



THE ART NEWSPAPER

Gilbert & George mark golden jubilee in style

It is 50 years this month since Gilbert and George first met as art students at Central Saint Martins in London, and half a century since the artists moved to Spitalfields, where they still live and work. Since then, the East End neighbourhood has undergone rapid gentrification and with it an influx of hipster bearded millennials. It is these characters who have inspired Gilbert & George's most recent series, *The Beard Pictures*, which is the subject of numerous gallery exhibitions around the world in honour of their 50th anniversary this autumn.

Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac is showing 39 works from the series in its spaces in New York, Paris, and London, and others in Brussels, Naples and Athens (18 October-20 January 2018), while Lehmann Maupin is showing 36 pieces across both its Manhattan galleries (12 October-22 December). White Cube (22 November-28 January 2018) is filling its Bermondsey, south London space with 50 new Beard pictures alongside *Fuckosophy*, a collection of nearly 4,000 swear words and phrases conjured up by Gilbert & George, such as "onward Christian fuckers", "fuckers have feelings too" and "diddly fuck".

Meanwhile, *Lévy Gorvy*, which does not represent the artists, is presenting in London *The General Jungle* or *Carrying on Sculpting* (1971), 23 large-scale charcoal drawings that have never been seen together in the UK (13 September-18 November). The works were first shown at Sonnabend Gallery in New York in 1971 as the backdrop to *The Singing Sculpture*, a performance initially conceived in 1969 when the pair first appeared together in their trademark suits.

Anny Shaw



A still from Gilbert & George's *The Singing Sculpture* (1992)