



**GILBERT
&
GEORGE**

**Sims Reed Rare Books
January 2019**



May we describe to you with picture and words a sculpture which began on the last Saturday in November of '69 we had just made some cocoa when it began to snow so we positioned ourselves at the window as we began to look we felt ourselves taken into a sculpture of overwhelming purity life and peace a rare and new art-piece we thank you for being with us for these few moments

Yours sincerely  *George* and *Gilbert*

*Art for All, 12 Fournier Street, London, E.1, England

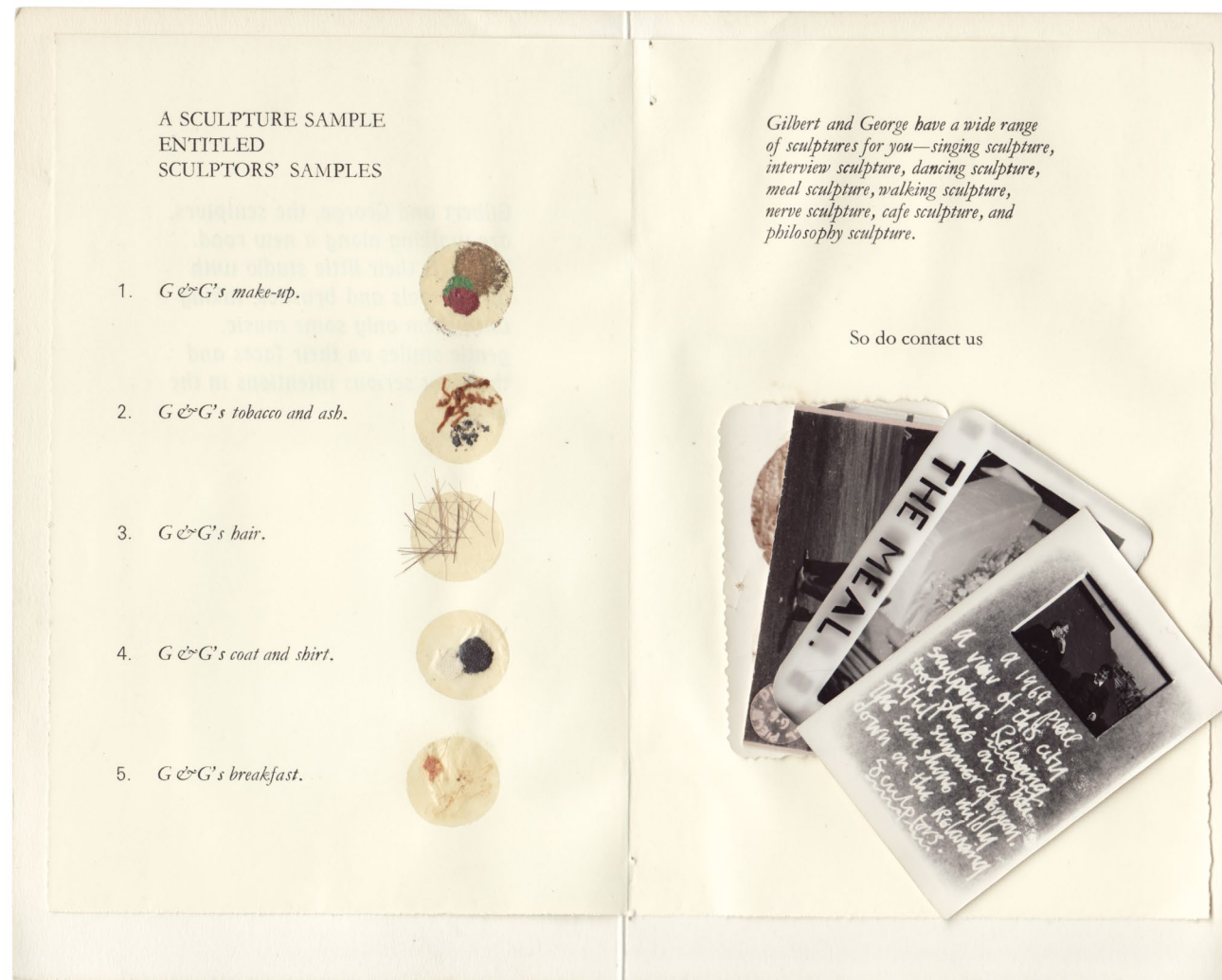
GILBERT & GEORGE. May we describe to you with pictures and words ... London. Art for All (Self-Published). (1969).

Single sheet. (201 x 170 mm). Single sheet of white paper with monochrome illustration and printed text recto only, signed in red ink by Gilbert and George.

The very rare postal sculpture, signed in red ink by Gilbert and George.

The single leaf features a picture of the artists sitting looking out of their window above a printed explanatory text (see below), the sheet is signed in the spaces provided *Yours sincerely George* [in red ink] and *Gilbert* [also in red ink] above the *Art for All* imprint.

May we describe to you with picture and words a sculpture which began on the last Saturday in November '69 we had just made some cocoa when it began to snow so we positioned ourselves at the window as we began to look we felt ourselves taken into a sculpture of overwhelming purity life and peace a rare and new art-piece we thank you for being with us for these moments. £750



GILBERT & GEORGE. A Message from the Sculptors Gilbert & George. London. Art for All. (Self-Published). 1969.

8vo. (204 x 126 mm). [2 leaves]. Leaf with preface recto, verso with printed text and five mounted specimens, 'A Sculpture Sample Entitled Sculptors' Samples: 1. G & G's make-up. 2. G & G's tobacco and ash. 3. G & G's hair. 4. G & G's coat and shirt. 5. G & G's breakfast', leaf with publication details and loosely inserted are 5 original monochrome photographs of the artists (each c.50 x 70 mm). Original card wrappers with printed titles in black to front cover with elaborate masonic architectural decoration in relief and two small colour illustrations with silver highlights (Gilbert & George dressed as footballers), justification to rear cover, later red cloth protective box.

Gilbert & George's extraordinary postal sculpture including original photographs and sculpture samples.

From the edition limited to 300 numbered copies, each numbered in sepia ink to rear cover.

