

ANTONY GORMLEY

MASS AND EMPATHY, FUNDAÇÃO CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN, LISBON, PORTUGAL, 2004

20 February - 16 May 2004

Speaking about this exhibition, Gormley stated:

'For this exhibition I have used two "old" works to make a new one.

All works take on a new feeling and speak differently in a new context but also each new work you make, if it has any guts at all, radically challenges everything that has been made before. So here we have a dialogue between two works made almost ten years apart that will perhaps destroy each other.

One was made as a testimony to the body as a place that seems to have lost its place: the space of the body as a lost object. Nevertheless, here it is absolutely present in its dark mass and in the demands it makes on us. The other is a shimmering nervousness in which the body gives itself up to light. CRITICAL MASS II (1995) was made as an ironic charade of the ascent of man by one actor - me - and DOMAIN FIELD (2003) calls on the collective body and field theory.

What are they, together and apart? I hope they are different ways of infecting but also of involving architecture and the viewer in a new reflexivity of inhabitation. I hope they call on memory and anticipation. I hope they make us not take standing up for granted: to stand is a privilege and to fall most natural.

Finally, this is an experiment in what representation without mimesis can do. How can art be instrumental?

I do not take the Gulbenkian for granted. I want to expose the architecture - make it as raw as the work, part of the work. I do not want it to be a shelter or a frame, but a condition, which, like that of the viewer, is tested and made porous.'
