



SPOTLIGHT ON ANTONY GORMLEY: FIELD FOR THE BRITISH ISLES

Church of Saint Mary, Shrewsbury and
Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery (Rowley's House)
29 September – 4 November 2001

Field for the British Isles is one of Antony Gormley's best loved works of art featuring 40,000 clay figures. Since its acquisition by the Arts Council Collection in 1996, *Field* has been seen by around 250,000 visitors in Gateshead, London, Colchester, Salisbury, Sheffield, St Ives and Aberystwyth. This National Touring Exhibition from the Hayward Gallery, comes to The Churches Conservation Trust's Church of Saint Mary, Shrewsbury, in September. To complement the exhibition, display's on the making of *Field*, a set of 12 prints, *Bearing Light* and Antony Gormley's drawing *Art* will be on show at the Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery from 29 September to 17 November,

Winner of the 1994 Turner Prize, Antony Gormley is renowned for his distinctive representations of the human form. Gormley has described *Field* as '...twenty-five tons of clay energised by fire, sensitised by touch and made conscious by being given eyes...a field of gazes which looks at the observer making him or her its subject'. This arresting installation is a sea of thousands of miniature terracotta figures, clustered together. Some stand out because of their size and character, others are greyer than the earthy reds of the majority. The overall sight is both captivating and mesmerising.

The figures were handmade by 100 people, aged seven to 70, from a community in St Helen's, Merseyside in 1993. Every time *Field* is exhibited it takes about a week to install by a team of volunteers. Since 1993, *Field* has been seen in a diverse range of sites including a trainshed, a cathedral, a gallery, and a warehouse. Courtesy of The Churches Conservation Trust, *Field* will, for the first time, be displayed within a Church.

more/over

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Field for the British Isles was bought with the support of the Henry Moore Foundation and the National Art Collections Fund, Britain's leading art charity.

The exhibition is accompanied by a Spotlight leaflet with a text by Chief Art Critic of *The Guardian*, Adrian Searle, priced at 50p.

Spotlight exhibitions focus on significant works by major artists in the Arts Council Collection, and tour to galleries all over the country. Some of these works have been acquired recently; others are among the most famous historical works in the Collection. Spotlight on Kenneth Martin is currently on tour featuring his paintings, sculptures and drawings.

The Arts Council Collection is one of the largest collections of modern and contemporary British art in the world and is managed by the Hayward Gallery on behalf of the Arts Council of England. It has over 7,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs by most of Britain's leading artists. The Collection has been built up since 1946 and lends work to public buildings around the country and to exhibitions in Britain and abroad.

The Churches Conservation Trust has been set up to care for churches of historic and architectural importance, which are no longer needed for parish use.
Contact: 89 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DH
Tel: 020 7936 2285
www.visitchurches.org.uk

Church of Saint Mary, St Mary's Street, Shrewsbury,
Tel: 01743 361196 (exhibition enquiries)
Tel: 01743 357006 (Church of St Mary enquiries)
Opening hours: Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm; Sunday 10am – 4pm.
Admission free

Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery (Rowley's House), Barker Street,
Shrewsbury, SY1 1QH
Tel: 01743 361196
Opening hours: Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm; Sunday 10am – 4pm.
Admission free

**Please note: from 5 - 17 November, opening hours will be
Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm**

Public enquiries about National Touring Exhibitions 020 7921 0837

**For further press information and photographs, please contact
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fax 020 7921 0663 or e-mail afitch@hayward.org.uk**