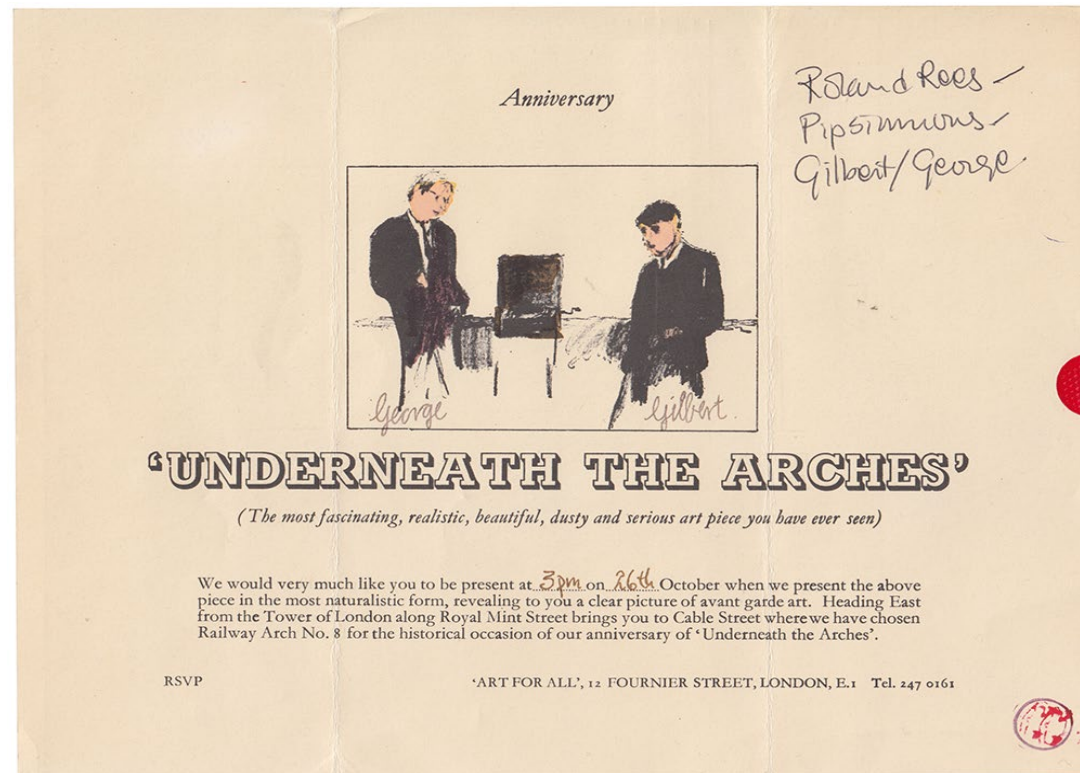
A Message from the Sculptors Gilbert & George, one of five *postal sculptures* self-published by Gilbert & George in 1969, the first year of their production, is a portable wunderkammer of the artists' existence, containing original photographs and morsels of personal detritus, together with italic expressions of tender sentiments.

The 5 original photographs, printed in monochrome in a small oblong format suitable for a picture album, show Gilbert & George in some of their best-known performance pieces: *Underneath the Arches*, from its first performance at the Slade School of Art in 1969; *The Meal*, a May 1969 performance with David Hockney; *Dusk Stroll Piece* 1969, showing the pair walking side by side in a twilight park; and *Relaxing*, depicting the very young collaborators lounging happily on a rooftop (and prominently inscribed in the negative *A 1969 piece / A view of this city / sculpture. Relaxing [underlined] / took place on a beautiful summer afternoon. / The sun shone mildly / down on the relaxing / sculptors [underlined]*). The fifth photograph is a double portrait of the artists in overlapping circles in opposing orientations.

The verso of the first leaf features a chart of *sculpture samples* from Gilbert & George, actual specimens of their body paint, pipe tobacco, hair (visibly two types of hair), clothing, and egg yolk, each elegantly mounted under transparent discs, with Garamond captions.

Also includes two paragraphs of prefatory text. *Gilbert and George, the sculptors, / are walking along a new road. / They left their little studio with / all the tools and brushes, taking / with them only some music, / gentle smiles on their faces and / the most serious intentions in the / world.*

The final leaf includes the publication details and the announcement: *Gilbert and George have a wide range / of sculptures for you - singing sculpture, / interview sculpture, dancing sculpture, / meal sculpture, walking sculpture, / nerve sculpture, cafe sculpture, and / philosophy sculpture. / So do contact us.*



GILBERT & GEORGE. 'Underneath the Arches'. Anniversary. (The most fascinating, realistic, beautiful, dusty and serious art piece you have ever seen). London. Art For All (Self-Published). 1969.

Single sheet of folded card, (198 x 252 mm) Small colour illustration showing Gilbert & George signed by each beneath their image, printed text with manuscript and the 'G & G' stamp recto only, the card folded as issued for mailing and with address and stamp verso.

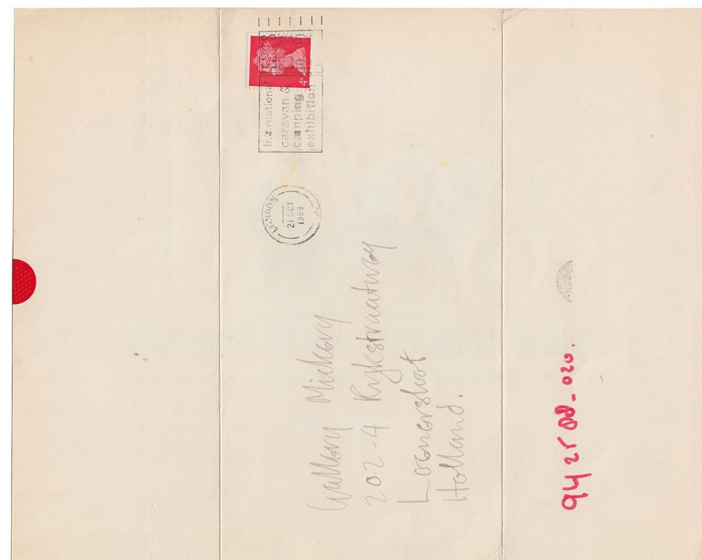
One of the earliest items of Gilbert & George ephemera, the scarce signed invitation to one of the first public performances of *The Singing Sculpture*, in a railway arch in East London.

The card reads as follows: *We would very much like you to be present at 3pm [in ink] on 26th [also in ink] October when we present the above piece in the most naturalistic form, revealing to you a clear picture of avant garde art. Heading East from the Tower of London along Royal Mint Street brings you to Cable Street where we have chosen Railway Arch No. 8 for the historical occasion of our anniversary of 'Underneath the Arches'.*

The exact time and date have been hand written within the printed text, leading one to assume that there were several performances on different days (the artists were known to have performed the sculpture for seven hours per day for a week); the only other example we have seen featured the same date.

Printed above the text is a reproduction of a drawing of Gilbert & George standing either side of a gramophone record player. Their faces are hand coloured and each has signed in ink under their portrait.

