

ANTONY GORMLEY

HABITAT, 2010

Within the urban grid of downtown Anchorage is HABITAT: a house-sized sculpture in the form of a crouching man. The work is made from 57 welded stainless steel boxes 1 cm thick, welded together.

The sculpture faces south along Avenue C, with its back to Avenue 6. If one approaches the museum from the west side, it can be seen in profile, but for those travelling north-south on Avenue C, the work will read as an abstract collection of boxes.

HABITAT applies the urban grid to the body, and relates this constructed self to the wider context of Anchorage. It sits on the street line frontage as part of the urban context, acting as an interface between the museum and the city. It is an introduction to the collections of ethnography and art in the museum, and references the creation and development of the human habitat. More generally, it is a meditation on the condition of urban man in relation to nature.

The work is designed to respond to the changing light and temperature conditions of Alaska, as well as offering shelter from the wind, snow and rain.
