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PRESS NOTICE

ANTONY GORMLEY - New Sculpture

12 September - 7 October

GALLERY

ANTONY GORMLEY speaks neither the scientific language of the psychoanalyst nor the romantic language of the aesthete, but rather the deep language recognised by the anthropologists under whom he studied some years ago, a language rooted in visceral, earthbound symbolism. His sculpture has as a result a physical presence, integrity and spiritual fulness unusual in contemporary art.

Walking into the Gallery you are confronted by an enormous lead-encased cloud, which in spite of its massiveness and overbearing weight maintains a sense of the cloud's insubstantiality and refusal to be trapped into form. Further in, a life-sized figure places a tentative foot forward, on his head a crouching clay incubus or conscience, on the floor - projected as a long metallic shadow - another possible extension of the main figure's personality.

There is a delicate inevitability about Gormley's figures, perhaps because he is so deeply concerned with the process of making, breathing life and meaning into inanimate rock or metal or clay. Continuing a debate on where art originates, and basing much of his figure work on plaster and fibreglass moulds taken from his own body over which he hammers a lead skin, he has now extended his aims to include making the imaginary and dreamlike real. More sympathetic in this to the aims of contemporary painters than to the formalist ambitions of many sculptors, and unique among his generation in dealing primarily with the figure, Gormley produces an art that is charged with a profound awareness of the big and little fears, the universal but eerily everyday traumas of our age. Faced with these abstract fragilities, however, Gormley reaffirms with increased conviction in his new work his faith in the transcending powers of the human spirit.

This, Gormley's first individual public exhibition since his Whitechapel show of 1981, will travel to the Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, from 24 November to 22 December. His recent exhibitions include the Hayward 'Sculpture Show' and the Tate Gallery's 'New Art' last summer, and a one man show at Salvatore Ala in New York earlier this year.

ADMISSION FREE

Open Tues - Sun 12.00 - 8pm

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