and “space at large”, and concludes with the most recent linear chapter of the work, where line is liberated from the burden of description and celebrated as an energising principle used to activate the space for the viewer. The exhibition is the first show that considers the evolution of Gormley’s works on paper and the relationship that these graphic explorations have to the development of his sculpture.

The accompanying exhibition catalogue published by Electa Mondadori (in English and Italian) retraces the development of the drawings. It includes an essay by Anna Moszynska, who examines the historical and critical significance of this element of Gormley’s work. Luca Massimo Barbero engages in an enlightening conversation with the artist, focusing on the powerful tensions contained within his vision. The lavishly illustrated essays explain and clarify the mental and physical processes behind this extraordinary graphic practice.

Antony Gormley was born in London in 1950. His work has been exhibited extensively throughout the UK, with solo shows at the Whitechapel, Tate, Hayward and the British Museum and internationally at the Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC, Malmö Konsthall, the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria and Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City. He has participated in group shows at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Venice Biennale and Kassel Documenta 8. Critically acclaimed permanent works include Angel of the North (Gateshead, Newcastle), Another Place (Crosby Beach, Liverpool), Habitat (Anchorage, United States) and Exposure (Lelystad, The Netherlands).

The exhibition “Drawing Space” by Antony Gormley is an event promoted by Roma Capitale, Assessorato alle Politiche Culturali e della Comunicazione – Sovrintendenza ai Beni Culturali

MACRO

Via Reggio Emilia 54, Rome

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MACROTICKET: MACRO + MACRO Testaccio (combined ticket) full: € 4.50; reduced: € 3.00 – validity: 7 days.

*Ticket prices are subject to variation during special events or temporary exhibitions.

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