

ANTONY GORMLEY

AGGREGATE BLOCKWORKS, 2018 - 2019

The 'Aggregates' investigate the consequences of our ability to manipulate matter. The works are made up of aggregated blocks that treat matter as information and use the language of code to suggest both struggle and symbiosis between body and block. Each rusted figure appears to extricate itself or to take support from a material mass, referencing Michelangelo's famous 'Slaves', where a body seems to be emerging out of the solid block. Here Gormley asks, 'Is the body the product of the block, or the block the product of the body?'

Discussing his interest in the transformation that digitalisation has engendered in the way we relate to the world and ourselves, Gormley has spoken of this 'not as a noble conflict between spirit and matter, but an overturning of fixed principles that gives way to a continual and fluid translation from information into form and from form into information'. Works such as *Pack* (2019) admit to the ability of our technology to reveal and confound, just as *Hold* (2019) suggests a tussle between code and iron, where form and medium are so locked together as to be indistinguishable. In making the pixel physical, the 'Aggregate' works make palpable the ways in which we are now engaged with a new way of being and becoming in the world, what Gormley calls 'a mortal struggle between the immanent and the manifest'.