The card carries the standard red GG stamp, and when folded was sealed for postage using a small circular red seal which is still present; this copy was addressed and mailed to Ritsaert ten Cate's legendary Dutch *Gallery Mickery* (the franking is dated *21 OCT / 1969*) in Loenersloot and features the manuscript notes *Roland Rees / Pip Simmons / Gilbert / George* in black ink recto. £1,250





GILBERT & GEORGE. Underneath the Arches. The most beautiful sculpture in the world. 1968 - 1970. London. Art for All (Self-Published). (1970).

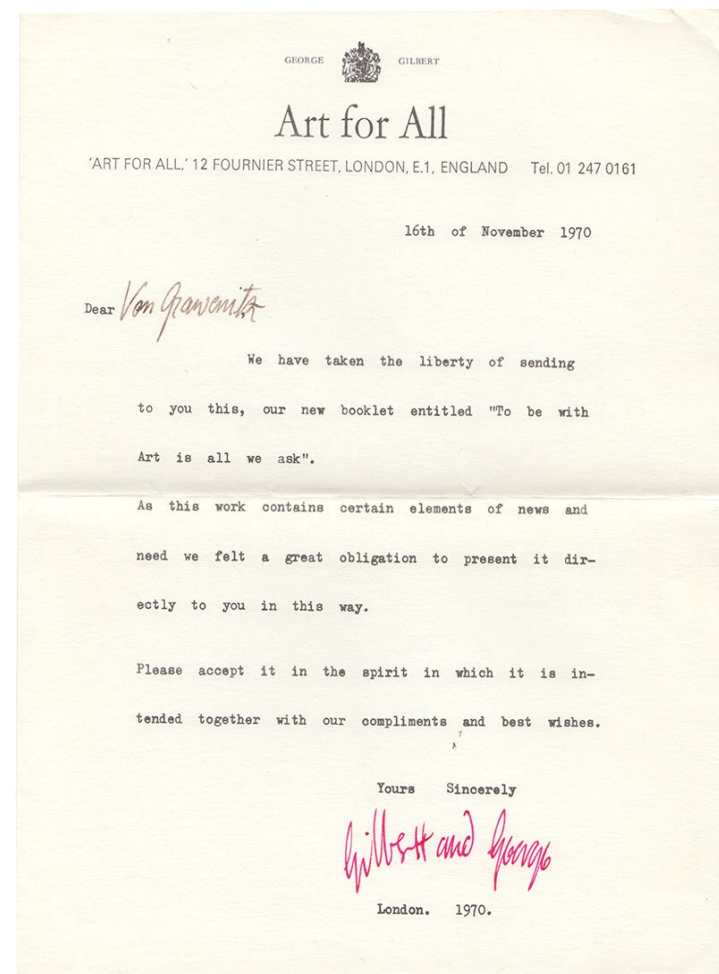
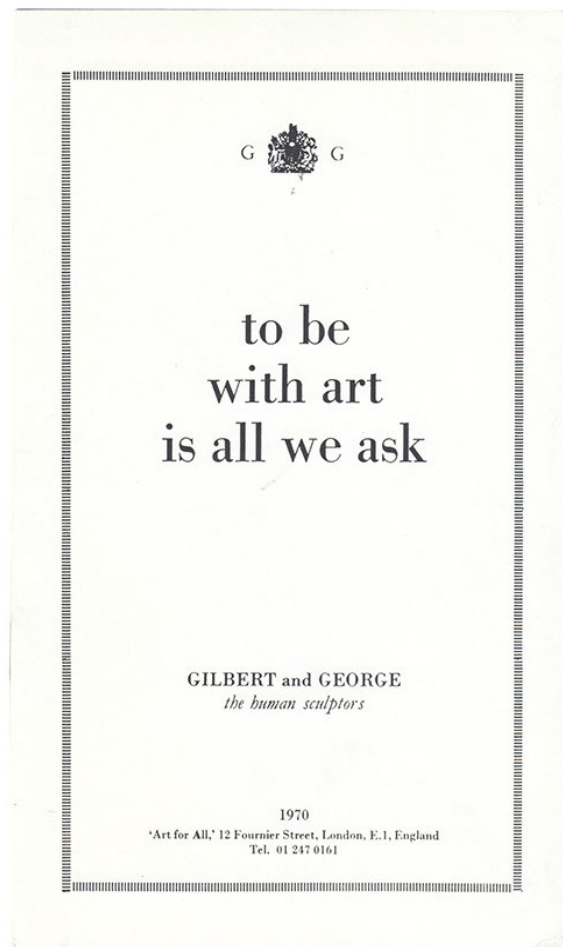
Single folded sheet. 16mo. (104 x 126 mm). Folded sheet of white paper to form two-page booklet, monochrome illustration of Gilbert and George to front cover, leaf with printed text from 'Underneath the Arches' and rear cover with 'Art for All' imprint and contact details. Original publisher's wrappers.

The rare and ephemeral booklet celebrating Gilbert & George's famous *The Singing Sculpture*.

The printed text is of *Underneath the Arches*, the Flanagan and Allen song that Gilbert & George, with painted faces, sang as their seminal *The Singing Sculpture* performance.

We can trace no copies of this booklet in institutions in the UK or elsewhere.

£550



GILBERT & GEORGE. to be with art is all we ask. London. Art For All. (Self-published). 1970.

8vo. (204 x 122 mm). [4 leaves; pp. 8]. Printed text with single monochrome photographic plate entitled 'Frozen into a gazing for you, Art.' as frontispiece. Original publisher's printed wrappers with titles in black to front cover and justification to rear cover, loose in the original mailing addressed envelope with the stamp "To be with art is all we ask"..

An excellent copy of Gilbert & George's so-called *Second Booklet* with the original signed letter of presentation.

From the edition limited to 300 numbered copies, numbered in ink to the rear cover and with the GG stamp in red to the final page of text.

