

ANTONY GORMLEY

ASIAN FIELD, TOUR, 2003 - 2004

ASIAN FIELD (2003), a vast sculptural installation comprising some 210,000 hand-sized clay figures, was made under the guidance of Antony Gormley by 350 people of all ages from Xiangshan village, north-east of the city of Guangzhou in south China. Using local clay from Guangdong Province, famous throughout China for its rich red colouring, the making took place during an intensive five-day period between 18 and 22 January 2003. The figures were then fired in the kilns of a local brick-making factory in readiness for the first showing of the work in Guangzhou, opening in March 2003, where it was shown for three months prior to touring to Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing throughout 2003 and early 2004. Requiring a minimum of 2000 square metres for the installation, the work was shown in non-art venues in each of the four cities: a vast underground car park located in a new development of houses and apartments in the rapidly expanding city of Guangzhou; the main hall of the National Museum of Modern Chinese History on Tianamen Square in the heart of Beijing; an upper floor in a riverside warehouse providing grain and rice to feed the people of Shanghai; and a cavernous former underground air-raid shelter in central Chongqing. Exhibition tour dates: Guangzhou 23 March - 15 June 2003; Beijing 28 July - 28 August 2003; Shanghai 27 September - 29 October 2003; and Chongqing 21 November 2003 - 26 January 2004.
