

F A G G I O N A T O F I N E A R T S

49 ALBEMARLE STREET. LONDON W1S 4JR TEL: +44 (0)20 7409 7979 FAX: +44 (0)20 7409 7879

PRESS RELEASE: Creating the most modern speaking visual pictures of our time

02. 2007

Faggionato Fine Art is pleased to have currently on view: GILBERT & GEORGE -selected works from the 80s.

Since meeting at St Martin's School of Art in 1967, Gilbert & George have been working together and inventing their own 'visual language'. Their art is based on the underlying aim to develop a form of representation that is accessible and understood universally by everyone, to create an 'art for all'.

With the content of mankind as their subject and inspiration, Gilbert & George use art to address fundamental human issues and concerns: sex, death, race, religion, or politics. They create pictures that speak across the barriers of knowledge directly to people about their life, believing that the true function of art is to bring about understanding, progress and advancement in society. Rather than avoid taboo subjects, Gilbert & George confront them head-on, creating works that are an in-your-face attack with notoriously controversial statements and provocative insinuating images.

Gilbert & George blur the boundaries between art and life and life and art, having begun by turning their own lives into a constant performance and becoming the work of art itself as 'living sculptures'. Though they have since moved into pictures, their persona is ever-present, images of the duo superimposed into nearly all of their photomontage compositions. Obviously and intrinsically linked with the art they create, they expose themselves –sometimes literally – in their pictures.

The works on show range in date from 1980 to 1988, and thus span almost a decade of development in their visual language. Although continuing with the use of black and white photography, divided into panels in rectangular or square grid formation, the 80s saw an onslaught of colour in Gilbert & Georges' art.

Against the strong chiaroscuro contrast of black vs. white, the presence of vivid colour hand-dyed into the photograph is used to stunning, jarring effect. Applied as a chromatic veil as in the work Stink (1986), or clashing emphasis, the strong primary colours enhance the dramatic content of the works (Grounded, 1988), adding greater depth and ambiguity.

Materials never yield to a decorative or naturalistic rendering, but serve solely to underpin the meaning and purpose of the picture. Gilbert & George capture the fundamental essence of what they wish to represent, and establish an iconography in their pictures that opens itself up to an interpretive code. In this way the pictures are like signs, symbolic and easily read. Humorous and subversive (like the work Coming, 1983), amusing and shocking, they communicate on a direct and emotional level. Powerful, compelling representations, these works are pictures that speak by artists of our time.

For Further exhibition details please contact Stephanie Kirkness, info@faggionato.com

**GILBERT & GEORGE
BIOGRAPHY**

Gilbert
1943 Born Dolomites, Italy
Studied: Wolkenstein School of Art, Hallein School of Art , Munich Academy of Art

George
1942 Born Devon, England
Studied: Dartington Adult Education Centre, Dartington Hall College of Art, Oxford Art School

1967 Met and studied St Martin's School of Art, London
1984 Shortlisted for Turner Prize 1984
1986 Winner of the Turner Prize 1986

2005 Gilbert & George, British Pavilion, 51st International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice

Museum Exhibitions

- 2007 London, Tate Modern, Gilbert & George: Major Exhibition (retrospective)
- 2006 Maastricht, Bonnefantenmuseum, SONOFAGOD PICTURES Was Jesus Heterosexual?
- 2005 Hannover, Kestner Gesellschaft, 20 London E1 Pictures
- 2004 St Etienne, Modern Art Museum, 20 London E1 Pictures
- 2002 London, Serpentine Gallery The Dirty Words Pictures,
Frankfurt, Portikus, Gilbert & George: Nine Dark Pictures
Lisbon, Centro Cultural de Bélem, Gilbert & George
Bregenz, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Gilbert & George: A Retrospective
Athens, School of Fine Art, Gilbert & George: A Retrospective
- 2001 Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art, Nineteen Ninety Nine
Vienna, Museum Moderner Kunst, Nineteen Ninety Nine
Alex, Chateau d' Arenthon Fondation pour l'Art Contemporain, Gilbert & George
- 2000 Oxford, Museum of Modern Art, Enclosed and Enchanted
Düsseldorf, Parkhaus, Gilbert & George
Paris FIAC, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Zig-Zag. Pictures 2000
Lyon, Biennale de Lyon, Halle Tony Garnier, MM 2000
Denmark, Arken Museum for Moderne Kunst, Skovvej, Man - Body in Art from 1950 to 2000
Belfast, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Gilbert & George 1991 to 1997
- 1999 Oslo, Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Gilbert & George 1970-1988
València, Drassanes, Gilbert & George 1986-1997
Milton Keynes, Milton Keynes Gallery, The Rudimentary Pictures (inaugural exhibition)
Bonn, Kunstmuseum, Nineteen Ninety Nine
- 1998 Naples, Museo di Capodimonte, New Testamental Pictures
- 1997 Tokyo, Sezon Museum, Gilbert & George Retrospective
Stockholm, Magasin 3, Gilbert & George
Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Gilbert & George Retrospective
- 1996 Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum, The Naked Shit Pictures
Bologna, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Gilbert & George Retrospective

