

Anthony d'Offay 9 and 23 Dering Street New Bond Street London W1 01-499 4100

**GILBERT & GEORGE
FOR AIDS
EXHIBITION
22 APRIL TO 20 MAY 1989**

Gilbert and George and the Anthony d'Offay Gallery are happy to announce that the entire proceeds from Gilbert and George's exhibition of new work opening at 9 and 23 Dering Street on 20 April will be donated to AIDS charities. Realising that much help is needed, Gilbert and George have decided to make this their personal contribution. We shall also be selling tickets for a charity dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand which the artists will attend after the opening of the exhibition. The total receipts for the exhibition and from the dinner will be donated to CRUSAID. It is confidently expected that the total receipts will exceed half a million pounds.

Gilbert and George have revealed very little about the new pictures they have been working on and which will be seen for the first time in April. However, they have stated that they will be including twenty-five new pictures in a layout designed for both galleries.

While being universal and timeless in subject, Gilbert and George's works have always been essentially contemporary in medium, language and content. As such, they also incorporate within them many of the concerns which are also raised by the existence of AIDS. In particular they reflect the basic human need to reach out to something beyond the reality of mundane existence. Gilbert and George's works always have a high-keyed emotional charge. The ecstasy of sex, agony of pain, the desolation of separation, the wonder of the world around us, man's relationship to nature and to God, and his place in the cosmos are discussed again and again with astonishing intensity and fecundity.

Until recently it has not been fashionable to describe contemporary art in terms of world historical perspective. However, at the same time as their exhibition of new work Gilbert and George will also be celebrating the publication of The Art of Gilbert and George, a book about their work with a brilliant and beautiful text by the German art historian Wolf Jahn, which discusses their work in just those terms. Designed by Gilbert and George, heavily illustrated in colour, with much fascinating comparative material, it is the first writing on their work which attempts to place them in context. Published by Thames and Hudson in England and the U.S.A. and Schirmer Mosel in Germany and France, it will be appearing in the shops here in late April.

The Anthony d'Offay Gallery will be open all day on Saturdays during Gilbert and George's exhibition. For further information and photographs, please contact Judy Adam or Elizabeth Foy on 01-499-4100.