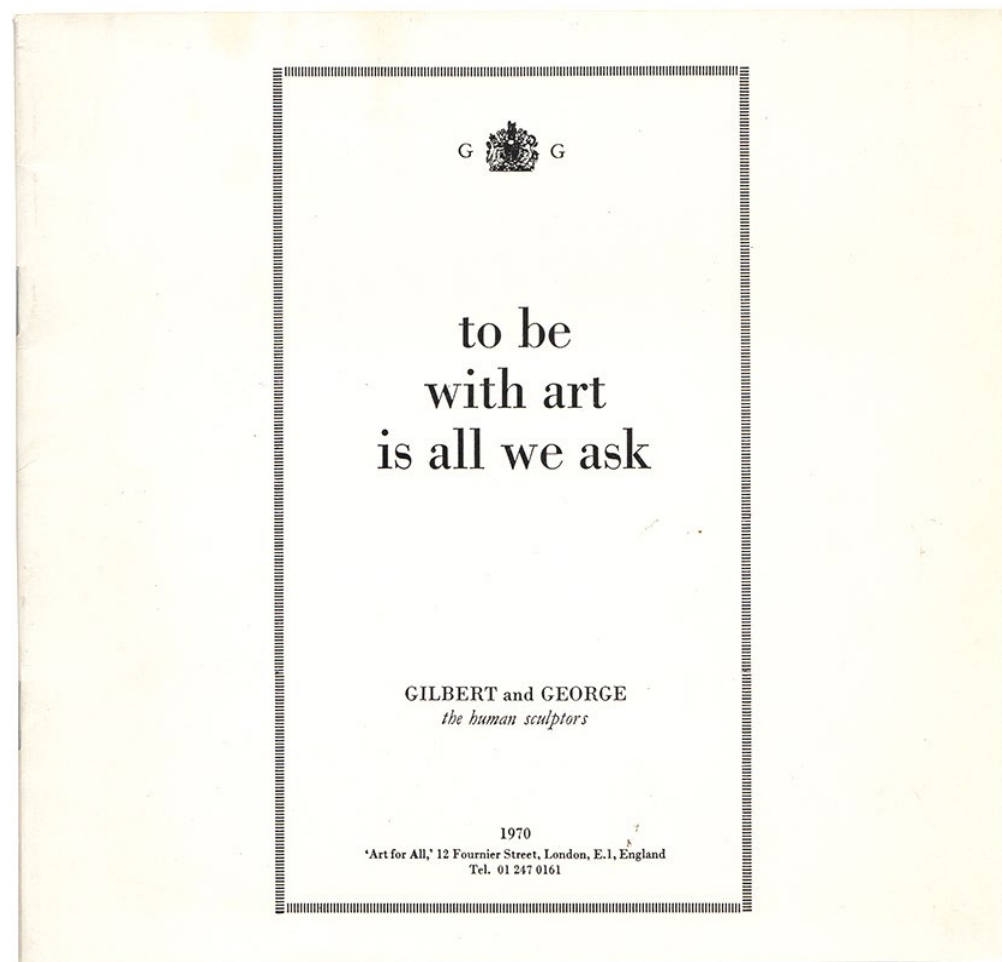
The artists' preface reads: *This booklet illustrates with words and one plate our feelings as sculptors on the subject of Art / When we did it we felt very light and we hope that you read it in the same light.*

This copy also includes, loosely inserted, the typewritten presentation letter from the artists signed in pink ink, printed on their *Art for All* headed paper (252 x 202 mm) recto only and dated 16th November 1970: *Dear Van Graevenitz [in sepia ink], / We have taken the liberty of sending / to you this, our new booklet entitled 'To be with / Art is all we ask'. / As this work contains certain elements of news and / need we felt a great obligation to present it dir- / ectly to you in this way. / Please accept it in the spirit in which it is in- / tended together with our compliments and best wishes. / Yours Sincerely / Gilbert and George [in pink ink] / London. 1970.*

Gerhard von Graevenitz (1934 - 1983) was a German kinetic artist, one of the founders of Nouvelle Tendance and a member of the op-art movement.

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968 to 1980, pg. 81; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek, pg.120].

£1,250



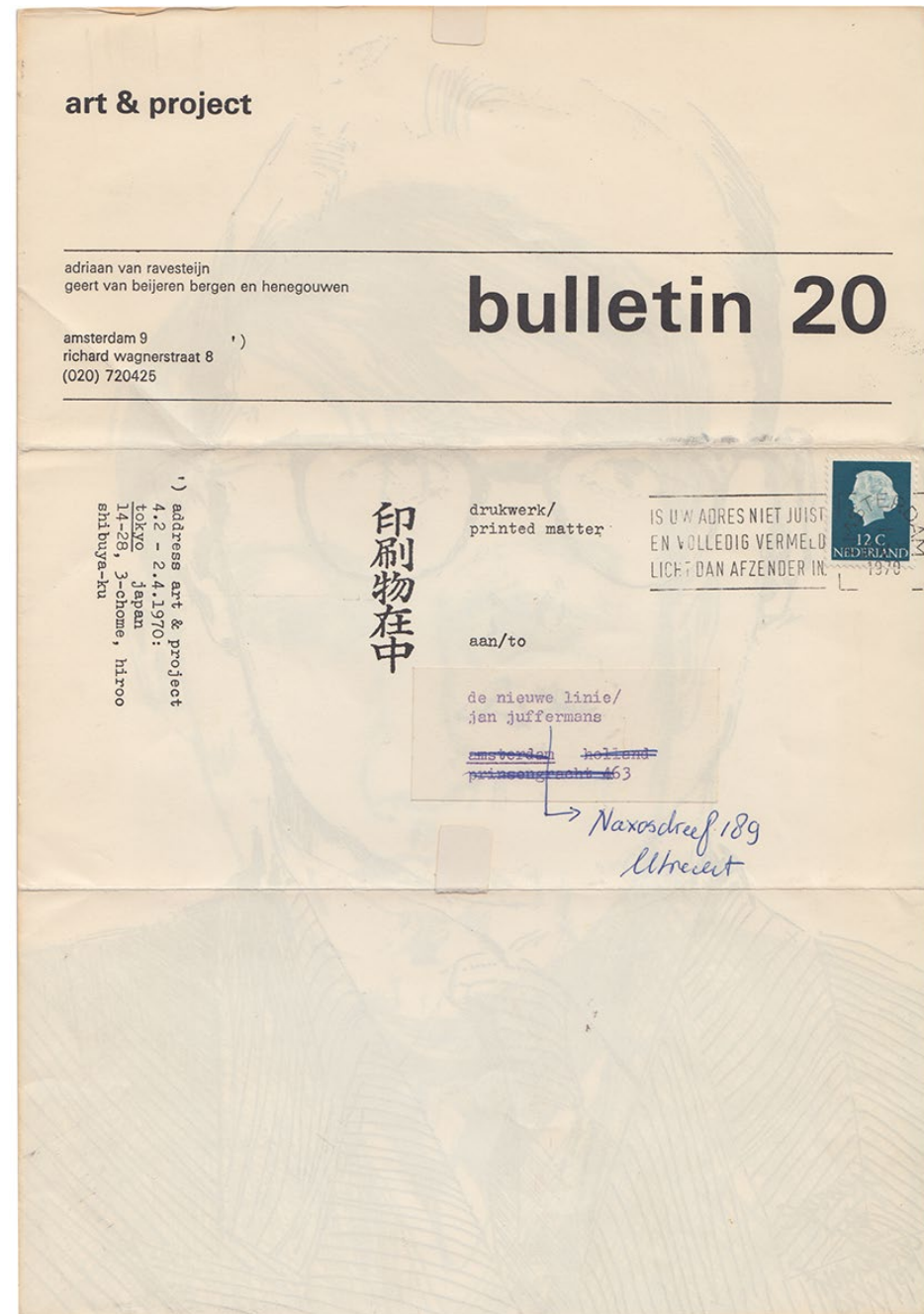
GILBERT & GEORGE. to be with art is all we ask. (Gegenverkehr, Aachen Zentrum für aktuelle Kunst. 8. - 13. Oktober 1970). Aachen. Verlagsanstalt Cerfontaine & Co. 1970.

