

ANTONY GORMLEY

BRANCHERS, 2016 - 2020

The ROOTERS have evolved into two typologies: single roots that explore the limbs and torso as singular pathways, and the BRANCHERS, that treat the entire body-zone as an open space to branch into, independent of the torso/extremity relations.

The idea of a root hair that is constantly searching the interstices between sand and rock and loam is about the most tender thing you can find, what allows the system to gather its energy from its environment. I love what a root is as a metaphor but also what it is as a system. Let's think of the space of the body as an unknown: we are going to start a three-dimensional exploration, a tendril-like rooting system that feels its way into this bodily darkness and touches the bounding condition, maybe sometimes even breaking through it. That sense of exposing the unknowable to the light is important to me.

The works look a bit like aerials. FEEL (2016), stands the right way up and adheres to a basic anatomy scheme, with separated legs, a torso and its arms outstretched. We have a vertical axis from ground to head, or from sexuality to intelligence, and open arms that are open to a wide world. Then these root-hairs or tendrils are grown onto that basic armature.

I think of these sculptures as traps. These are hooks as much as they are tendrils. They are trying to seek out space, but at the same time, are seeking out your attention. I am hoping that in a contemplative state of mind you can get pleasure just feeling your way around these in-between bits.
