DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
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DeCordova announces Cronin Lecture guest speaker:
Antony Gormley

Lincoln, MA, August 24, 2010 – DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum welcomes Antony Gormley as the guest speaker for the Paul J. Cronin Memorial Lecture on Friday, November 12 at 6:30 pm. The event will be hosted by the Massachusetts College of Art and Design at the Tower Auditorium at 621 Huntington Avenue in Boston. This is the first year that admission to the Cronin Lecture will be free. The event will have limited seating on a first come first serve basis.

The Paul J. Cronin Memorial Lectures were established in 1981 to consider topics that are broadly focused upon changing attitudes towards twentieth and twenty-first century art. The Cronin Lectures are made possible by a generous grant from the Grover Cronin Memorial Foundation.

Antony Gormley, born in London in 1950, is one of the most celebrated contemporary British sculptors. He uses sculpture as a way to investigate the human body as a place of memory and transformation, often using casts of his own body. Gormley explores the relationship between self and other by installing his large-scale pieces in public spaces so people may interact with his work.

Gormley’s most recent installation, and the artist's U.S. public art debut, Event Horizon, was exhibited in New York, from March 26–August 15. Thirty-one life-size cast iron sculptures were displayed on the sidewalks and rooftops in New York City's Flatiron District. Gormley’s other recent installation One and Other, of 2009, is praised as one of the most important public art pieces of our time. Gormley transformed the fourth plinth of Trafalgar Square into a platform for 2,400 Londoners to take the stage in one-hour increments. His other major public art works include Angel of the North and Another Place in the UK. His work has been exhibited worldwide with solo shows in museums and galleries.

DeCordova acquired Gormley’s Reflection II in March of this year marking the institution’s first international acquisition. Reflection II consists of two cast iron sculptures at -more-
approximately 6’3” tall that stand on either side of the glass wall in the Museum’s front entrance. This installation is symbolic of deCordova’s commitment to presenting sculpture in the Park, as well as in the galleries. This sculpture, part of an edition of three with an artist’s proof, is the only one in a public collection.

*Reflection II* is the first in a series of major acquisitions made possible by the *Hamilton R. James Sculpture Park Acquisition Fund* in an effort to strengthen the Park’s collection of contemporary sculpture. Given by Tony James in honor of his late father Hamilton R. James, the grant consists of a one million dollar gift and a potential future gift of five hundred thousand dollars for deCordova’s Sculpture Park. This gift, the largest ever given specifically for the Park, recognizes the service and philanthropy of Hamilton R. James, a long-time supporter and former Trustee of the Museum. The acquisition of Antony Gormley’s work moves deCordova toward its goal of becoming one of the pre-eminent sculpture parks in the country within a decade.

**About deCordova**

DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum was established in 1950 to educate the public about American contemporary art. DeCordova’s unique campus features both indoor and outdoor venues, allowing its visitors to celebrate and explore contemporary art across 35 acres. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming. Outside, deCordova’s Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. DeCordova also offers the largest non-degree granting studio art program in New England. DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year and enrolls more than 3,000 students of all ages in its studio art program.

**General Information**

DeCordova is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10am to 5pm and on selected Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is $12 for adults; $8 for senior citizens, students, and youth ages 6-12. Children age 5 and under, Lincoln residents, and Active Duty Military Personnel and their dependents are admitted free. The Sculpture Park is open year-round during daylight hours. Guided public tours of the Museum’s main galleries take place every Thursday at 1pm and Sunday at 2pm Tours of the Sculpture Park are given on Saturday and Sunday at 1pm from April to October. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit [www.decordova.org](http://www.decordova.org) or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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