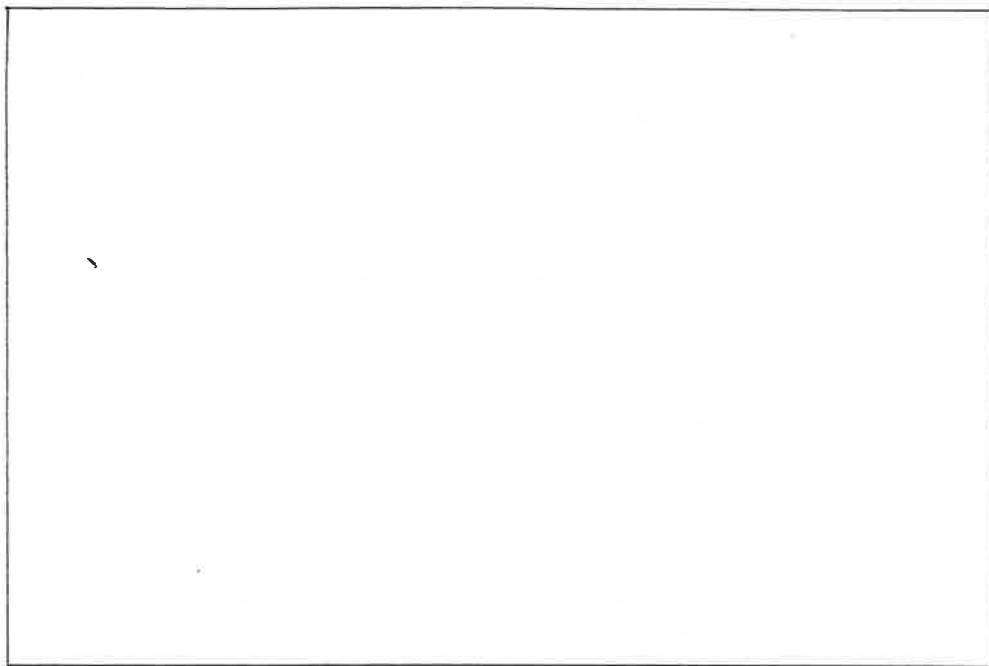


In his work **Anthony Gormley** is trying to define the relationships that exist between people, objects and nature. His aim is to replace and represent things which already exist, objects from human culture and the natural world, reminding us that the objects we use, the food we eat and the clothes we wear, all have their roots in the earth.

Cutting into, or building up from a given material are traditional sculpting methods, Gormley uses both in his work. It is, however, important to him that the working process, the time it takes, and the material are integral to each piece. For instance with **End Product** and **Last Tree** the object is also the material which is chipped away to reveal its centre. In other works the object becomes the core around which a malleable material can be added '*... wrapping it like a gift from the past to the future*'.

Fruits of the Earth



In **Fruits of the Earth**, a gun, a knife and a bottle of wine are each encased in layers of lead. The lead insulates and protects, but at the same time denies the object its identity. By doing this he says, '*I'm conscious of taking mechanical objects towards the realm of the organic using the natural process of growth, the lead becomes like the annular rings in a tree . . . I stopped wrapping at the point of equilibrium between the original form being recognisable and its potential to become an ovoid or an egg. . . . It's important that the real objects are there . . . I'm taking them out of their daily continuum and giving them a more fundamental position, indicating something more symbolic.*'

In his latest sculpture the objects are chosen for their form. Starting first of all with a pea and then a chisel he alternates organic and man-made objects, developing through the progression of associated forms until he finally arrives at a melon.

*'All the work is about what isn't there, something  
that can be held in the mind but is absent from view,  
either it has been concealed or it has been removed.'*

---

### **Anthony Gormley**

Born 1950, London

1967-70: Trinity College, Cambridge,  
studying anthropology

1973-74: Central School of Art

1975-77: Goldsmiths School of Art

1977-79: Slade School of Fine Art

1979: Boise Scholarship to America

1980: GLAA Award

1981: First Prize,

Kent County Council/Arts Council of Great Britain  
Singleton Sculpture Competition