

SCULPTURE BY
ANTONY GORMLEY

SALVATORE ALA GALLERY, NEW YORK

May 9 - June 10, 1986

On Friday, May 9, the Salvatore Ala Gallery will open with a one-man exhibition of new sculpture by British artist, Antony Gormley. A reception will be held at the gallery, 32 West 20th Street (between Fifth and Sixth Avenues) on Friday, May 9, between the hours of 6 - 9 p.m. The exhibition will continue through June 10, 1986.

In this, his second show in New York, Gormley extends the resonance and content of the work begun in 1981 when he first used a mold of his own body as the basis for an abstract lead covered human form.

In one work called **Fathers and Sons** he has used a carved sculpture of his three year old child as the basis for a lead shell. He thus links two acts of creation and makes a work that mediates between art and life as sources of origination. The work's scale engenders an engagement with space and the lead's inertia powerfully contrasts with the potential for growth of the child. We are encouraged to think of the future. There are questions opened in this and other works in the exhibition about paternalism and power related to both artistic practice and the fragility of our world.

Gormley has said of his work: "The work is a point between origin and becoming. Like a seed, between death and the new life there is a point of stasis and silence, a time for reflection. Sculpture can use that time."

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At this moment when revived conceptualism, formalism and constructivism seem to be much discussed Gormley's work with its stringent examination of means and content relocates art within bodily experience and by digging itself into the matrix of human life, rather than being satisfied with adding to another layer on the surface of culture, places art in a central role in ensuring and making the future.

Antony Gormley had a one-man exhibition in 1981 at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, and at the Riverside Studios in 1984. That exhibition travelled to Galleria Salvatore Ala in Milan the same year. The summer of 1985 Gormley had a one-man exhibition at the Frankfurter Kunstverein and at Stadtisches Kunstmuseum in Regensburg. Group exhibitions have included "Aperto '82", Venice Biennale; "Transformations: New Sculpture from Britain", XVII Biennale de Sao Paulo, 1983, Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro; the "New Art" exhibition at the Tate Gallery, London, 1983. In 1984 Gormley participated in the "International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture" at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and in 1985 in "Metaphor and/or Symbol" at the National Gallery in Tokyo. In 1985, also, the British Council organized two exhibitions: "The British Show" which toured Australia, and "Entre El Objeto Y La Imagen", Palacio de Velazquez, in Madrid. This summer he will be included in "Art and Alchemy" in the 1986 Venice Biennale.

On May 15th, Galleria Salvatore Ala in Milan will have an exhibition of new paintings by Jeffrey Dennis. The exhibition will continue through June 14, 1986.

For further information, please contact Blair Townsend, 741-3344