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Press Release
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ANTONY GORMLEY

Inside the Inside

8 June - 14 September 1996
(closed between 28 July and 13 August 1996)

Since 1981 Antony Gormley has pioneered a renewed interest in the body in sculpture. He is not interested in making an idealised (usually female) body at arms length (the traditional concern of sculpture) but makes his work "from within" by using his own body as "subject, material and tool". Gormley has made a radical alliance between the spatial concerns of Minimalism, Performance Art and sculpture that engages with the human condition.

For ten years Gormley concentrated on making lead body-cases that enclosed the void impression of his form : the body as a "place rather than an object" which had a strong dialogue with architecture.

At the Xavier Hufkens Gallery, for the first time, Gormley shows solid iron casts of the intimate body taken directly from the mould and mediated only through a thin layer of clingfilm. In a sequence of four empty rooms the horizontal body in various extended positions, floats just above the floor - belying it's weight.

This is not the heroic male figure as the protagonist in a drama but the body as a sensor of its own condition - in which the body as the site of life is tested against the room as the site of the body; implicating the viewers presence in the process.

Gormley continues to be concerned with the body as place but here its darkness is materialised as mass. The palms of the hands and the soles of the feet are vertical planes pushing against virtual walls.

Parallel to the dynamic of mass and space is a tension between the intimate genesis and industrial manufacture of the works. Gormley uses the language of heavy industry to embody the vulnerable subject testing his own limits - relating the work to the further transformation of identity in which we all are involved as we enter the cyberage.

The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m.