

EVENT HORIZON

MAD.
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ART.

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Antony Gormley, *EVENT HORIZON*, 2007
27 fiberglass and 4 cast iron figures, Each 189 x 53 x 29 cm

Photograph by James Ewing, © The Artist
A Hayward Gallery Commission, courtesy Sean Kelly Gallery, New York and White Cube, London

**MAD. SQ. ART,
PART OF MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY, TO PRESENT
ANTONY GORMLEY: *EVENT HORIZON*—
FEATURING 31 SCULPTURES TO BE INSTALLED
IN MADISON SQUARE PARK AND
ON ROOFTOPS THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY'S FLATIRON DISTRICT**

Internationally Acclaimed British Artist Makes U.S. Public Art Debut

***First-Time Ever Mad. Sq. Art's Programming Expands From Park
Into Surrounding Neighborhood***

On View March 26 – August 15, 2010

New York, January 4, 2010—Mad. Sq. Art, part of Madison Square Park Conservancy, will present a landmark public exhibition of Antony Gormley's artwork in New York City, on view March 26 through August 15, 2010. In *Event Horizon*, thirty-one life-size figures of the artist cast in heavy iron will inhabit the pathways and sidewalks of historic Madison Square Park as well as the rooftops of the architectural treasures that populate New York's vibrant Flatiron District. *Event Horizon* will mark Gormley's United States public art debut; a milestone for an artist whose work has garnered worldwide acclaim over the past 25 years; as well as the first time **Mad. Sq. Art** has exhibited works outside of Madison Square Park.

According to the artist, "The installation connects the palpable, the perceivable and the imaginable, creating a relational field in which the passerby as well as the aware viewer is implied in a matrix of looking and being looked at." A fascinating intervention into the urban environment, *Event Horizon* explores the relationship between the public, as it moves throughout the installation neighborhood, and the art object—the human form. Four figures will be placed at ground level, tangibly interacting with the course of daily life within Madison Square Park as the epicenter of the district-wide installation. Twenty-seven works will be placed on rooftops and on parapets around the Park, including such architecturally noteworthy buildings in the area as Daniel Burnham's The Flatiron Building and Cass Gilbert's New York Life Building. Viewers will be encouraged to journey throughout the area, to take in views of all thirty-one of Gormley's sculptures and the city's urban landscape from both nearby and afar. *Event Horizon* will be on view March 26 through August 15, 2010, and will be seen by millions of New Yorkers and Madison Square Park visitors.

Founding board member of the Madison Square Park Conservancy and Mad. Sq. Art founder Danny Meyer states, "One of the most compelling aspects of Mad. Sq. Art is how the art creates a conversation between the park and its surrounding historic Flatiron neighborhood. The art encourages one to experience trees, architecture, people, light, and even sound in very fresh ways. While Madison Square Park will remain the bulls eye from which to view the art, Gormley's *Event Horizon* will mark a high point in Mad. Sq. Art's seven-year history, extending art for the first time out of the park's parameters and into the urban landscape of New York."

"Innovative public art projects contribute so much to New York's dynamism, and to our identity as an international destination," said Kate D. Levin, Commissioner of New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs. "Antony Gormley's *Event Horizon* will transform the way residents and visitors see Madison Square Park and its neighborhood – and, by extension, our urban landscape citywide."

Antony Gormley originally created *Event Horizon* for London's Hayward Gallery as part of the *Blind Light* exhibition in 2007. The sculptures were installed on bridges, rooftops and streets along the South Bank of London's Thames River. Adapted for the awe-inspiring Manhattan skyline, *Event Horizon* will introduce the American public to this celebrated British artist in dramatic fashion. With an expanse of pedestrian-level green space bordered by the many architectural treasures of New York's Flatiron District, Mad. Sq. Art is uniquely suited to host this celebrated body of work.