Square 8vo. (210 x 200 mm). (8 unnumbered leaves). Illustrated with five monochrome reproduction photographs. Original publisher's white printed wrappers.

Booklet published on the occasion of the Gilbert & George exhibition at the Zentrum für Aktuelle Kunst Gegenverkehr, Aachen (8 - 13 October 1970).

The publication reproduces the text of the second pamphlet by Gilbert and George of the same title, but this edition contains the following additional images: *The Fire of Art, Simplicity for Meaning, Art's Embers, The Best Years, and The Searcher.*

This booklet / illustrated with words and one plate / our feelings as sculptors on / the subject of Art / When we did it / we felt very light and we hope / that you read it in the same light. Gilbert and George. £75



GILBERT & GEORGE. Art & Project Bulletins. Complete set of the 4 issues by Gilbert and George. (issues 20, 47, 73, 103). Amsterdam. Art & Project. 1970 - 1977.

4 issues. Single folded sheets. (295 x 210 mm). Each bulletin with vertical fold as issued with printed bulletin number and art & project details to front cover and image within; the bulletins were then folded in three horizontally and sealed for mailing.

A complete set of the art & project bulletins issued by Gilbert & George.

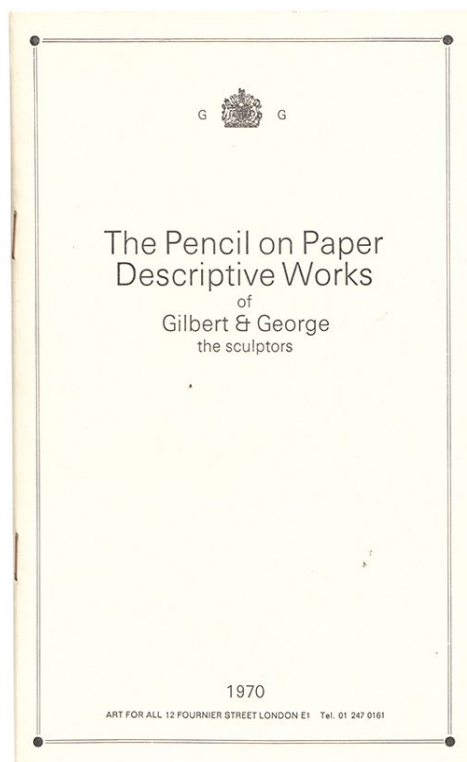
Between 1968 and 1989 Geert van Beijeren and Adriaan van Ravesteijn published 156 issues of the art & project bulletin. The bulletin was generally a single sheet folded in half and printed on both sides, and it was sent free to a mailing list of approximately 400 to 500 individuals, including other artists, curators and gallerists. Since the bulletins often constituted 'the exhibition' they are generally considered works of art in their own right.

Gilbert & George produced four bulletins for art & project:

- No. 20 (1970) - Monochrome drawings titled *George by Gilbert*, and *Gilbert by George* beneath.
- No. 47 (1971) - Monochrome reproduction photograph titled *A Touch of Blossom*, signed in red ink by both artists.
- No. 73 (1974) - Monochrome reproduction photograph *Dusty Corners* with artists' embossed stamp.
- No.103 (1977) - Colour reproduction photograph *We are all angry*.

Each bulletin has been folded and mailed: bulletin 20 to the Dutch dealer Jan Juffermans; bulletin 47 to the art critic H. L. M. Defoer and bulletins 73 and 103 to J. and G. Oosterhof. £3,000





GILBERT & GEORGE. The Pencil on Paper Descriptive Works of Gilbert & George the sculptors. London. Art For All. (Self-published). 1970.

8vo. (204 x 125 mm). [8 leaves; pp. 12 including pp. 4 of hors texte illustration]. Printed text on cream paper and with 4 pages of sepia-toned photographic plates on glossy paper bound in the centre. Original publisher's white printed wrappers, sealed in original envelope with stamp in red (see below) to front and 'GG' stamp to rear.

A rare example of Gilbert & George's very first booklet sealed in the original envelope.

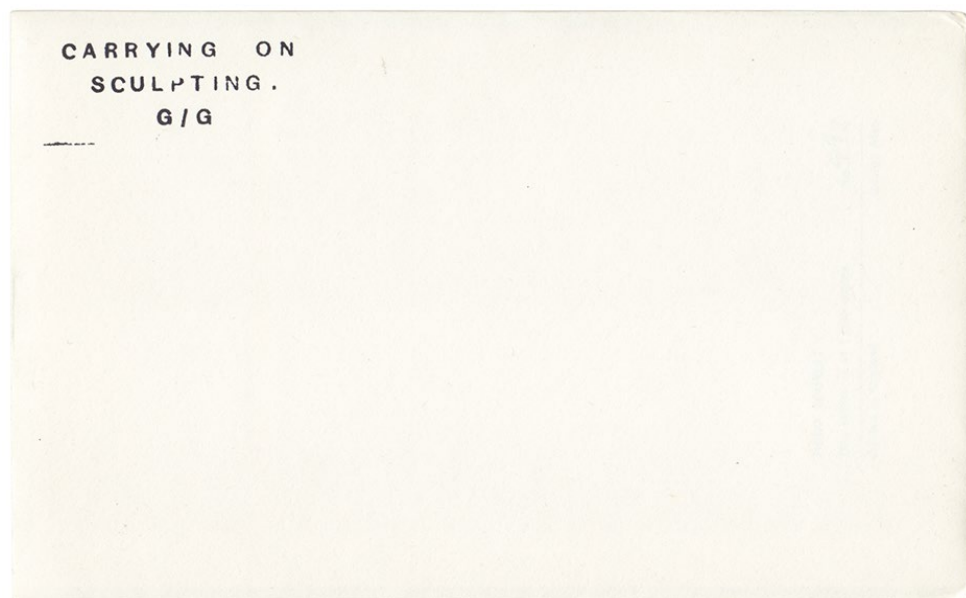
Issued in an edition of 500 copies, each copy numbered in ink to the rear cover and with the stamped red GG emblem on the final page of text, this copy remains sealed within the original envelope with the stamp *DELICATE / BALANCES OF / VIEWING IN TIME* in red to the front cover at upper right and with the GG stamp verso.

