

# ANTONY GORMLEY

## *CONNAUGHT CHRISTMAS TREE 2016*

Antony Gormley has been invited to design this years Christmas Tree for the Connaught Hotel in Mayfair.

The magnificent Western Red Cedar tree commonly used for totem poles by the peoples of the Pacific Northwest coast of America has been sourced from Shropshire and stands 17.5 metres tall on Carlos Place. Its trunk has been transformed into a tapering column of brilliant light, across which its branches and foliage weave a constantly changing dance.

'It was a joy to collaborate with Zumtobel and their brilliant team of lighting innovators on this project. I thought that rather than decorating the outside of the Christmas tree, it would be fun to light its core - the trunk - transforming it into a radiant centre against which the branches would become illuminated and silhouetted. I want the tree to celebrate life and all its myriad forms. At this, the darkest time of the year and at a moment of global dysfunction, I hope this magnificent tree conveys a feeling of continuance and vitality.'

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