

## ANTONY GORMLEY HORIZON FIELD HAMBURG

APRIL 27 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2012  
HALLE FÜR AKTUELLE KUNST

British artist Antony Gormley has developed a spectacular new installation especially for the large Deichtorhalle: »Horizon Field Hamburg«, which will be on view during the documenta.

Between April 27 and September 9, 2012, visitors will enter the north hall of the Deichtorhallen to be confronted by a space that is almost 4,000 sq. m. in size, nearly 19 meters high, and virtually empty. »It is critical that the experience of the space is utterly clear and that in there we see a void, clean building re-imagined as a kind of gymnasium for mind and body,« says Gormley.

In this open space a vast, black, reflective structure will float nearly 7.5 metres above the floor, inviting adventure. The suspended, slightly oscillating platform exploits the structural potential and architectural context of the Deichtorhallen building, now over a century old, taking visitors into a new spatiotemporal matrix.

The space below the work will be in shadow, sparsely illuminated by light that comes from the skylights far above. Here visitors can tarry and listen to the steps and voices of the invisible people above them. Every quality of the day or night, every sound and accident of light will become part of the work itself. »There is a double bind here. We have a real choice of how we wish to participate,« Gormley explains. »We can stay in an underworld or climb skywards. Both scenarios put the human subject into a dynamic position of jeopardy.«

»Horizon Field Hamburg« will provoke an experience of re-orientation and re-connection with walking, feeling, hearing and seeing. Individual and group experience will be mediated through vibration, sound and reflection. The entire project could be seen as a horizontal painting stretched taut in space, on which the visitor becomes a figure in a free floating, undefined ground.



This project is being organized by Deichtorhallen Hamburg in cooperation with Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac and was made possible by the generous patronage of NORDMETALL-Stiftung and Kulturstiftung des Bundes.

IN KOOPERATION MIT

**GALERIE THADDAEUS ROPAC**  
PARIS SALZBURG

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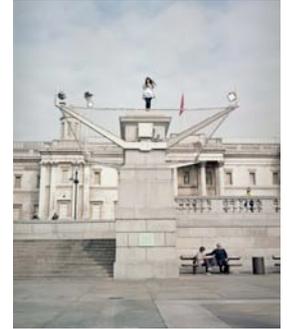
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## PRECURSORS

»Horizon Field Hamburg« is the most recent in Antony Gormley's series of participatory works. »One & Other« in 2009 invited one person, for one hour, 24 hrs a day over 100 days to occupy a small raised platform on London's Trafalgar Square and become representations of themselves.



In the Hayward Gallery's »Blind Light« visitors were immersed in a cold, bright and dense cloud in which all visible objects disappeared and their perception of space expanded into a luminous, objectless space. The Hamburg project continues this theme of disorientation, making the viewer's consciousness into the subject of the work.

The immediate predecessor of the Hamburg project was »Horizon Field Vorarlberg«. This installation of 100 life-size iron bodies engaged the viewer in a perceptual field. »Horizon Field Hamburg« confronts the viewer with the built environment rather than the natural world – offering new perspectives on the interior of the building and the city landscape beyond.



## TECHNICAL REALIZATION

A technically ambitious project, Horizon Field Hamburg is realised in association with internationally acclaimed firm »schlaich bergemann und partner« who specialize in the construction of stadiums and bridges. A team at Harburg Technical University is also lending its support to the project.

Horizon Field Hamburg is supported by the NORDMETALL Foundation, which is providing both financial and intellectual support: »An increasing number of marvelous works are arising from the interaction between humans and technology, in the domains of both art and industry,« comments Dr. Thomas Klischan, Chairman of the NORDMETALL Foundation, which represents 250 companies in the North German metalworking and electronics industry.

»The steel structure for 'Horizon Field' is inconceivable without the artist's idea, and likewise there's no imagining it without the brilliant engineering efforts. In this way art and technology come to really appreciate each other,« Klischan concludes.

## BIOGRAPHY ANTONY GORMLEY

For almost 40 years now, Antony Gormley has been creating sculptures in which he explores the relationship between the human body and space. This is explicitly addressed in his large-format works such as »Another Place«, »Domain Field« and »Inside Australia«, and implicitly in works such as »Clearing«, »Breathing Room« and »Blind Light« where the work becomes a frame through which the viewer becomes the viewed. 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 celebrated »One & Other« in London's Trafalgar Square.



Gormley's artistic oeuvre has been showed extensively in a number of solo exhibitions in Great Britain: the Whitechapel Gallery, the Serpentine Gallery, the Tate and Hayward Galleries as well as the British Museum and White Cube. Moreover, his works have been presented in solo shows in international museums including the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Denmark), Malmö Konsthall (Sweden), Kunsthalle zu Kiel (Germany), the National Museum of Modern Chinese History (Beijing), Antiquo Colegio de San Ildefonso (Mexico City, Kunsthhaus Bregenz (Austria) and the State Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg). Gormley has also participated in group shows in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, at the Venice Biennale and in documenta 8 in Kassel, Germany. Major public works include the Angel of the North (Gateshead, England), Another Place (Crosby Beach, England) and Exposure (Lelystad, Netherlands).

Gormley has received many awards, such as the Turner Prize (1994), the South Bank Award for the Visual Arts (1999) and the Bernhard Heiliger Preis für Skulptur (2007). In 1997 he was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE). 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. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Royal Academy of Arts and since 2007 a British Museum trustee.

Antony Gormley was born in London in 1950.