The plates illustrate examples of Gilbert & George's early large-scale folded drawings which were executed after photographs of the artists.

The artists' preface reveals the importance which they attached to this publication: *It is our wish / that the reader should / come to regard this booklet / as an insight into / an understanding of our drawings / as an explanation / of our living art life / On completion of this booklet / it came strongly to us / that our work on it / had resulted in a sculpture ...*

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968-1980, pg.75; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek pg.120; Künstler Bücher I, 1].

£950



GILBERT & GEORGE. A Day in the Life of George & Gilbert the sculptors. London. Art For All. (Self-published). 1971.

8vo. (132 x 208 mm). pp. (12). Printed text on cream paper and illustrated with 4 pages of black and white photographs on glossy paper bound in the centre. Original wrappers with printed titles to front cover in original unopened envelope with stamp to front.

A fine copy of Gilbert & George's self-titled *Third Booklet* in its rarely found original envelope.

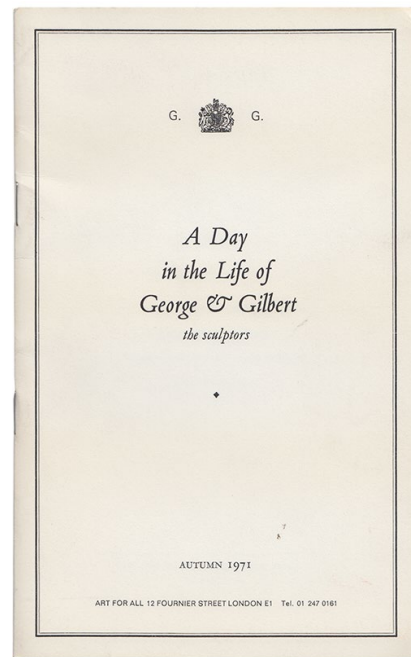
Issued in an edition of 1,000 copies, each hand-numbered on the rear cover, and with the stamped red GG emblem on the final page of text.

Down on paper suggestions of forms, shapes and patterns suggestive of our artisticness ... (From the artists' preface to this, their own discussion of a typical day in the life of G&G).

In the original envelope with black ink stamp *Carrying on / Sculpting / G / G* to front of envelope; the envelope remains sealed and has never been opened.

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968 - 1980, pg.98; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek pg.120].

£500



GILBERT & GEORGE. A Day in the Life of George & Gilbert the Sculptors. London. Art For All. (Self-published). 1971.

8vo. (204 x 126 mm). pp. 12. Printed text on cream paper and illustrated with 4 pages of black and white photographs on glossy paper bound in the centre. Original publisher's stapled wrappers with printed title and justification to rear cover with edition number written in black ink.

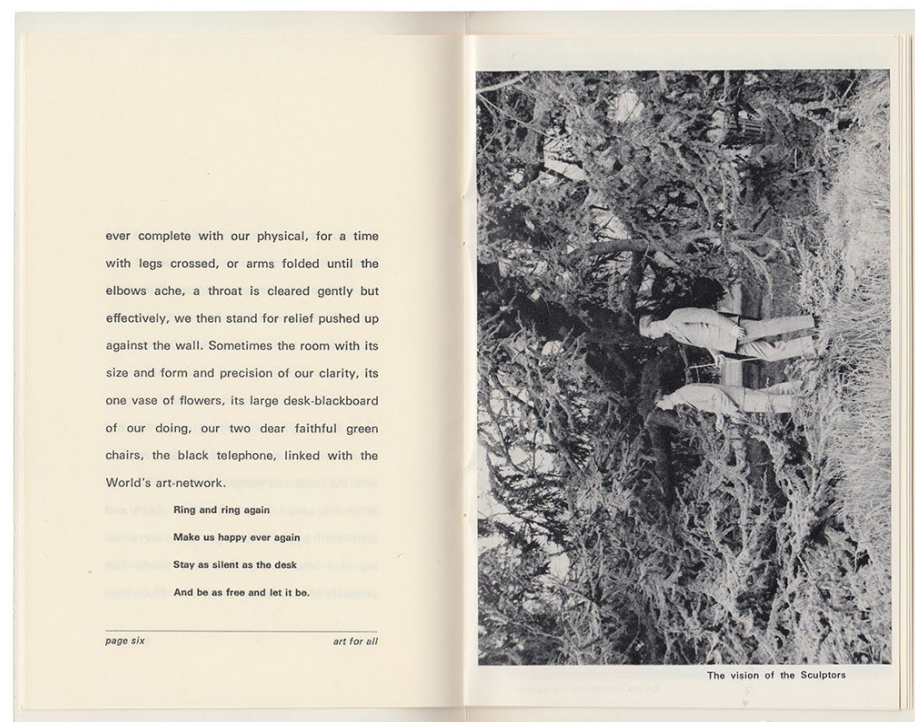
A fine copy of Gilbert & George's self-titled *Third Booklet*.

