



GILBERT & GEORGE

**DEATH
HOPE
LIFE
FEAR...**

MAY 2025 – FEBRUARY 2026

**THE
GILBERT & GEORGE
CENTRE**

5a Heneage Street, London E1 5LJ

THE GILBERT & GEORGE CENTRE

“We founded The Gilbert & George Centre for the very simple reason, that we wanted to live forever, which is of course what everyone would like to do. It is based on our vision of life. Whether you’re arriving from Wolverhampton or Venezuela, there will always be pictures to see by us.”

– Gilbert & George

The Gilbert & George Centre, was founded in 2017 by Gilbert & George to create a permanent exhibition space for the artist’s legacy and is intended to enrich London’s cultural offering. The Centre is committed to being accessible to everyone in the community and in keeping with Gilbert & George’s ‘Art for All’ vision, admission to the Centre is free entry. Donations from visitors and interested parties will always be gratefully accepted and directly applied to the running and upkeep of the Centre.

Located in the Spitalfields neighbourhood in London’s East End, a place now widely associated with Gilbert & George and their art, the gallery provides visitors with an in-depth insight into the world of Gilbert & George. In the artists words: *“The East End is the centre of the universe. Some artists feel they have to move to be inspired, but we never felt we needed to.”*

Built in the early 19th century, the building originally served as a brewery. Converted by SIRS Architects, who were awarded a prestigious RIBA London Award in 2025, the restoration process focused on preserving many of its original features, with the respect for the rich history and the architectural landscape of the area, while prioritising sustainability and future-proofing.



View of the Centre from the Courtyard, including Gallery (centre), and Film Room (left)

WHO ARE GILBERT & GEORGE?

Gilbert and George are two men who together are one artist: Gilbert & George.

Gilbert was born in the Dolomites, Italy in 1943 and, George was born in Devon, UK in 1942.

Gilbert & George first met at Saint Martin's School of Art in London, in 1967. From the very beginning, they have appeared as figures in their own art. They are widely known for their early 'Living Sculpture' performance – first performed in 1969, and their groups of pictures, of which they have created almost 3,000 works since 1971 exploring themes of 'DEATH, HOPE, LIFE, FEAR, SEX, MONEY, RACE, RELIGION.'

The inspiration and subject of the art of Gilbert & George is modern life, frequently addressing themes from social issues and taboos to artistic conventions. Gilbert & George take their places in the visionary landscape of their art both as participants and witnesses. The vision of Gilbert & George is committed to raw realism, but it is also deeply romantic – finding heightened or disturbed emotion in ordinary things. In every picture or 'Living Sculpture', Gilbert & George convey images of the modern world with great intensity and contradiction. This precisely balanced paradox encourages the viewer to question life and art within themselves, and others.

Turner Prize winners in 1986, to date Gilbert & George have exhibited internationally with over 100 solo museum and public gallery exhibitions, and represented the UK in the 51st Venice Biennale in 2005.



Gilbert (right) & George (left) pictured in 1969, 'Designs For Foreheads'

DEATH HOPE LIFE FEAR...



Current view of the Main Gallery, showing 'DEATH HOPE LIFE FEAR', 1984

The Gilbert & George Centre presents 'DEATH HOPE LIFE FEAR...' – an exhibition of 18 pictures created by Gilbert & George that span the years 1984 to 1998. The exhibition brings together the epic quadripartite picture 'DEATH HOPE LIFE FEAR', created in 1984, from which the exhibition takes its title, alongside a unique selection of works from Gilbert & George's 'NEW DEMOCRATIC PICTURES' (1991) and 'RUDIMENTARY PICTURES' (1998) – some of which have not been exhibited in the UK for more than two decades. The period covered in this exhibition was one of immense seismic shift in the vision as art of Gilbert & George.

