

MK Gallery

News Release

Flashback Archive Project launches at MK Gallery

Preview: Thursday 8 October 6-8.30pm with film screening at 7pm / All welcome



Gilbert & George visit MK Gallery during construction, 1999. MKGallery main entrance, 2015.

On Thursday 8 October, 2015, exactly 16 years since MK Gallery first opened to the public, MK Gallery launches *Flashback*, an archival project exploring the organisation's rich exhibition history. The launch event, in the Gallery Project Space, runs from 6pm-8.30pm and includes a screening at 7pm of *The World of Gilbert & George*, 1981 (69 minutes). Tickets are free and can be booked online at www.mkgallery.org.

Flashback is an onsite and online display providing an opportunity to consider the wealth of international art that MK Gallery has brought to Milton Keynes to date, while the gallery undergoes a major renovation and expansion.

Between now and March 2017, *Flashback* will present material relating to some of the world's leading contemporary artists, from Andy Warhol and James Lee Byars to the radical Italian 'Arte Povera' artists Giuseppe Penone and Gilberto Zorio. Also featured will be numerous emerging artists, some of whom were subsequently nominated for the Turner Prize award, including Phil Collins, Roger Hiorns and Cathy Wilkes, as well as some of the best artists from Milton Keynes.

The first archival display, *Flashback: 1999* (8 October – 29 November 2015), focuses on the opening of the building and the inaugural exhibition by internationally acclaimed British artists Gilbert and George. Attracting significant national and regional attention, the artistic duo's exhibition placed MK Gallery firmly on the UK cultural map.

Successive monthly displays will each review a calendar year of exhibitions concluding with 2015. This will provide an opportunity to remind ourselves of the endlessly diverse ways in which artists investigate the world, exploring their interests, ideas and issues, through painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, film, video, performance, dance, spoken word and installation art.

Some of the more unexpected exhibits to have appeared in MK Gallery over the years include a black London taxi cab, a white hearse containing a coffin made of cigarettes, a VW camper van, a mobile bar, recreations of an artist's sitting room, a 1970s tv studio, and a Google office environment, a giant drawing made from acacia thorns, massively scaled red plastic fingernails, a pyramid of every African nation's flag, and installations that are only completed by the visitor playing the grand piano or full drum kit provided.

Speaking of the *Flashback* project Claire Corrin, MK Gallery's Exhibition Organiser said:

"We've had an exciting time rummaging through the archive and selecting the most interesting material. There will be plenty to interest people, from photography to press coverage and print (posters, adverts, and catalogues). There will also be screenings of filmed talks and events, including interviews with artists and curators. We'd love people to share their memories or any exhibition ephemera that they might find for use in the Flashback website so that we can provide a more comprehensive survey of the gallery's history."

Notes to Editors

MK Gallery

MK Gallery is one of the UK's leading public galleries, presenting a programme of international contemporary visual art, alongside a dynamic programme of film, performance and music and wide-ranging education and community projects. The main gallery closed in September in readiness for its major renovation and expansion, but events and displays continue throughout the construction in the adjacent MK Gallery Project Space. Details at www.mkgallery.org

MK Gallery Expansion

By 2017, to coincide with the city's 50th anniversary year, MK Gallery will double the current exhibition spaces, add a multi-purpose events auditorium, dedicated education and community facilities and a new café/bar and shop. Details at www.mkgalleryexpansion.org

MK Gallery Supporters

MK Gallery receives core funding from Milton Keynes Council and Arts Council England South



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Press information

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