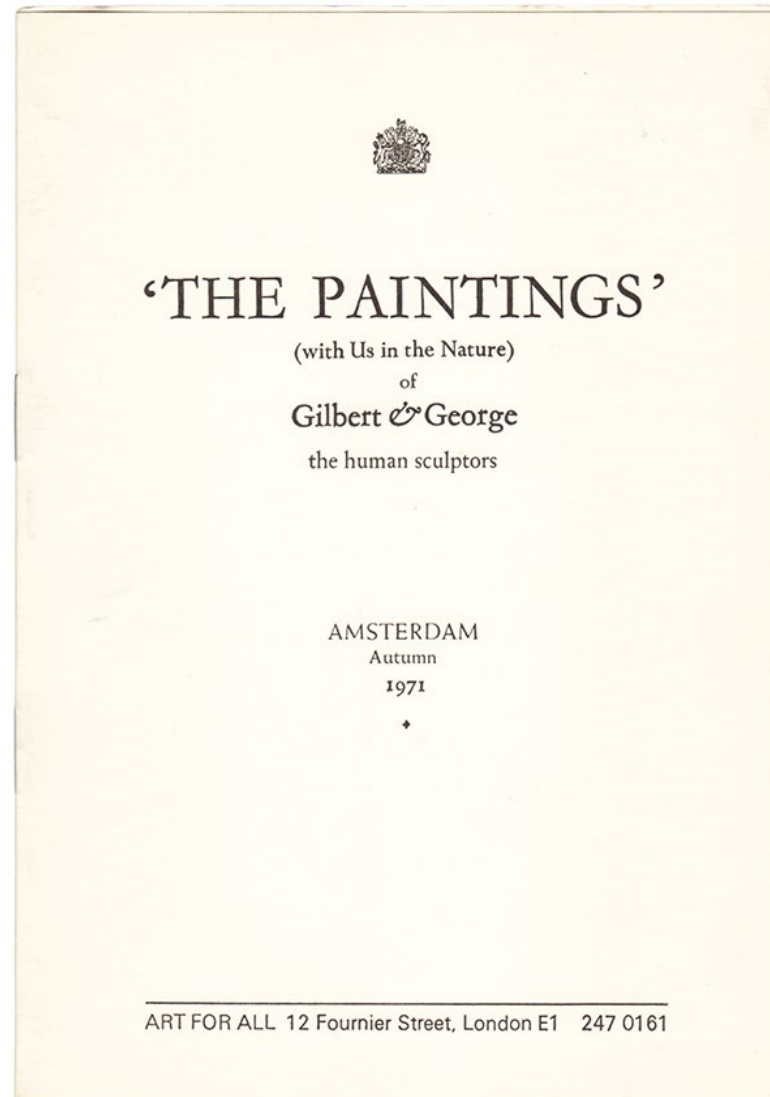
A Day in the Life ... was issued in an edition of 1000 copies, each hand-numbered on the rear cover, and with the stamped red GG emblem on the final page of text.

Down on paper suggestions of forms, shapes and patterns suggestive of our artisticness ... (From the artist's preface).

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968 - 1980, pg.98; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek pg.120].

£400





GILBERT & GEORGE. 'The Paintings' (with Us in the Nature) of Gilbert & George the human sculptors. Amsterdam. Art for All / Stedelijk Museum. 1971.

8vo. (210 x 148 mm). pp. (4). Two leaves of glossy paper with text and monochrome illustration 'Detail from Sculpture'. Original publisher's stapled wrappers with printed titles in black to front cover.

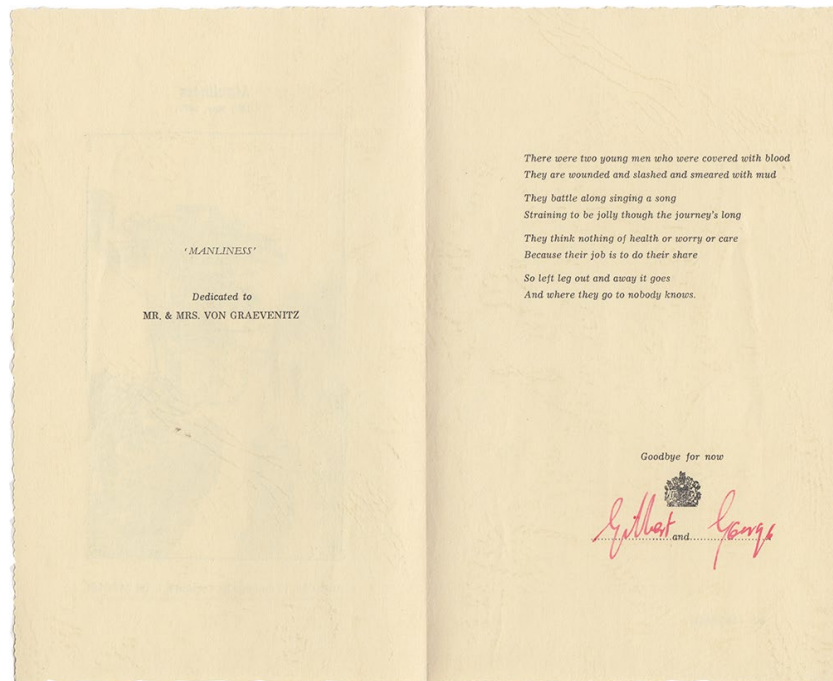
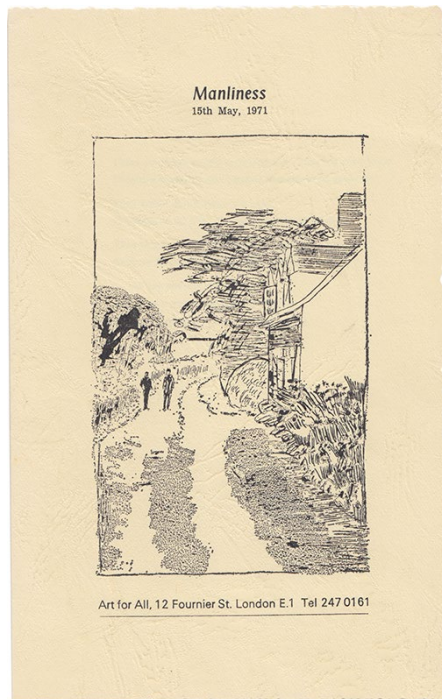
Gilbert & George's booklet for their second museum exhibition at the Stedelijk in Amsterdam.

Offset-printed artists' booklet produced in conjunction with Gilbert & George's second museum exhibition held at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam between October and November 1971. Contains the text *Six Points*, together with a brief biographical text and monochrome illustration by Gilbert & George. Printed text in English and exhibition details in Dutch.

George and Gilbert are delighted / to have you here with them in their / new romantic sad beautiful sculpture ... (The introductory text).

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968-1980, pg. 91; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek pg.122; Künstler Bücher I, 1].

£120



GILBERT & GEORGE. The Limericks. A Postal Sculpture in Eight-Parts. (Complete Set). London. Art For All (Self-Published). 1971

8 folded sheets of card. (Each c.125 x 200 mm). Each card illustrated with a photo-based design printed in black to the front, dedication and title verso (the dedication as per the addressed envelopes), printed poetic text caption within the card and signatures of the artists in red ink; cards are printed alternately on cream or white paper with deckle edges. Cards presented loose in the original addressed and mailed G & G envelope, with the artist's red 'Towards Progress and Understanding in Art' stamp to the front, and their stamped initials to the rear flap.

