

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW SCULPTURE BY ANTONY GORMLEY AT
SALVATORE ALA

The Salvatore Ala Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new sculpture by ANTONY GORMLEY opening Saturday, April 14th and continuing through May 19th at the gallery located at 32 West 20th Street (between Fifth & Sixth Avenues), Telephone: 212-675-3267.

Reception: Saturday, April 14th from 5 to 8 PM.

First seen in his one-man show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London early in 1981, ANTONY GORMLEY has since shown widely both in England and abroad. His work, in its commitment to an image of man and its tough fabrication contrasts strongly with much of the recent sculpture from Britain. The artist deals with issues of existence through the use of his own body: building up moulds from layers of plaster, fiberglass and finally lead. Sheets of lead are tautly beaten over the generalised form and soldered together along strict vertical and horizontal axes. The effect is a combination of substantial presence and an intimation of a space held within; sometimes accentuated by holes cut at critical points for example the mouth, eyes or penis. GORMLEY'S hollow lead men are powerful explorations of the relationship between inner states of being and the outer world and suggest through the particularity of their postures that the body is a place where mind and matter form each other. The work is not materialist. In a recent interview the artist said:

"Sculpture, for me, uses physical means to talk about the spirit, weight to talk about weightlessness, light to refer to darkness - a visual means to refer to things which cannot be seen."

In the last two years GORMLEY has show at the I.C.A., Tate and Hayward Galleries in London and the Venice and Sao Paulo Biennales,