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## **Hargreaves cast in Gormley exhibition**

Iron foundry Hargreaves has completed eight blockwork sculptures for leading artist Antony Gormley's latest exhibition.



The Halifax-based foundry has cast around 10 tonnes of iron for Gormley's latest exhibition, *Test Sites*, which opened in London's White Cube Mason's Yard at the beginning of June.

One of the few UK foundries that could deliver a project of such scale, Hargreaves produced the eight sculptures within a tight six week schedule, delivering the final piece to the London exhibition on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition previewed on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs until July 10<sup>th</sup>.

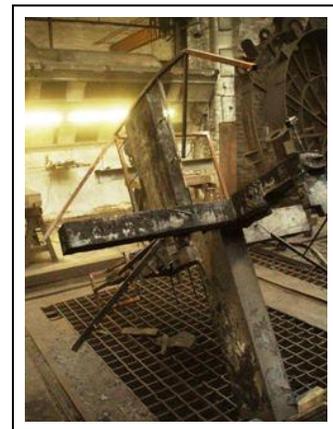
Made from metal melted from 100% recycled scrap, Hargreaves cast the huge sculptures in its Halifax foundry pits from exacting polystyrene models designed and produced by Gormley.

Andrew Knight, Foundry & Patternshop Business Manager, said: "The challenge in this project was to retain the absolute precision of Gormley's models. These sculptures explore the relationship between architecture and man and so are all about straight, sharp lines.

"There was a huge responsibility on our moulding and casting team to make sure Gormley's models didn't distort while the sculptures were moulded and cast. Given the timescale of the project, there was absolutely no margin for error. Our guys had to get it right first time."

The relationship between Hargreaves and Gormley stretches back over 17 years. The Foundry first cast for Gormley in 1993 for his solo exhibition in Malmo, Sweden.

Established in 1896, Hargreaves Foundry is one of a handful of UK foundries and pattern makers still in full operation, keeping traditional iron casting skills alive and kicking in Yorkshire.



Hargreaves MD Michael Hinchliffe puts their 114-history down to the ability to diversify: "Traditionally, we supplied castings to the engineering and construction industries. Today, castings for major arts projects accounts for some 40 per cent of our foundry business and we are also well known as a manufacturer of cast iron drainage products with a string of heritage projects to our name. In 2009, we acquired a business designing bespoke lock gates and tidal doors."

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### **Notes to editors**

Manufacturing process: The initial process in the Foundry was to carefully coat the polystyrene in a specialist refractory coating. After letting that coat dry, the model was ready for the moulding stage. The model was placed in a moulding pit and foundry sand compacted around it, taking care not damage the original polystyrene model. Once the completely covered in sand, the model was ready to cast. Unlike a conventional pattern used by the foundry, the polystyrene model was not removed for the casting process. The liquid cast iron is poured into the mould at a temperature of 1400oC. The polystyrene evaporates and the molten cast iron fills the space left behind, producing an exact replica of the original polystyrene model. The cast iron sculpture was then allowed to cool to room temperature over a couple of days. When removed from the sand, the attached steel frame was cut away and the sculpture was sand blasted clean. The final process was to expose the clean sculptures to the outdoor elements to enable to sculptures to create the final oxidized look. Each sculpture weighed between 700kgs and 1400kgs.

Hargreaves Foundry has 65 employees. Recent projects include: the multi-million-pound redevelopment of Windrush Square in Brixton, recreating cast iron windows at south Liverpool's "pink" place of worship, the Church of St Michael in the Hamlet and at the Garrison Chapel in Pembroke Dock and supplying over five kilometres of internal cast iron rainwater and drainage systems for Europe's tallest skyscraper, Moscow's Federation Tower. Hargreaves operates a joint venture in China selling drainage pipes into the Russian market.

Hargreaves Foundry acquired Rochdale Canal Workshop, formerly at Callis Mill in Hebden Bridge, to form Hargreaves Lock Gates. Among the many projects it has won it has crafted and installed four new lock gates for the Grade II listed, Jesus Green Lock on Cambridge's River Cam to mark University's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

White Cube is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For further information, please contact Honey Luard or Sara Macdonald on +44 (0)20 7930 5373. Gormley's new series of sculptural works will populate the ground-floor gallery, furthering the artist's investigation of the human body and its relationship to the built world. These new, massively extended block works use an architectonic language of stacking, propping and cantilever to suggest a tension which is indicative of our urban-bound human condition.