

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

### NEW CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY OPENING IN MILTON KEYNES WITH WORLD PREMIERE EXHIBITION

#### **Gilbert & George The Rudimentary Pictures**

8 October 1999 – 9 January 2000

Admission free

Press View: Thursday 7 October 11.30-14.30

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**Milton Keynes Gallery**, part of the city's new £30 million Theatre & Gallery complex designed by Blonski Heard Architects, is set to open on 8 October with a world premiere exhibition by the internationally acclaimed British artists Gilbert & George. This will be the only opportunity to see the exhibition in Europe before it transfers to the Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles in February 2000.

**Gilbert & George: The Rudimentary Pictures**, presents thirty-three new works, in which they explore such themes as alienation, sex, race, and human existence. Many of these striking pictures extend the distinctive range of images they have created exploring city life. In *Gum City*, *City Sweat*, *Money City*, *Blood City*, *Piss City*, *Sex City* and *Crying City*, backgrounds of London street plans are combined with map-like microscopic details of blood, sweat, tears, urine and semen, together with themselves.

Michael Bracewell, commenting on **The Rudimentary Pictures** in the exhibition catalogue, says that in many of their pictures Gilbert & George record what they have witnessed on their walks through the City [of London] – in a way which makes the city streets the map of their souls or memories and their innermost selves a map of the city.

Speaking about **The Rudimentary Pictures**, Gilbert & George have said:

*“They deal with the thoughts and feelings that lie within us all and with the issues that confront us daily. Our cities, your tears, their money, the rain, our sexuality, your sweat, their views are all in The Rudimentary Pictures.”*

Commenting on exhibiting in Milton Keynes the artists said:

*“We are thrilled and touched that the Director, Stephen Snoddy has given us this opportunity to exhibit our new pictures in this exquisite gallery in Milton Keynes. The mere mention of the name Milton Keynes brings a smile of enthusiasm to the faces of our younger friends. It is very important that this young ‘Space Station’ of a city now has a building devoted to contemporary culture’. We are sure that it will be an exciting experience for everyone.”*

**Gilbert & George** are among the most important and original artists of our time. They met at St. Martin’s School of Art in 1967 and have been living and working together in London’s East End for over thirty years. From their unique beginnings as living and singing sculptures in the late 1960s they have created a vast range of distinctive pictures, which communicate honestly and directly with the viewer about aspects of contemporary society.

Gilbert & George, who work as a single artist, have achieved international recognition with their exhibitions held world wide, including China, Russia, Europe and the USA. In 1986 they won the Tate Gallery’s prestigious Turner Prize award and their work is to be found in many national museum and gallery collections. **The Rudimentary Pictures** is their first exhibition in the U.K. since ‘The Naked Shit Pictures’ which were shown at the South London Gallery in 1995.

**Catalogue: Gilbert & George: The Rudimentary Pictures**

Published in association with the Gagosian Gallery, LA.

Interview with David Sylvester, texts by Michael Bracewell and Stephen Snoddy  
Softback; 72 pps, 33 colour and 8 b/w plates. £14.95 mail order plus £1.50 p&p.  
Special price at the exhibition £7.50.

## **Notes for Editors**

1. **Milton Keynes Theatre and Milton Keynes Gallery** celebrate their opening at the beginning of October 1999. The complex is prominently sited in the city centre, between the main shopping centre and Campbell Park in a newly developed site known as Theatre District. It now provides a focus for the cultural life of the city.
2. **The Building:** MK G is the region's exciting new contemporary art gallery offering c.300 square metres of display space arranged in three galleries. The Theatre and Gallery have been designed by Blonski Heard Architects and built by Laing (Eastern) Ltd.
3. **Exhibitions:** MK G will present about 8-10 free exhibitions each year, ranging from contemporary art to aspects of design, architecture and popular culture. MK G's second exhibition will be by Mark Francis (15 January – 12 March 2000)
4. **Education:** Each exhibition will be supported by a stimulating programme of related events designed for all ages.
5. **Funding:** Capital funding for the Theatre and Gallery project, built on behalf of Milton Keynes Council has been provided by The National Lottery through the Arts Council of England (£20.1m), The Commission for New Towns - now English Partnerships (£5m plus the land) and Corporate and community fundraising within Milton Keynes (£2.5 m). MK G acknowledges support for revenue funding from Milton Keynes Council and Southern Arts.

**PRESS VIEW:**      Thursday 7 October      11.30 –14.30  
Including conference with the artists at      12.30  
Milton Keynes Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA

### **For further information**

Please contact Katharine Sorensen, Administrator MK G  
until 17.9.99 on Tel: 01908 679882 or Fax: 01908 604445 and  
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