F A G G I O N A T O F I N E A R T S

49 ALBEMARLE STREET. LONDON W1S 4JR TEL: +44 (0)20 7409 7979 FAX: +44 (0)20 7409 7879

- 1994 Lugano, Museo d'Arte Moderna della Citta di Lugano, Gilbert & George
Germany, Wolfsburg Kunstmuseum, Shitty Naked Human World
- 1993 Liverpool, Tate Gallery, The Cosmological Pictures
Stuttgart, Württembergischer Kunstverein, The Cosmological Pictures
Beijing, National Art Gallery, Gilbert & George China Exhibition
Shanghai, The Art Museum, Gilbert & George China Exhibition
- 1992 Zürich, Kunsthalle, The Cosmological Pictures
Vienna, Wiener Secession, The Cosmological Pictures
Budapest, Ernst Múzeum, The Cosmological Pictures
The Hague, Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Cosmological Pictures
Aarhus, Aarhus Kunstmuseum, New Democratic Pictures
Dublin, Museum of Modern Art, The Cosmological Pictures
Barcelona, Fundació Joan Miró, The Cosmological Pictures
- 1991 Krakow, Palac Sztuki, The Cosmological Pictures,
Rome, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, The Cosmological Pictures
- 1990 Moscow, New Tretyakov Gallery, Central House of the Artists,
Pictures 1983 – 88
- 1987 Madrid, Palacio de Velazquez, Pictures 1982 to 85
Munich, Lenbachhaus, Pictures 1982 to 85,
London, Hayward Gallery, Pictures 1982 to 85
Connecticut, Aldrich Museum, Pictures
- 1986 Bordeaux, CAPC, Pictures 1982 to 85
Bordeaux, CAPC, Charcoal on Paper Sculptures 1970 to 1974
Edinburgh, The Fruitmarket Gallery, The Paintings 1971
Basel, Kunsthalle, Pictures 1982 to 85
Brussels, Palais des Beaux Arts, Pictures 1982 to 85
- 1985 Milwaukee, Milwaukee Art Museum, Gilbert & George
New York, The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, Gilbert & George
- 1984 Baltimore, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Gilbert & George
Houston, Contemporary Arts Museum, Gilbert & George
Florida, West Palm Beach, The Norton Gallery of Art, Gilbert & George
- 1981 Dusseldorf, Kunsthalle, Photo-Pieces 1971-1980
Bern, Kunsthalle, Photo-Pieces 1971-1980
Paris, Georges Pompidou Centre, Photo-Pieces 1971-1980
London, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Photo-Pieces 1971-1980
- 1980 Eindhoven, Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Photo-Pieces 1971-1980
- 1976 Buffalo, Albright- Knox Gallery, The General Jungle
- 1973 Sydney, National Gallery of New South Wales, The Shruberies & Singing Sculpture (a
John Kaldor Project)
Melbourne, National Gallery of Victoria, The Shruberies & Singing Sculpture (a John
Kaldor Project)
- 1972 Antwerp, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, The Paintings
- 1971 London, Whitechapel Art Gallery, The Paintings
Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum, The Paintings

