

Gilbert & George
Films and Video Sculptures, 1972-1981
July 1–August 8, 2014
201 Chrystie Street, New York, NY



Detail from *THE WORLD OF GILBERT AND GEORGE* (1981). Courtesy the artists and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, June 30, 2014—Lehmann Maupin is pleased to present a group of seminal films and video sculptures by pioneering artists Gilbert & George. Among the longest-enduring artist duos, they have had sustained influence on the contemporary art world for the past fifty years. The exhibition *Films and Video Sculptures, 1972-1981* will be shown in the gallery's 201 Chrystie Street location and represents an integral, transitional link between the artists' early art and their later, more widely known large-scale pictures. This exhibition is the artists' fifth show with Lehmann Maupin.

At the beginning of their art-life, Gilbert & George developed their signature form of "Living Sculpture," embodying a sense of "being" over "doing" and upending traditional modes of art practice. With their individual identities subsumed into this vision of animate sculpture, the artists became representations of the universal human condition, a central theme in their work. Their belief in "Art for All"—that art should strive for a meaningful connection to the viewer's everyday life, rather than a connection that can only be understood

through formal arts education—infuses their art with a democratic vigor and remains a vital aspect of their vision to this day.

The exhibition begins with a group of three black & white sculptures on videotape, *IN THE BUSH* (1972), *GORDON'S MAKES US DRUNK* (1972), and *A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTISTS AS YOUNG MEN* (1972), all shown on monitors. Produced with the legendary German Fernsehgalerie Schum, they portray Gilbert & George engaged in repetitive, minimal actions, echoing the qualities of their "Living Sculpture." The artists' embrace of the then-new technology through the use of film and video highlights a landmark shift in their art, allowing Gilbert & George to extend their living sculptures beyond a particular time and place and to broadcast their art to wider audiences.

The exhibition also includes *THE WORLD OF GILBERT & GEORGE* (1981), a feature-length film written and directed by the artists, projected on a large screen in the gallery's main space. Brimming with Gilbert & George's unique visual vocabulary, it functions as a social document of life in our modern urban world, examining issues of nationality and individuality, class tensions, and the artists' preoccupations with religion, politics, sex, death, and human existence. A precursor to the myriad future documentaries about their life and art, this film is notable for the artists' intense level of involvement in its production. From the storyboard to the shooting script, they instructed the director Philip Haas in minute detail, creating a unique art movie masterpiece.

Lehmann Maupin, in partnership with Anthology Film Archives, will present a special evening screening of *THE WORLD OF GILBERT AND GEORGE* and *GILBERT & GEORGE: THE SINGING SCULPTURE* on Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30pm at the gallery's 201 Chrystie Street location. Producer Philip Haas, a longtime collaborator with the artists, will introduce the works. Please contact Graham Newhall at +1 212 255 2923 for more information.

A major solo exhibition of Gilbert & George's work is on view at Nouveau Musée National de Monaco through November 2, 2014.

About the Artists

Gilbert & George (b. 1943 & 1942, Italy & England) have been creating art together since they met in 1967 at the St. Martin's School in London. As students, they adopted the form of "Living Sculptures" by walking through the streets and parks of London, their heads and hands coated with multi-color metallic powders. Later, they presented these sculptures in museums and galleries around the world, from New York to Japan, Europe to Australia. From the outset, Gilbert & George wanted to collapse the distance between art and the artist and the viewers.

Gilbert & George's extensive exhibition history includes solo exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1985); Central House of the Artists, Moscow (1990); *China Exhibition 1993*, National Art Gallery, Peking, and The Art Museum, Shanghai; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris (1997); the Serpentine Gallery, London (2002); a 2007 retrospective at the Tate Modern, London, which traveled to the Haus der Kunst, Munich (2007), Castello di Rivoli, Turin (2008), de Young Museum, San Francisco (2008), Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee (2008), and The Brooklyn Museum, New York (2008); the Kröller-Müller Museum, The Netherlands (2010); and the Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Poland (2011). In 2005, Gilbert & George represented Great Britain at the 51st Venice Biennale. The artists live and work in London, England.

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, the Middle East, and Africa. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work

highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics and globalism.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Mickalene Thomas, *Tête de Femme*, through August 8, 2014, New York, 26th Street
Group exhibition, *Under the Skin*, July 10–August 16, 2014, Hong Kong, Pedder Building
Do Ho Suh, September 7–October 25, 2014, New York, 26th Street & Chrystie Street
Robin Rhode, September 18–November 8, Hong Kong, Pedder Building
Kader Attia, November 7–December 13, 2014, New York, 26th Street & Chrystie Street

For more information on Gilbert & George or other gallery artists, please contact Graham Newhall at Lehmann Maupin at +1 212 255 2923 or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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