

EVENT HORIZON

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**For Immediate Release
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**NEW YORK CITY OFFICIALS AND
MADISON SQUARE PARK
CONSERVANCY'S
MAD. SQ. ART
INAUGURATE
ANTONY GORMLEY: *EVENT
HORIZON*
MARCH 23, 2010**

***A Milestone Public Art Installation Presented By
Madison Square Park Conservancy's Mad. Sq. Art
March 26 - August 15, 2010***

***31 Sculptures Installed In Madison Square Park
and on the Top of Buildings Throughout New York City's
Flatiron District and Environs***

New York—New York City Officials and the Madison Square Park Conservancy gathered on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 for the official inauguration of *Event Horizon*, a new public art installation by internationally acclaimed British artist Antony Gormley. This landmark public art project has called for New York City's skyline to play host to contemporary art, placing thirty-one sculptures of the human form in and around Madison Square Park and on the setbacks and rooftops of architectural treasures throughout the Flatiron district and environs. The ceremony for the Mad. Sq. Art-presented installation commenced in Madison Square Park with remarks by New York City Officials, Artist Antony Gormley and President of the Madison Square Park Conservancy Debbie Landau. The first installation to take art out of Madison Square Park and into the Manhattan skyline in the history of Mad. Sq. Art, *Event Horizon* remains on view through August 15, 2010.

Adapted for the awe-inspiring skyline of New York from its London premiere commissioned by the Hayward Gallery in 2007, *Event Horizon* introduces the American public to one of Britain's most celebrated artists in dramatic fashion. The milestone public art installation features thirty-one life-size figures of the artist cast in iron and fiberglass positioned in and around Madison Square Park, and on the tops of buildings throughout New York City's vibrant Flatiron District and environs. Four of the figures can be found at ground level tangibly interacting with the course of daily life adjacent to Madison Square Park, the epicenter of the district-wide installation. An additional twenty-seven sculptures can be found at elevated heights as high as 57 stories, drawing viewers' attentions upwards to the glorious heights, architecture and skyline of New York City. Daniel Burnham's Flatiron Building, Cass Gilbert's New York Life Building, The Clock Tower Building (formerly the Metropolitan Life Tower), 200 Fifth Avenue (formerly the International Toy Center), 1 Madison Ave and 11 Madison Ave, and New York City's tallest—the iconic Empire State Building are among the many sites hosting sculptures at elevated heights. Described as a fascinating intervention into the urban environment, *Event Horizon* encourages viewers to reflect upon and engage with the exceptional qualities of New York City's built environment.



For more information and a complete list of all participating sites, please refer to the **official *Event Horizon* map** found on the project's dedicated website at www.EventHorizonNewYork.org.

"Antony Gormley is one of the world's leading artists today, and it's exciting that he chose New York City as the place for his first outdoor public art installation in the U.S.," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "New York City is home to a vibrant and diverse cultural community, in large part because we've embraced visionary artists and developed a proud tradition of world-class public art."

"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."



"We are excited to welcome *Event Horizon* to be part of New York City's iconic skyline and sidewalks these coming months" said George Fertitta, CEO of NYC & Company. "We encourage everyone, both visitors and locals alike to experience the installation in and around Madison Square Park and enjoy everything this great neighborhood has to offer."

Artist Antony Gormley comments, "*Event Horizon* hopes to activate the skyline in order to encourage people to look around. In this process of looking and finding, or looking and seeking, one perhaps re-assesses one's own position in the world and becomes aware of one's status of embedment."

President of the Madison Square Park Conservancy, Debbie Landau states, "The Madison Square Park Conservancy is delighted to bring this monumental work to the magnificent setting anchored by historic Madison Square Park. *Event Horizon* represents another milestone in Mad. Sq. Art's seven-year history of presenting exceptional, contemporary public art for all to experience and enjoy."

"For the next few months, *Event Horizon* will make it next to impossible to come to Madison Square Park without taking deeper stock of where you are in relationship to Antony Gormley's blokes, the treasured collection of iconic New York architecture on which they stand, and, of course, yourself. Though his men are motionless as they gaze, all the world around them can't sit still, and so the scene changes each time you see it. *Event Horizon* is a gift for all New Yorkers and visitors alike," said Danny Meyer, CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group and Board member of the Madison Square Park Conservancy.

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, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria and Antiguo 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's work is included in numerous public collections worldwide including: the Tate Modern, London; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; the Denver Art Museum, Denver; the Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, among them.

He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999 and was made an Officer 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.

With the New York presentation of *Event Horizon*, Antony Gormley joins the list of distinguished and emerging artists presented by Mad. Sq. Art since the program's inception in 2004. Fellow Mad. Sq. Art-presented artists include Richard Deacon, Mark di Suvero, Tadashi Kawamata, Mel Kendrick, Sol LeWitt, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Roxy Paine, Jessica Stockholder, Ursula von Rydingsvard, and William Wegman.

In conjunction with *Event Horizon*, the Sean Kelly Gallery will present a solo exhibition of new works by the artist entitled *Breathing Room II*. The New York exhibition marks Gormley's third with the Sean Kelly Gallery and will remain on view March 26 through May 1, 2010. Antony Gormley is represented by Sean Kelly Gallery, New York and White Cube, London.

This exhibition was organized in cooperation with the **City of New York**.

Event Horizon has been privately funded by generous individuals, foundations, and corporations. Please refer to the *Event Horizon* Acknowledgements page for a complete list.

The Wall Street Journal is the Official Newspaper of *Event Horizon*.

The Ace Hotel New York is the Official Hotel of *Event Horizon*.

Time Out New York is the Official Weekly Media Sponsor of *Event Horizon*.

Time Out New York's Official Event Horizon Exhibition Guide:

To celebrate the installation, the Madison Square Park Conservancy has teamed up with *Time Out New York* on the production of a 32-page official **Event Horizon exhibition guide** highlighting the exhibit and specific sculpture locations with advice on the best vantage points from which to enjoy the installation. The *Time Out* exhibition guide will hit stands throughout the installation neighborhood on April 7, 2010.

Municipal Art Society Event Horizon Tours:

The Municipal Art Society will be offering public tours of *Event Horizon*, for more information please visit <http://mas.org/tours/>.

Event Horizon Promotional Tie-Ins:

A variety of hotels and restaurants such as the Ace Hotel New York, Tabla, Shake Shack, and SD26 Wine Bar & Lounge are offering special *Event Horizon* items and offers. Please see the *Event Horizon* Promotional Tie-Ins page for more information.

Event Horizon Website:

For more information about the installation and a downloadable map of sites, please visit the *Event Horizon* website at www.EventHorizonNewYork.org.

For more information on the Madison Square Park Conservancy and its many programs including Mad. Sq. Art, please visit www.madisonsquarepark.org.

***Image credit:**

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

Photograph by James Ewing

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A Hayward Gallery Commission, courtesy Sean Kelly Gallery, New York and White Cube, London
Event Horizon New York Presented by Madison Square Park Conservancy

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