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**The Alan Cristea Gallery at  
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## Antony Gormley: CAST

13 May - 2 July 2016

Private view Thursday 12 May, 6 - 7.30 pm

An exhibition of new prints by Antony Gormley, one of Britain's most widely acclaimed artists, will be unveiled from 13 May - 2 July 2016. Marking his first project and exhibition with the Alan Cristea Gallery, Antony Gormley has made a series of works that consider how our physical freedom and imaginative potential is increasingly conditioned by the built environment.

Installed across both galleries are a number of large woodblock prints based on seven distinct body poses. They reinterpret anatomy in the language of architecture and relate to a key work in the artist's recent practice, *Expansion Field* (2014) which applies the principles of an expanding universe to the subjective space of the body. At nearly three metres in height, the prints are made from blocks of sawn plywood to create multiple, ghost-like impressions of a bodily architecture.



The *Woodblocks* are interspersed with a series of crude oil and petroleum jelly *Body Prints* (pictured). The transfer is achieved by Gormley falling directly onto the paper, the weight of his body leaving a corresponding print. The sacral use of crude oil as representative of the "blood of the earth" highlights our dependency on the planet's solar memory.

Experienced in dialogue with each other, the tension between the immediacy of the *Body Prints* and the elusiveness of the multi-layered *Woodblocks* is made apparent. Whether through the indexical trace of wood or skin, both series of prints register, like a shadow, footprint or photograph, a lived moment in time.

Alongside are two further series of prints which also explore the fundamentals of printmaking. Ten aquatints (*Matrix I - X*) constructed from single plates carry the silhouette of architectural blocks printed one on top of the other. This accumulation of black conveys a sense of inner embodied darkness. Each plate is created with rosin ground by hand, the resulting particles gently sifted through a sieve before being heated to make a granular ground.

The aquatints are juxtaposed with a suite of linear etchings made with a hard needle. Whilst they return to a graphic mode of representation, they also evoke states of embodiment and freedom; an enmeshment within a bounded body and release into space.

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## **NOTES**

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by art historian and critic James Hall, whose most recent book *The Self-Portrait: A Cultural History*, was published by Thames and Hudson in 2014.

'Antony Gormley: CAST' is the last exhibition to be shown in Alan Cristea's gallery spaces at 31 and 34 Cork Street before the gallery relocates to St. James's in Autumn 2016.

The sculpture series, *Expansion Field* (2014), consists of 60 individual sculptures fabricated from Corten steel, each derived directly from different postures of the human body. The conceptual basis of this work and its disciplined spatial arrangement engage the viewer in a first-hand experience of space and time, while drawing on references from prehistory, to Minimal and Body Art.

### **About the artist**

Antony Gormley is widely acclaimed for his sculptures, installations and public artworks that investigate the relationship of the human body to space. His work has developed the potential opened up by sculpture since the 1960s through a critical engagement with both his own body and those of others in a way that confronts fundamental questions of where human beings stand in relation to nature and the cosmos. Gormley continually tries to identify the space of art as a place of becoming in which new behaviours, thoughts and feelings can arise.

Gormley's work has been widely exhibited throughout the UK and internationally with exhibitions at Forte di Belvedere, Florence (2015); Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (2014); Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia (2012); Deichtorhallen, Hamburg (2012); The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg (2011); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2010); Hayward Gallery, London (2007); Malmö Konsthall, Sweden (1993) and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (1989).

Gormley was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999, the Bernhard Heiliger Award for Sculpture in 2007, the Obayashi Prize in 2012 and the Praemium Imperiale in 2013. In 1997 he was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) and was made a knight in the New Year's Honours list in 2014. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, an Honorary Doctor of the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity and Jesus Colleges, Cambridge. Gormley has been a Royal Academician since 2003.

### **About Alan Cristea Gallery**

One of the leading commercial contemporary galleries in Europe, the Alan Cristea Gallery is the primary representative for a number of established international contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists. The gallery opened at 31 Cork Street in 1995, later expanding to a second exhibition space at 34 Cork Street. In Autumn 2016 the gallery will relocate to Pall Mall in St James's.

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The gallery shows a continuous programme of exhibitions including contemporary paintings, works on paper, sculpture and installations. In addition to this, the gallery is known for its commitment to original prints and editions, commissioning and facilitating innovative projects by outstanding artists, and is the largest publisher of contemporary editions and prints in Europe. Upcoming exhibitions and projects include Howard Hodgkin, Vicken Parsons, Marie Harnett and Langlands & Bell. The gallery is a member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association.

**Visitor information:**

Mon - Fri 10am - 5.30pm, Sat 11am - 2pm  
Closed 25 - 28 March, 30 April - 2 May, 28 - 30 May

**Travel:** Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tube Station

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Image: Antony Gormley, SHOW, 2016. Crude oil, linseed oil and petroleum jelly on paper. 237.1 x 134 cm.  
Courtesy Antony Gormley and Alan Cristea Gallery, London.