

Gilbert & George

THE BEARD PICTURES

October 12 – December 22, 2017

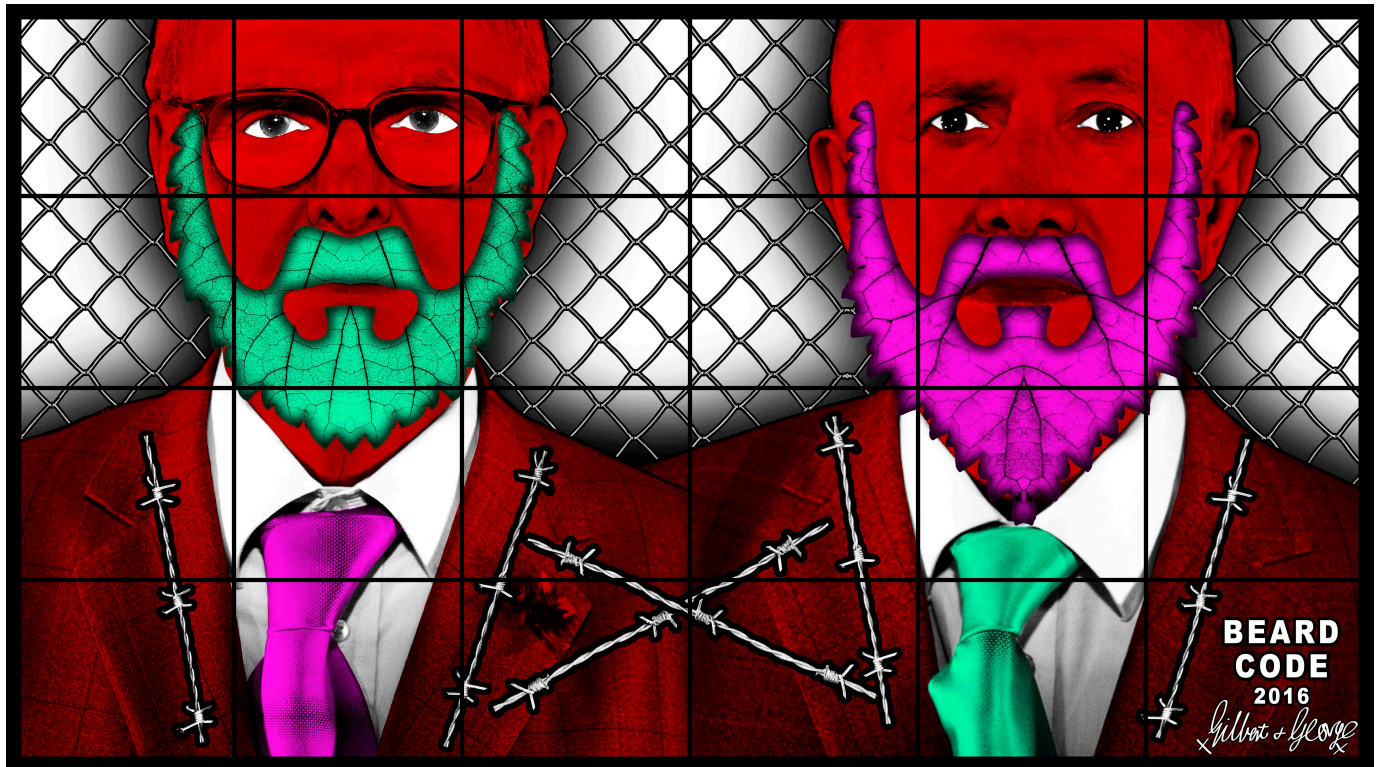
536 West 22nd Street & 201 Chrystie Street, New York

#gilbertandgeorge | #thebeardpictures | @lehmannmaupin

Media Preview: Thursday, October 12, 9:30 AM

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 12, 6-8 PM

Book Signing: Saturday, October 14, 12-2 PM



BEARD CODE, 2017, mixed media, 100 x 177.95 in, 254 x 452 cm. © Gilbert & George. Courtesy the artists and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, August 30, 2017 – Lehmann Maupin is pleased to announce *THE BEARD PICTURES*, an expansive solo exhibition of recent pictures by Gilbert & George. In honor of the 50th anniversary of when the British artists first met, 35 monumental pictures will be on view at both of the gallery's New York locations in Chelsea and downtown Manhattan. **The gallery will host an opening reception for the artists on October 12 at both 536 West 22nd Street and 201 Chrystie Street from 6 to 8 PM.**

