

The Sydney Morning Herald

Entertainment

Hobart's Museum of Old and New Art to host major Gilbert & George show

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Gilbert & George: The Art Exhibition, at MONA

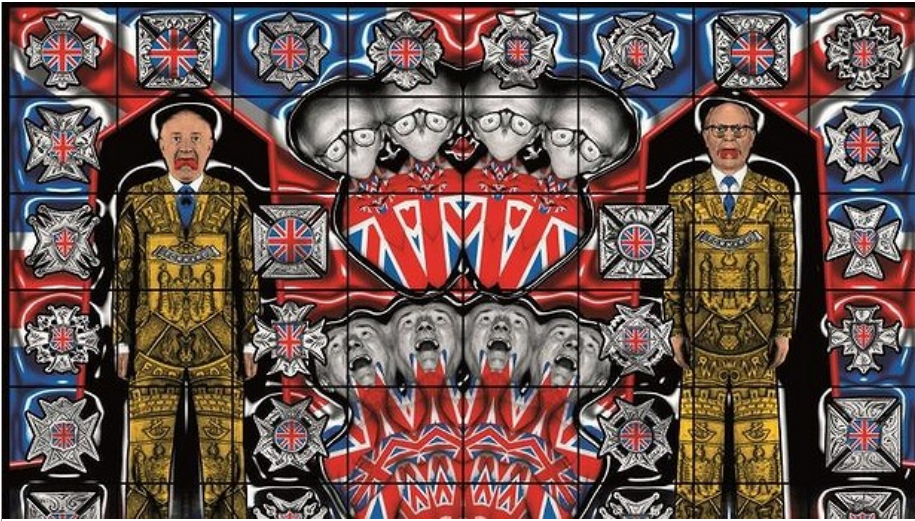
Gilbert & George will be presenting their work for the first time in Australia at the Museum of Old and New Art in Hobart, 28 November - 28 March.

The filthy gentlemen of contemporary art, Gilbert & George, are taking a major showing of their work to Hobart's Museum of Old and New Art in November.

The acclaimed duo - long-time partners, they consider themselves one artist, "living sculptures" - appeared in trademark tweed suits and matching ties to make the announcement in a video released on Thursday.

"We would like to personally invite you to view our major art exhibition at the wonderful MONA museum, in Hobart, Tasmania," they said.

"Our pictures deal with the great universals: death, hope, life, fear, sex, money, race and religion. Seeing is believing. See it for yourself."



FORWARD, 2008 Gilbert & George Mixed media. Photo: Supplied

Sculpture students at St Martin's School of Art when they first met in 1967, the two reacted to the elitism of the contemporary art world and established a slogan - "Art for All". Their eccentricities are renown: their house, in the Spitafields neighbourhood of London, is frequently described as "immaculate" and befitting their natty suits and George's horn-rimmed spectacles, they bucked with the expected liberalism of contemporary art by declaring themselves Conservatives and are rarely, if ever, seen without the other.

Their work is held in collections around the world, much of it responding to life in London's East End, where they have lived since the late 1960s. They've used faeces, urine, semen and blood; they've invoked God, royalty and war. About their massive 2007 retrospective at London's Tate Modern The Guardian wrote:


"Good filthy or bad filthy, raving mad or just raving? Are they brave or are they bores? They provoke ambivalence. The contrariness and contradictions are essential to their art, and to our responses to it."

The MONA exhibition will feature 100 works, curated by the museum's directors of exhibitions Nicole Durling and Olivier Varenne, under the direction of Gilbert & George. It runs from November 28.

Correction: A previous version of this story stated this would be Gilbert & George's debut in Australia. In fact, Gilbert & George appeared as part of the Kaldor Public Art Project in 1973.



FORWARD, 2008 Gilbert & George Mixed media. Photo: Supplied

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