

WHITE CUBE

Hong Kong

Antony Gormley

Rooting the Synapse

27 March–19 May 2018

Press Preview and Artist Talk: Monday 26 March, 2.30pm–3.30pm

Preview: Monday 26 March 2018, 6–8.30pm

White Cube is pleased to announce Antony Gormley's second exhibition at White Cube Hong Kong, and unveil works from his new 'Rooter' series.

The iron sculptures in 'Rooting the Synapse' foreground a new development in Gormley's work; a move beyond representational forms, and feature plant-like branches which map the human body in space. In some cases, the figures appear rooted to the ground. In others, they are shown in a moment of imbalance, or a dynamic freefall.

The exhibition references Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's analogy between the body and a tree planted in the sky. Reversing the traditional notion of anatomy, Goethe describes the hemispheres of the brain as being a seed from which the central nervous system extends.

Sculptures such as *SIGNAL* (2017), acknowledge the structure of the body as a central torso extending into five extremities. Others, like *ROOT* (2016), feature multi-directional, space-searching tendrils that reach out beyond the body's boundaries.

The 'Rooter' sculptures do not simply mimic the branching systems of plants, but instead feature a complex series of 90-degree bends and deliberate, proportional scaling of limb to branch. This idea is also translated into the process by which the sculpture comes into existence: the works becoming diagrams of their own making. The route of the molten metal follows the structure of the work, dispensing with the normal use of runners and risers. Gormley and his studio team use lost foam and dry sand to achieve remarkably sharp castings.

All of the works are made of iron, and the artist celebrates the effects of time and elements on the material throughout the show. Some sculptures display a rusted patina, while others display a darker surface created by immersing the sculpture in tannic acid.

A range of cultural references are also drawn on in the 'Rooter' series, particularly ancient civilizations whose designs were inspired by the natural world; from Greek key patterns and the cloud decorations of ancient China, to the vine patterns of the Maya.

'Rooting the Synapse' coincides with Art Basel Hong Kong opening 27 March and continuing until 19 May 2018.

Antony Gormley participates in the panel discussion *Bodies in Practice | On Figures and Figuration* at Art Basel Hong Kong on Thursday 29 March from 1pm to 2pm. He also features in the Harbour Arts Sculpture Park at Tamar Park, Hong Kong from 22 February until 11 April 2018.

For additional press information and images contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Antony Gormley (b. 1950, London) is widely acclaimed for his sculptures, installations and public artworks that investigate the relationship of the human body to space. 'Rooting the Synapse' is his second exhibition at White Cube's Hong Kong gallery, following 'States and Conditions' in 2014.
- Gormley's work has been widely exhibited throughout the UK and internationally with a monograph by Rizzoli released in 2017 titled *Antony Gormley* and exhibitions at Art Changsha, China (2018); Long Museum, Shanghai (2017); The Hall Art Foundation, Schloss Derneberg (2017); Forte di Belvedere, Florence (2015); Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (2014); Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia (2012); Deichtorhallen, Hamburg (2012); The State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg (2011); Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria (2010); Hayward Gallery, London (2007); Malmö Konsthall, Sweden (1993) and Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark (1989). He has also participated in major group shows such as the Venice Biennale (1982 and 1986) and Documenta 8, Kassel, Germany (1987). Permanent public works include the Angel of the North (Gateshead, England), Another Place (Crosby Beach, England), Inside Australia (Lake Ballard, Western Australia), Exposure (Lelystad, The Netherlands) and Chord (MIT – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA). Gormley was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999, the Bernhard Heiliger Award for Sculpture in 2007, the Obayashi Prize in 2012 and the Praemium Imperiale in 2013.
- Admission to White Cube is free. White Cube Hong Kong is open Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–7pm. Address: 50 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2592 2000. Website: whitecube.com
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across its three gallery spaces: Bermondsey in South London, Mason's Yard in St. James's, London and Hong Kong Central district. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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