

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contacts:

Cecilia Wichmann, 202-387-2151 x235
cwichmann@phillipscollection.org

Amy Wike, 202-387-2151 x220
awike@phillipscollection.org

Online Press Room

www.phillipscollection.org/press

THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION SHOWS RARELY SEEN DRAWINGS BY ACCLAIMED BRITISH SCULPTOR ANTONY GORMLEY

First U.S. Museum Exhibition Highlights Gormley's Extraordinary Works on Paper

Press Preview Wed., May 30
9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
To RSVP contact Cecilia Wichmann

Washington, D.C.—Drawings and sculptures by one of Britain's most high-profile living artists, Antony Gormley (b. 1950), come to the Phillips this summer. This is the Turner Prize-winning artist's first U.S. museum exhibition of works on paper. Known for his sculpture, installation, and public artworks that investigate the human form and its connection to natural and architectural surroundings, Gormley is also an accomplished draftsman. *Antony Gormley: Drawing Space* introduces approximately 80 works on paper that span the artist's nearly 40-year career along with two recent sculptures, emphasizing the intrinsic link between the two media. The exhibition is on view June 2 through Sept. 9, 2012.

Drawing Space follows the presentations of Gormley's drawings at the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma in 2010 and the British Museum, London in 2002. The artist regards drawing as a core part of his artistic process. Often made at night, they are spontaneous, direct, and employ unusual materials such as blood, earth, casein (a milk-based protein), and bleach. Although mostly using his own body, Gormley's figures address collective experience and memory. This exhibition presents an overview of the artist's works on paper and the relationship they have to his sculpture.

"The Phillips is pleased to introduce Antony Gormley as a graphic artist to American audiences and examine closely the evolution of his process," says Phillips Director Dorothy Kosinski. "His work pushes us to consider art's central role in the human experience, a value shared by our founder Duncan Phillips who believed in the power of art to transform the world."

The exhibited works are organized to underscore the themes of body and space. Groups of drawings and prints are intermingled with powerful works including *Mansion* (1982) and the recent *Breathing Room XXIV* (2010). Gormley explores the human figure and its environment in every way imaginable, from blurry figures and landscapes devoid of color in *Body and Light* (a set of 33 drawings, 1990–95), to tracings using Gormley's own body as a template in *Bodies*



Antony Gormley, *Untitled*, 2001.
Monochrome aquatint etching, edition of 200. 18 3/8 x 16 3/8 in. © Antony Gormley.
Image courtesy Sean Kelly Gallery, New York.

in Space (two large-scale lithographs, 2007), to high-energy, whirling shapes that suggest orbits and galaxies in *Clearing* (a series of drawings, 2005–09).



Antony Gormley, *Aperture XIII*, 2010. Steel, 74 3/8 x 21 1/4 x 11 3/8 in. Private Collection. © Antony Gormley. Image courtesy Sean Kelly Gallery, New York. Photo: Stephen White, London.

The exhibition sheds light on the way that drawing and sculpture have been in continuous dialogue throughout Gormley's career. The artist describes drawing as "a halfway house between the materiality of sculpture and the mentality of imagination" that allows for experimentation, in contrast to the planning demanded by sculpture. His drawing studio is a quiet and private space devoted to intimate action and contemplation, while his sculpture studio next door is bustling with activity. The interconnection of the two media becomes clear in the broken and incomplete lines of the two featured sculptures *Clasp II* (2010) and *Aperture XIII* (2010), summing up Gormley's artistic premise: to simultaneously explore the body and go beyond it toward the infinity of space, posing the question of what it means to be human.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SPONSORS

Antony Gormley: Drawing Space is organized by The Phillips Collection, in collaboration with the artist. The curator is Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Vesela Stretenović.

The exhibition is sponsored by Christie's.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Antony Gormley was born in London in 1950. He studied archaeology, anthropology, and art history at Trinity College, Cambridge (1968–71), and Buddhist meditation in India and Sri Lanka (1971–74), experiences that profoundly inform his art. Gormley's work has been exhibited at premier museums throughout the world, including the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark; National Museum of Modern Chinese History, Beijing; Kunsthaus Bregenz in Austria; State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg; and most recently Deichtorhallen in Hamburg and CCBB São Paulo. His major public works include *Angel of the North* (Gateshead, England), *Another Place* (Liverpool), *Event Horizon* (New York), *Habitat* (Anchorage), and *Exposure* (Lelystad, Netherlands). Gormley was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, a South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999, and the Bernhard Heiliger Award for Sculpture in 2007. He was made an Officer of the British Empire in 1997 and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Trinity College, and Jesus College, Cambridge. Gormley has been a Royal Academician since 2003 and a British Museum Trustee since 2007.

VISITOR INFORMATION

- **Hours:** Tues.–Sat., 10 a.m. –5 p.m.; Thurs. extended hours, 10 a.m.–8:30 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
- **Closed:** Mondays and Independence Day (Wed., July 4)
- **Location:** 1600 21st Street, NW (at Q Street)
- **Metro:** Red Line, Dupont Circle Station (Q Street exit) and via several bus lines
- **Weekend Admission:** \$12
- **Discounted Weekend Admission:** \$10 for seniors (62 and over) and students (with valid ID)
- **Weekday Admission:** by donation
- **FREE Admission:**
 - During Jazz 'n Families Fun Days on Sat., June 2 and Sun., June 3

- For active duty military personnel and their families as part of the Blue Star Museums program Memorial Day (May 28) through Labor Day (Sept. 3)
- Kids (18 and under) and Phillips members
- **Tickets:** Available at the museum and www.phillipscollection.org

ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION

The Phillips Collection is one of the world's most distinguished collections of impressionist and modern American and European art. Stressing the continuity between art of the past and present, it offers a strikingly original and experimental approach to modern art by combining works of different nationalities and periods in displays that change frequently. The setting is similarly unconventional, featuring small rooms, a domestic scale, and a personal atmosphere. Artists represented in the collection include Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, Pierre Bonnard, Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Claude Monet, Honoré Daumier, Georgia O'Keeffe, Arthur Dove, Mark Rothko, Milton Avery, Jacob Lawrence, and Richard Diebenkorn, among others. The Phillips Collection, America's first museum of modern art, has an active collecting program and regularly organizes acclaimed special exhibitions, many of which travel internationally. The Intersections series features projects by contemporary artists, responding to art and spaces in the museum. The Phillips also produces award-winning education programs for K–12 teachers and students, as well as for adults. The museum's Center for the Study of Modern Art explores new ways of thinking about art and the nature of creativity, through artist visits and lectures, and provides a forum for scholars through courses, postdoctoral fellowships, and internships. Since 1941, the museum has hosted Sunday Concerts in its wood-paneled Music Room. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations.

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