

**Anna Schwartz Gallery presents MEMES by Antony Gormley**  
**- *Gormley first artist invited to present renowned BBC Reith Lecture Series* -**

Melbourne, Australia: An exhibition of new works by one of the world's most acclaimed and best known sculptors Antony Gormley, will be presented at Anna Schwartz Gallery in Melbourne from March until April 2011.

The exhibition, entitled MEMES, features 33 small-scale cast iron sculptures from the series of the same name that the London-based artist began creating in 2007. It is the first time the complete series will be shown together.

Using the miniature or model to allow the totality of a body to be seen at once, the MEMES replace anatomy with the formal language of architecture and construct volumes that articulate a range of 33 body postures.

Acting as acupuncture points, the works will be placed directly on the floor and widely spaced within the interior of Anna Schwartz Gallery. They allow a dynamic interface between sculpture and gallery making visitors aware of their disparity of size as they walk amongst the toy-sized works.

The MEMES sculptures continue Gormley's ongoing exploration of scale, in this instance by focusing on the miniature, with no sculpture measuring longer than 38cm in any dimension.

Gormley says: "The ambition is to make intelligible forms that propose an abstract lexicon of body-posture but which nevertheless carry the invitation of empathy and the transmission of states of mind".

This exhibition continues Gormley's quest to use the space of art as a reflexive test site in which the direct experience of the viewer becomes the ground of meaning. It continues the examination of scale seen in the expanded dimensions of FIRMAMENT at Anna Schwartz Gallery Sydney in February 2010, and the miniature scale of ASIAN FIELD, seen at the 15th Biennale of Sydney in 2006.

The Meme, which gives the exhibition its name, is a cultural analogue to a gene. It refers to forms that are transmitted in thought or behaviour from one body to another, responding to conditional environments, self-replicating and capable of mutation.

**Gormley first artist invited to present BBC Reith Lectures**

Antony Gormley's exhibition at Anna Schwartz Gallery in Melbourne is presented as the artist prepares to present the BBC Radio 4 Reith Lectures. Gormley is the first practicing artist to have been invited to present the prestigious lecture series, established in 1948 to enrich cultural and intellectual life in Britain.

The inaugural Reith Lecture was presented by philosopher and historian Bertrand Russell and subsequent lecturers have included Robert Oppenheimer and the Prince of Wales.

Gormley will present four lectures in the Northern Hemisphere spring of 2011, to be broadcast on BBC World Service and Radio 4. The topic of the lectures is 'Art as Survival' and will explore the centrality of art and creativity in human life.

**Ends**

### **Notes to Editors**

For further information and to request high resolution images and interviews with the artist and/or Anna Schwartz Gallery representatives please contact Kym Elphinstone on [kym@articulatepr.com.au](mailto:kym@articulatepr.com.au) or +61 (0)421 106 139.

### **About Antony Gormley**

In a career spanning 40 years, Antony Gormley has made sculpture that explores the relation of the human body to space at large, explicitly in large-scale installations like ANOTHER PLACE, DOMAIN FIELD and INSIDE AUSTRALIA. By using his own existence as a test ground, Gormley's work transforms a site of subjective experience into one of collective projection. Increasingly the artist has taken his practice beyond the gallery, engaging the public in active participation, as in CLAY AND THE COLLECTIVE BODY (Helsinki) and the acclaimed ONE & OTHER commission in London's Trafalgar Square.

Gormley's work has been exhibited throughout the UK with solo shows at the Whitechapel, Serpentine, Tate, Hayward Gallery, British Museum and White Cube. His work has been exhibited internationally in one-man shows at a range of public museums. Gormley has also participated in group shows at the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Venice Biennale and Documenta 8 (Kassel, Germany).

Gormley was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999 and the Bernard Heiliger Award for Sculpture in 2007. He was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 1997 and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Trinity College, Cambridge and Jesus College, Cambridge. Gormley was born in London in 1950.

More information and images of work by the artist can be viewed at [www.antonygormley.com](http://www.antonygormley.com)

### **Anna Schwartz Gallery**

Anna Schwartz Gallery has bases in Melbourne and Sydney. The Melbourne gallery is located at 185 Flinders Lane in Melbourne, Victoria. For further information visit [www.annaschwartzgallery.com](http://www.annaschwartzgallery.com)