

WHITE CUBE

Bermondsey

News Release

GILBERT & GEORGE

THE BEARD PICTURES AND THEIR FUCKOSOPHY

22 November 2017–28 January 2018 (Preview: Tuesday 21 November, 6–9pm)

White Cube celebrates 50 years of the art of Gilbert & George with a new exhibition spanning all four galleries at White Cube Bermondsey.

THE BEARD PICTURES go on show alongside THE FUCKOSOPHY, a collection of nearly 4000 pronouncements and mottoes created by the artists and installed on a large scale.

Gilbert & George are depicted in THE BEARD PICTURES as red, unsmiling, otherworldly figures, staring emptily with prettified eyes. They wear surreal and symbolic beards made of everything from beer foam, wire and flowers to rabbits with snakes for tongues. Both an emblem of millennial youth and a mark of religious faith, the beards act as a mask while offering meaning.

In some of the pictures the artists are shown in front of or behind barbed wire or mesh fencing, in others they are flagged by newspaper advertisements for bouncers, builders and sex workers, or the rusted steel rods of crushed reinforced concrete.

Writer and novelist Michael Bracewell says: “In the half century that they have lived and worked together as Living Sculptures, embarked on a visionary journey through the modern world, always together and always alone, Gilbert & George have made fiercely singular Anti-Art that is poetic, primal and emotionally driven.

“Aggressively absurd, trashing contemporary artistic niceties but resonant with intense symbolism, THE BEARD PICTURES turn history into a mad parade, their mood shape-shifting between that of science fiction, lucid dreaming and Victorian caricature.”

THE FUCKOSOPHY spans the length of White Cube Bermondsey’s main corridor and fills the 9 x 9 Gallery with Gilbert & George’s trademark black and red type.

‘GILBERT & GEORGE: THE BEARD PICTURES AND THEIR FUCKOSOPHY’ is presented at White Cube from 22 November 2017–28 January 2018, and coincides with Gilbert & George’s 50th anniversary. A fully-illustrated catalogue designed by Gilbert & George and published by White Cube accompanies the show. ‘What is Gilbert & George’, a book by Michael Bracewell, is published by Heni in November 2017, priced at £9.99.

Further exhibitions of THE BEARD PICTURES take place at Lehmann Maupin in New York (12 October–22 December 2017), Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac in Paris (18 October 2017–20 January 2018), Galerie Albert Baronian in Brussels (9 November–23 December 2017), Alfonso Artiaco Gallery in Naples (16 December 2017–23 March 2018) and Bernier/Eliades in Athens (11 January–23 March 2018).

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Notes to Editors:

- Admission to White Cube is free. White Cube Bermondsey is open Tuesday–Saturday 10am–6pm and Sunday 12–6pm. Address: 144-152 Bermondsey St, London SE1 3TQ, United Kingdom +44 (0)20 7930 5373. Website: whitecube.com
- **White Cube’s exhibition programme extends across its three gallery spaces: Bermondsey in South London, Mason’s Yard in St. James’s, London and Hong Kong Central district. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world’s most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.**
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