From their very beginnings, Gilbert & George have sought to express in their art the fundamentals of human existence: the universal truths as they see them of the modern condition. The title of this exhibition, 'DEATH HOPE LIFE FEAR...' is therefore descriptive of the subjects surveyed by the art of Gilbert & George, and the feelings that may be evoked by those subjects within the individual, who as such 'completes' the picture, each in their own way.

"Each picture speaks of a 'Particular View' which the viewer may consider in the light of his own life."

– Gilbert & George

**BEAM GALLERY
NEW DEMOCRATIC PICTURES (1991)**

TEETHING
FLAT MAN

HEAD VIEW
PISS HOLE

CITY DROP
HEADACHE

**MAIN GALLERY
DEATH HOPE LIFE FEAR (1984)**

DEATH

HOPE

LIFE

FEAR

**LOWER GALLERY
RUDIMENTARY PICTURES (1998)**

BLOOD ROADS

KINK

MONEY

PISS GARDEN

MARK OWEN
SUCKS
LEE'S COCK

RAIN WHEEL OF LIFE

BLOOD CITY

SWEATY SPUNK

CHEJU ISLAND

FLYING SHIT WHEEL OF
DEATH

FOURNIER WORLD



Current view of the Lower Gallery, showing 'THE RUDIMENTARY PICTURES'

ART FOR ALL TOURS

Stepping into the world of Gilbert & George, our friendly team will provide you with a Highlight Tour delivering an overview of the Centre's history and its vision, an overview of the art of Gilbert & George, and will lead you through key works in the exhibition.

Tours last approximately 45 to 90 minutes based on your needs and requests. We love welcoming visitors; art lovers, students, tourists, anyone curious! Gilbert & George's art is known to spark conversation, so we encourage visitors to participate, ask questions and share their own reflections during the tour.

Faithful to our 'Art for All' vision, there is no charge for Highlight Tours or for educational groups who visit us, however, for non-educational group bookings, we kindly ask that you consider donating – this can be done in advance or on the day.



A member of the Centre's team, leading a Highlight Tour in our Beam Gallery – with a current view of 'THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PICTURES'

"My first time at the Centre was wonderfully enhanced by an engaging and fascinating tour from Alice, who's knowledge and articulation on the works and history of G&G gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Artists and their works on display." – Google Review

"The Art Trail courses thoroughly enjoyed their visit. We would like to thank Diogo for the excellent tours and introductions to the works in the exhibition. We all came away from the visit with so much more insight into the work of Gilbert & George!" – Mary Ward Centre (Art Trail Course)

"The Gilbert & George Centre is a must-visit for contemporary art enthusiasts. Located in Spitalfields, London, the space beautifully combines history and modernity, offering an intimate look at the artist's thought-provoking works." – Visitor feedback

FILM ROOM & GIFT SHOP

The Centre has a Film Room located in our Courtyard, that screens a rotating selection of films and interviews, which are typically associated with the Centre's current exhibition. Currently screening:

PISS DRYING IN THE MORNING ON TARMAC – a film by Peter Stern (2000)

DEATH, HOPE, LIFE, FEAR – Gilbert & George in conversation with Michael Bracewell (2025)

The Centre has a shop which sells a selection of products including Limited Editions as seen in the images bellow, with all funds directly benefiting the Centre.



DEATH
HOPE
LIFE
FEAR...

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

Gilbert + George
X X

The Gilbert & George Centre

The Gilbert & George Centre, registered charity number 1174981, is located on Heneage Street, just off Brick Lane in the heart of London's East End. In keeping with Gilbert & George's ethos 'Art for All', admission to the Centre is free but donations from visitors and interested parties will always be gratefully accepted and will always be applied to the running and upkeep of the Centre.

The Gilbert & George Centre is open to the public from **Wednesday to Sunday 11 AM – 17:45 PM.**

Sign up to our mailing list to keep up to date on new exhibitions and events at the Centre.

gilbertandgeorgecentre.org
[@gilbertandgeorgecentre](https://www.instagram.com/gilbertandgeorgecentre)