F A G G I O N A T O F I N E A R T S

49 ALBEMARLE STREET. LONDON W1S 4JR TEL: +44 (0)20 7409 7979 FAX: +44 (0)20 7409 7879

Gallery Exhibitions

- 2006 London, White Cube, SONOFAGOD PICTURES Was Jesus Heterosexual?
- 2004 New York, Sonnabend Gallery, Perversive Pictures
New York, Lehmann Maupin, Perversive Pictures
Athens, Bernier / Eliades, Thirteen Hooligan Pictures 2004
Paris, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Twenty London E1 Pictures
- 2001 London, White Cube² Hoxton Square, New Horny Pictures
- 2000 Milton Keynes, Milton Keynes Gallery, The Rudimentary Pictures
Los Angeles, Gagolian Gallery, The Rudimentary Pictures
Dusseldorf, Parkhaus, Gilbert & George
Switzerland, Massimo Martino Fine Arts & Projects, 1998 Selected Works from The Fundamental Pictures
Paris, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, New Testamental Pictures
Salzburg, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, New Testamental Pictures
New York, James Cohan Gallery, Black White and Red 1971 to 1980
- 1997 New York, Sonnabend Gallery / Lehmann Maupin, The Fundamental Pictures
- 1995 Berlin, Galerie Nikolas Sonne, Gilbert & George
- 1994 New York, Robert Miller Gallery, Gilbert & George
Cologne, Galerie Rafael Jablonka, The Naked Shit Pictures
- 1992 London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, New Democratic Pictures
- 1991 New York, Sonnabend Gallery, 20th Anniversary Exhibition
- 1990 New York, Hirschl and Adler Modern, Gilbert & George
New York, Robert Miller Gallery, 25 Worlds by Gilbert & George
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, The Cosmological Pictures
London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, Worlds & Windows
Cologne, Desire Feurele Gallery, Eleven Worlds by Gilbert & George and Antique Clocks
- 1989 Milan, Christian Stein Gallery, The 1988 Pictures
London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, For AIDS Exhibition
- 1988 Hamburg, Ascan Crone Gallery, The 1988 Pictures
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, The 1988 Pictures
- 1987 London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, New Pictures
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, New Pictures
- 1985 New York, Sonnabend Gallery, New Moral Works
- 1983 London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, The Believing World
Munich, Gallery Schellmann & Kluser, Hands Up
Rome, Gallery Pieroni, Lives
- 1982 London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, Crusade
- 1980 Amsterdam, Art & Project, Post-Card Sculptures
Dusseldorf, Konrad Fischer Gallery, Post-Card Sculptures
Dusseldorf, Karen & Jean Bernier Gallery, New Photo-Pieces
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, New Photo-Pieces
-

F A G G I O N A T O F I N E A R T S

49 ALBEMARLE STREET. LONDON W1S 4JR TEL: +44 (0)20 7409 7979 FAX: +44 (0)20 7409 7879

- London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, Modern Fears
Paris, Chantal Crousel Gallery, Photo-Pieces1980-1981
- 1978 Dartington Hall, Dartington Hall Gallery, Photo-Pieces
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, New Photo-Pieces
Tokyo, Art Agency, New Photo-Pieces
- 1977 Amsterdam, Art & Project, Dirty Words Pictures
Dusseldorf, Konrad Fischer Gallery, Dirty Words Pictures
- 1976 New York, Sonnabend Gallery, Dead Boards
London, Robert Self Gallery, Mental
Newcastle, Robert Self Gallery, Mental
Basel, Sperone Fischer Gallery, Red Morning
- 1975 Paris, Sonnabend Gallery, Bloody Life
Geneva, Sonnabend Gallery, Bloody Life
Naples, Lucio Amelio Gallery, Bloody Life
New York, Sperone Westwater Fischer Gallery, Post-Card Sculptures
Brussels, Gallery Spillemaekers, Bad Thoughts
Tokyo, Art Agency, Dusty Corners
- 1974 Antwerp, Art & Project/MTL Gallery, Drinking Sculptures
Dusseldorf, Konrad Fischer Gallery, Human Bondage
Amsterdam, Art & Project, Dark Shadow
London, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, Dark Shadow
Rome, Sperone Gallery, Cherry Blossom
- 1973 Paris, Sonnabend Gallery, Any Port in Storm
London, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, Reclining Drunk
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, Modern Rubbish
Turin, Sperone Gallery, New Decorative Works
- 1972 Dusseldorf, Konrad Fischer Gallery, New Photo Pieces
Dusseldorf, Gerry Schum Video Gallery, Three Video Sculptures on Video Tape
London, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, The Bar
London, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, The Evening Before the Morning After
London, Situation Gallery, It Takes a Boy to Understand a Boy's Point of View
Rome, Sperone Gallery, New Sculpture
- 1971 Turin, Sperone Gallery, There Were Two Young Men
New York, Sonnabend Gallery, The General Jungle
London, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, The Ten Speeches
Amsterdam, Art & Project, New Photo-Pieces
- 1970 London, Fournier Street, George by Gilbert & Gilbert by George
Dusseldorf, Konrad Fischer Gallery, The Pencil on Paper Descriptive Works
Amsterdam, Art & Project, Art Notes and Thoughts
Milan, Françoise Lambert Gallery, Frozen Into the Nature for You Art
Berlin, Skulima Gallery, The Pencil on Paper Descriptive Works
Cologne, Heiner Friedrich Gallery, Frozen Into the Nature for You Art
London, Nigel Greenwood Gallery, To be with Art is all We Ask
- 1969 London, Frank's Sandwich Bar, Anniversary
London, Robert Fraser Gallery, Shit and Cunt
- 1968 London, Frank's Sandwich Bar, Three Works/Three Works
London, St. Martin's School of Art, Snow Show
London, Allied Services, Bacon 32