



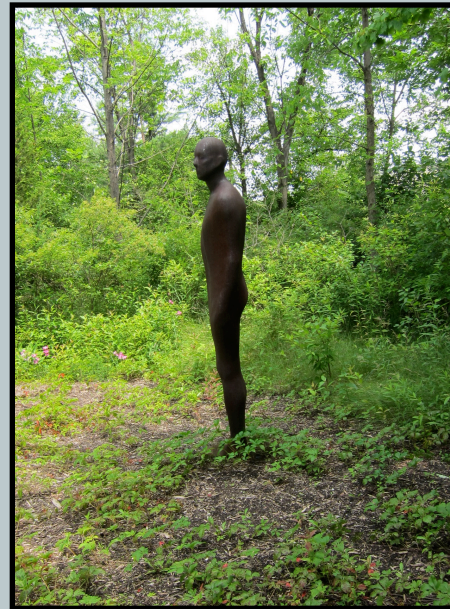
Art: *One and Other*

Site: Wooded glade

Place: Frederik Meijer Sculpture Park

Location: Grand Rapids, MI

Artist: Antony Gormley



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In an area of the park called The Hollow – an area that you are uncertain you are permitted to enter, since the trails are narrow and unpaved – is an unmarked path into a woodland. Each step makes you wonder if turning back would be preferable to forging ahead, but you keep going. The path opens into a hidden glade, the kind of spot where you might want to build a campfire or spy a deer – and standing in it, but off to one side, is this figure. So static, so solitary ... so creepy, really. It is startling because it is life-size. It is made of iron, having a heavier, duller, more oppressive feel to it than bronze, and it has the lack of definition of detail that a shrouded figure has; a cocoon, or a sarcophagus – a human form either being formed or losing form. It stands alone, facing away, in this isolated place. The eerie shape in this lonely setting gives one pause – a symbol of the human condition, a lost soul, bound and silent in its iron case in a secluded wilderness. The emotions caused by this pairing are palpable, so enhanced by one another. You feel as if you should go get help for this creature, a prisoner of his own skin in an inhospitable environment. The smooth iron contrasts with the textured leaves, but the ruggedness of the surroundings only magnifies the sense of helplessness and threat. And my feeling of voyeurism. But the title of this piece sums up not only the situation, but the idea behind Sculpturehead and how they both work.

Impact:

- Context/contrast
- Surprise
- Conceptual
- Materiality
- Containment
- Minimal

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: June 2010



Sculpturehead

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