

ANTONY GORMLEY

CONCERNING THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION IN MY ART

Unpublished notebook entry

Concerning the religious dimension in my art:

The work comes from the same source as the need for religion: wanting to face existence and discover meaning. The work attempts by starting with a real body in real time to face space and eternity. The body - or rather the place that the body occupies is seen as the locus on which those forces act.

Concerning death in the work:

I see all 'things' as earth above ground. We are the most vertical animal. We have been made conscious by space and are full of space. Space exists within us as imagination, thought and sensation and outside of us in terms of distance. Death is a doorway. For me it is an affirmation of the mystery of life and connects in some way with our nature as space. I see space in light and in darkness; one as to do with the imagination and the other with thought.

Culture and our bodies:

I do believe in stressing the physical aspect of consciousness because I believe that is what connects us as human beings. For me there are two kinds of culture, one that is an expression of the connection of man with the physical world that surrounds him and the other is familiar to us all as Western rationalisation that separates us from the physical world. The paradox of this is that one leads to materialism and rationalisation and the other magic and freedom. My job in a broken but self-conscious world is to reaffirm connection. The world and my body I must identify as one.