THE BEARD PICTURES exemplifies Gilbert & George's commitment to "Living Sculpture," or an inseparable association between the world and their art practice. The pictures respond to the shifting demographics of our time, befitting the artists' proclamation of "Art for All." Viewers should not mistake this mandate for a democratic approach to art as a pleasantry. Taboos, fetishes, political upheaval, and the functions of the human body are

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some of the great unifiers of humanity, and Gilbert & George have long offered scathing and unsanitized societal critique. The British novelist Michael Bracewell elaborates on the sentiment of these latest works:

THE BEARD PICTURES are violent, eerie, grotesque, lurid, and crazed. They show a dream-like world of paranoia and destruction and madness ... a world bereft of reason, in which negotiation no longer exists. Gilbert & George take their places within THE BEARD PICTURES as intense, red, staring, empty-headed, and sinister versions of themselves ... THE BEARD PICTURES turn history into a mad parade, their mood shape-shifting between that of science fiction, lucid dreaming, and Victorian caricature ... In this chaos of trashed aesthetics and reversed values, all has become symbol and surface: mad symbols, presented with deadly seriousness.

The massive works depict the artists in symbolic beards made from beer foam, flowers, and barbed wire, interspersed with imagery of street signs, graffiti, and ginkgo trees specific to the London neighborhood of Spitalfields. With this, the artists offer an allegorical take on the transformation and upheaval of the urban environment, and more broadly, our contemporary era. Few traits of appearance or dress offer such ripe interpretation for both the spiritual and the secular, the past and present, as the beard; Bracewell summarizes its iconography “as both mask and meaning: a sign of the times.”

There will be a **media preview** on Thursday, October 12, at 536 West 22nd Street at 9:30 AM. RSVP to kathryn@lehmannmaupin.com.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue which includes a text by Michael Bracewell. A **book signing** by the artists will take place on Saturday, October 14, at 536 West 22nd Street from 12-2 PM.

Further exhibitions of *THE BEARD PICTURES* will take place at Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris (October 18, 2017—January 20, 2018); Galerie Albert Baronian, Brussels (November 9—December 23, 2017); White Cube, London (November 22—January 28, 2018); Alfonso Artiaco Gallery, Naples (December 16, 2017—March 23, 2018); and Bernier/Eliades, Athens (January 11— March 23, 2018).

About the artists

Gilbert & George (b. 1943, San Martin de Tor, Italy & 1942, Plymouth, United Kingdom) received their BFAs at the Munich Academy of Art, Germany, and Oxford Art School, United Kingdom, respectively, and received their MFAs from Saint Martin’s School of Art in London, where they met in 1967. Recent solo exhibitions of their work have been organized at The Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest, Hungary (2017); Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia (2016); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2015); Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (2014); Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany (2011); Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Poland (2011); Kröller-Müller Museum, the Netherlands (2010); the de Young, San Francisco (2008), Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI (2008), Brooklyn Museum, New York (2008); and Tate Modern, London (2007). Select group exhibitions featuring their work include *The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition 2017*, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2017); *Take Me (I’m Yours)*, Jewish Museum, New York (2016); *A Journey Through London Subculture: 1980s to Now*, ICA London (2013); *Regarding Warhol: Sixty Artists, Fifty Years*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2012); *ARTandPRESS*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2012); *The Original Copy: Photography of Sculpture 1839 to today*, Kunsthau Zurich (2011); *BP British Art Displays 1500-2009*, Tate Britain,

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London (2009); and *Passports: Great Early Buys from the British Council Collection*, Whitechapel Gallery, London (2009). Their work is in numerous international public and private collections, including Art Institute of Chicago; Cleveland Museum of Art; Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland; Istanbul Modern, Turkey; Magasin III, Stockholm, Sweden; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and Tate Gallery, London.

Gilbert & George have received honorary doctorates of art from Plymouth University, United Kingdom (2013); Open University, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom (2012); University of East London (2010); and London Metropolitan University (2008). They have received numerous awards, including the South Bank Award, London, and The Lorenzo il Magnifico Lifetime Achievement Award, Florence, both in 2007; the Special International Award, Los Angeles, in 1989, and most notably, the Turner Prize, London, in 1986.

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, Africa, and the Middle East. 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

Points of Departure, through September 9, 2017, HONG KONG

Mary Corse, September 7—October 7, 2017, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Mr., *Floating in the Air in the Vicinity of a Convenience Store*, September 14—October 21, 2017, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

Teresita Fernández, October 26—December 16, 2017, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

For more information on Gilbert & George or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan or Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923, or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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