

ANTONY GORMLEY

EARLY BLOCKWORKS, 2001 - 2003

This was the first time that I had thought about translating the orthogonal geometries of the original lead works into units and about the way that pixelisation of the two-dimensional image could be translated into three dimensions.

The EARLY BLOCKWORKS are an attempt to make a body as building, out of welded 25 x 25 x 50 mm blocks of steel. The works are all hollow but made within a mould. The challenge was always to try to make a cogent and self-supporting offset bond of blocks, while at the same time, following the organic contours of the form.

The works are started with the closest possible contact around the heart area, but the inherent geometry of this patterning breaks down towards the extremities of the head and the ankles. The ability of the blocks to lie close to one another also breaks down, making the bond of the blocks increasingly chaotic.

In the development of the BUILDINGS, we ended up making a number of works that suggest an inherent tension, like DISTRESS, where the blocks explode from the containing skin, or suspensions, where the blocks are fused in a random jumble.
