

# BALTIC

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## **ANTONY GORMLEY, *DOMAIN FIELD***

**Artist Antony Gormley returns to the north east region** to begin work on a major new commission for BALTIC, *Domain Field*. The selection process of volunteers for body moulding begins this weekend with two introductory talks by the artist. The talks will address an invited audience of regional volunteers who will come together for the first time at BALTIC. The sessions take place on Saturday 8 February, from 10.00 – 11.00 and 11.00 – 12.00, in Level 4 art space. (Media contacts interested in attending the public sessions see below notes to Editors)

Following the recent call for regional volunteers to be involved in the project, BALTIC has received a fantastic response from Newcastle and Gateshead residents. So far, **more than 900 people of all ages and backgrounds have come forward** to register their interest in having their bodies moulded as part of the project.

**Antony Gormley will lead the introductory sessions** in which volunteers will have the chance to find out more about the project. Gormley will fully explain the aims of the project, the ideas behind it and the processes involved. Of these, 240 volunteers will be selected for casting. The selection will be based on getting a complete cross-section of the public from age 5 – 95.

**Members of the public have a unique opportunity to follow the progress of the making of *Domain Field*** from start to finish. From the week commencing Monday 17 February level 4 art space at BALTIC will become the site for the creation of this new commission, and visitors will be able to watch the whole process from Level 5 viewing space. Averaging at 6 – 8 casts per day and facilitated by 8 teams of trained casters, body moulding will take place over approximately one month, followed by the welding of the finished *Domains* also taking place and visible to the public on Level 4.

Visitors will be able to see the full process of the creation of *Domain Field* which will include volunteers and moulders coming and going, the preparation of materials for moulding, measuring of volunteers and finished moulds being brought to front and hung up to dry on specially made racks. Moulding itself will take place in specially installed cubicles towards the back of the gallery space. ***Domain Field* opens to the public on 17 May 2003, is exhibited alongside other major works, and runs until 25 August 2003.** ends

# Notes to Editors

**There is an opportunity for interested media contacts to attend the second session on Saturday 8 February. Arrival is 10.45 for 11.00, with registration beside the BALTIC Book Shop on Ground Level. Press will be admitted to Level 5 viewing platform, where they will be able to overlook the session taking place on level 4. There will also be opportunities for filming and stills photography.**

Anthony Gormley's *Domain Field* is an installation of over 200 "Domain" sculptures that will occupy the entire 800 square metres of Level 4 art space at BALTIC.

Local volunteers aged between 5 and 95 have been invited to be moulded in plaster as an essential part of the process of making this piece. This highly ambitious work will be made entirely within the art factory of BALTIC. Participants, who will need to be naked, will be moulded by teams of specially trained staff. Each participant will be asked to stand in a comfortable way while a full plaster body mould is made, including head and arms. The moulds will be used to construct individual "Domain" sculptures made of stainless steel bars of various lengths, and the finished installation will include a collection of over 240 of these, each sculpture evoking the particular presence of a living inhabitant of Gateshead-Newcastle.

The overall impression created will be a sparkling myriad of stainless steel elements - giving a sense of a vast energy field, something like a mist cloud covering the lower portion of the exhibition space. In the exhibition at BALTIC, which runs from 17 May – 25 August 2003, *Domain Field* will be installed in Level 4 art space, with another of Gormley's works dealing with the collective body, *Allotment*, 300 "Rooms" made for 300 living inhabitants of Malmo 5 years ago, on the floor below. The viewers' passage through space on the two floors will be very different: wandering through a labyrinth of concrete bunkers in *Allotment*, or negotiating a field of spiky presences in *Domain Field*. The viewing platform on the fifth floor will allow visitors to watch the passage of others through the Field. .

BALTIC, the major new international centre for contemporary art, opened on 13 July 2002. The landmark building is situated on the south bank of the River Tyne, Gateshead, in the North of England. The £46m project has transformed the former Baltic Flour Mills, a disused 1950s grain warehouse, into a leading international contemporary arts venue, one of the biggest temporary art spaces in Europe.

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Gallery opening hours: Monday – Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10.00 – 19.00; Thursday 10.00 – 22.00; Sunday 10.00 – 17.00. Last entry is half an hour before closing. Admission to BALTIC is free

Spring season at BALTIC supported by



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