



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL PRESS RELEASE

St Pauls Cathedral unveils new work by Antony Gormley

LONDON (17th February 2010)

St Paul's today announced the installation of 'Flare II', a new work by Antony Gormley in the dramatic setting of the Cathedral's Geometric Staircase.

This installation introduces a partnership between one of the UK's best-known sculptors and one of the most iconic buildings in London.

'Flare II' will be exhibited in the Cathedral from 4th March to late 2010. The installation forms part of St Paul's Cathedral Arts Project, an ongoing programme which seeks to explore the encounter between art and faith. Recent projects have included installations by Rebecca Horn, Yoko Ono and Martin Firrell.

Antony Gormley said,

"Wren understood proportion, space and gravitational dynamics as no other British architect of his time and the Geometric Staircase is a supreme and elegant outcome of this understanding. "Flare II" is my attempt to use applied geometry to construct an energy field describing a human space in space. I am delighted to have the opportunity to show this work in such a brilliant and relevant context. "

Canon Giles Fraser, Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral said,
"This installation gives us the chance to open up a stunning space inside St Paul's Cathedral. We hope that this sculpture will provide an inspiring and illuminating experience for all those who visit."

Visitor information:

Exhibition dates: 4th March 2010 - late 2010

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 8.35am- 10.30am

Tickets: Normal admission charges apply

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For more details please contact:

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Notes to editors:

FLARE II

2008

2mm square section stainless steel wire

300 x 210 x 216 cm

Antony Gormley

Over the last 25 years Antony Gormley has revitalised the human image in sculpture through a radical investigation of the body as a place of memory and transformation, using his own body as subject, tool and material. Since 1990 Gormley has expanded his concern with the human condition to explore the collective body and the relationship between self and other in large-scale installations. He has created some of the most ambitious and iconic works of contemporary British sculpture, including *Field*, *Angel of the North* at Gateshead, *Quantum Cloud* on the Thames in London, and *Another Place*, now permanently sited on Crosby Beach near Liverpool. His work has been exhibited extensively at major international galleries and museums including the Tate, Hayward, Whitechapel and Serpentine galleries in the UK; the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Louisiana Museum in Humlebaek and the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin.

Antony Gormley was born in London in 1950.

St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is also one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the Cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.

The Geometric Staircase - Facts & Figures

1. The Geometric Staircase is located in the SW tower of St Paul's Cathedral
2. The Stairs appear to float, unsupported. Their stone treads cantilevered out from the wall, with each step supporting the next.

3. The staircase is also commonly known as the Dean's Stairs and was intended to allow the Dean and Chapter access to the Triforium level.
4. The Stairs stand at a height of 50 feet and there are 88 steps in total.
5. There is some evidence that Christopher Wren had visions of housing a giant zenith telescope in the SW tower.
6. The Staircase featured in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban as well as Guy Ritchie's version of Sherlock Holmes.