Antony Gormley will join distinguished and emerging artists presented by Mad. Sq. Art. Since its inception in 2004, Mad. Sq. Art has presented work by artists Richard Deacon, Mark di Suvero, Tadashi Kawamata, Mel Kendrick, Sol LeWitt, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Roxy Paine, Jessica Stockholder, Ursula von Rydingsvard, and William Wegman.

Event Horizon is presented by the **Madison Square Park Conservancy** in partnership with the **City of New York** and **NYC & Company**. Major support

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The Wall Street Journal is the Official Newspaper of *Event Horizon*. **Time Out New York** is the Official Weekly Media Sponsor of *Event Horizon*. **The Ace Hotel New York** is the Official Hotel Partner of *Event Horizon*.

About the Artist:

For more than 25 years **Antony Gormley** has revitalized 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 he has expanded his concern with the human condition to explore the collective body and the relationship between self and other in large-scale installations such as *Allotment, Another Place, Critical Mass, Domain Field, and Inside Australia*. His work increasingly engages with energy systems, fields and vectors, rather than mass and defined volume, as evident in *Another Singularity, Blind Light, Clearing, and Firmament*. Gormley's most recently acclaimed live artwork, *One & Other*, saw 2,400 participants representing every region of the UK each spending an hour on an empty plinth in London's Trafalgar Square for 100 consecutive days.

Antony Gormley's work has been exhibited extensively throughout the UK, with solo shows at the Whitechapel, Tate, Hayward and the British Museum and internationally at the Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC, Malmö Konsthall, the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Austria and Antiquo Colegio de San Ildefonso, Mexico City. He has participated in group shows at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Venice Biennale and Kassel Documenta 8. Antony Gormley is represented by Sean Kelly Gallery, New York and White Cube, London.

He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999 and was made an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1997. More recently, he was awarded the Bernhard Heiliger Award for Sculpture in 2007. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Trinity College, Cambridge and Jesus College, Cambridge, and has been a Royal Academician since 2003.

About Madison Square Park Conservancy:

The **Madison Square Park Conservancy** is a non-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping historic Madison Square Park bright, beautiful, and active. A once deserted lot in the middle of Manhattan, today's vibrant Madison Square Park is the result of a \$6 million reconstruction effort launched by the Campaign for the New Madison Square Park, a public-private partnership with the City of New York initiated in the late 1990s as a means to revitalize the park. Upon the park's reconstruction, the Campaign founded the Conservancy in 2002 to manage the newly renovated park and ensure its

continuance as a green and lively space. Today, Madison Square Park remains a 6.2-acre urban oasis in the heart of Manhattan's Flatiron District due to the Conservancy's supportive efforts. The Conservancy funds approximately 95% of the cost of park maintenance and 100% of the cost of security and cultural programs, managing an annual budget of approximately \$2.6 million.

In addition to tending to the park's luxuriant landscape, the Conservancy presents high-quality free cultural activities and events for park users of all ages. Programs include: **Mad. Sq. Art**, featuring exhibitions by established and emerging artists; **Mad. Sq. Kids**, offering free family programs on the park's Oval Lawn throughout the summer; **Mad. Sq. Music**, comprised of two distinct music series: the *Oval Lawn Series* featuring free live jazz, folk, and bluegrass concerts during summer and *Studio Series* showcasing fall performances by emerging and established folk, blues, and Americana performers; **Mad. Sq. Reads**, presenting notable authors reading about aspects of New York life and history; **Mad. Sq. Kids Fest**, offering live kid-friendly entertainment, arts & crafts, games and free refreshments for children and adults to enjoy; and **Mad. Sq. Holiday**, celebrating the holiday season with festive decorations in the park and an annual tree lighting ceremony for the community.

In June 2004, the Conservancy introduced its now internationally recognized "green" food kiosk, **Shake Shack**, by renowned architect James Wines of SITE Environmental Design. The Shack has transformed the south end of the park and has grown to immense popularity alongside the Conservancy's many programs.

For more information on the Madison Square Park Conservancy and its programs, please visit <http://madisonsquarepark.org>.

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