An excellent complete set of Gilbert and George's second and decidedly most elusive postal sculptures.

Each element was mailed during the course of 1971, the cards themselves with the printed dates 11th March - 19th May, the franking revealing they were sent April - October. The cards are reflective of Gilbert & George's socio-philosophic 'dead-pan' concerns / enthusiasms: boredom, manliness, worldliness, etc.

Each card is signed in red ink by Gilbert & George and each has printed dedication to Mr. and Mrs. von Graevenitz and manuscript address of Mr. and Mrs. von Graevenitz on each envelope.

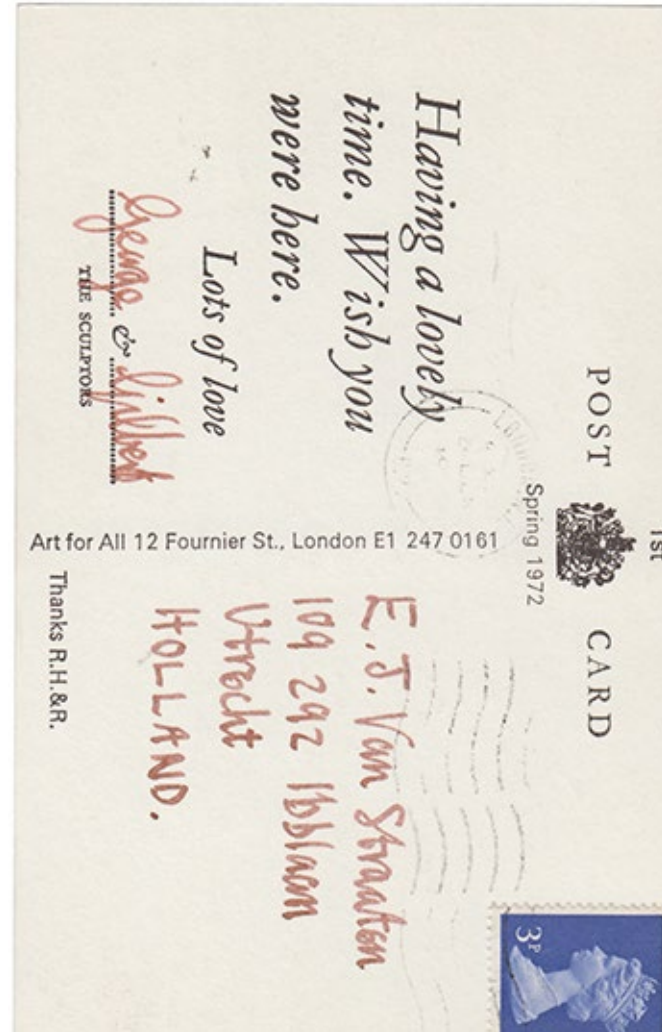
Cards are entitled as follows:

- 1st Limerick - *Lost Day*, 11 March, 1971.
- 2nd Limerick - *Shyness*, 29th March 1971.
- 3rd Limerick - *Experience*, 2nd April, 1971.
- 4th Limerick - *Worldliness*, 13th April, 1971.
- 5th Limerick - *Idiot Ambition*, 24th April, 1971.
- 6th Limerick - *Normal Boredom*, 1st May, 1971.
- 7th Limerick - *Manliness*, 15th May, 1971.
- Last Limerick - *Artist's Culture*, 19th May, 1971.

Gerhard von Graevenitz (1934 - 1983) was a German kinetic artist, one of the founders of Nouvelle Tendence and a member of the op-art movement.

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968 to 1980, pp. 86 - 87; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek pg.120].

£4,500



GILBERT & GEORGE. Gentlemen ... Having a lovely time. Wish you were here. London. Art For All (Self-Published). 1972.

Postcard. (140 x 89 mm). Postcard illustrated with monochrome image recto ('Gentlemen...' printed in white at the foot of the image), verso with 'Having a lovely / time. Wish you / were here. / Lots of love' [printed], signed by the artists in sepia ink and with mailing address opposite, written in the same ink.

The very first *postcard sculpture* by Gilbert and George, signed, franked and mailed as intended.

One of two such works from 1972 which show the artists at one with nature enjoying rural England while wearing tweeds. The postcard is addressed to E. J. Van Straaten of Utrecht.

[(Eindhoven) Gilbert & George 1968 to 1980, pg.102].

£800



GILBERT & GEORGE. Pink Elephants. Nos. 1 - 8. (Complete set). London. Art for All. 1973.

8vo. (202 x 127 mm). 8 cards, each 202 x 127 mm (folded) and with a photograph illustration on the upper cover and short printed text within the card, each signed by the artists in red ink. Each card presented loose in the original G&G mailing envelope, with the artist's red stamp 'Pink Elephants' and a small drawing of a wine glass to the front, and the red 'GG' stamp to the rear.

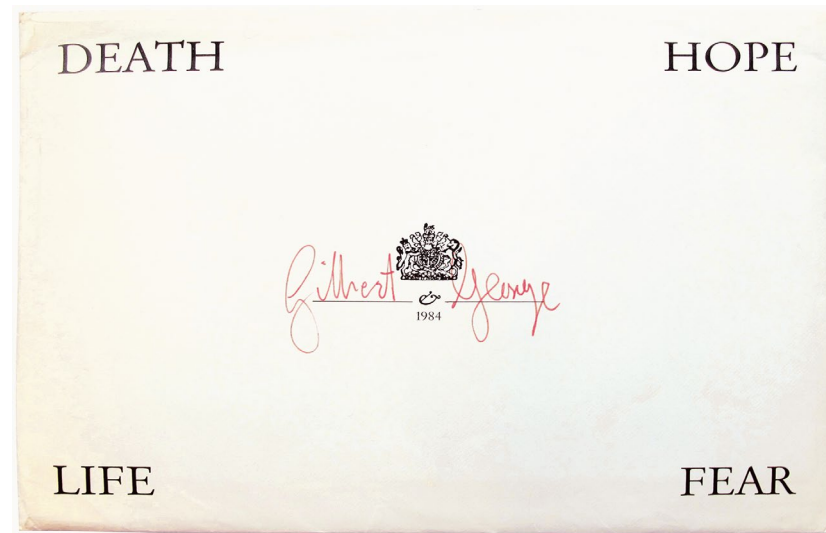
Complete set of Gilbert & George's *Pink Elephants* postal sculpture.

The series contains two of each of the following titles: *London Dry*, *The Major Port*, *Dom Perignon*, and *Bristol Cream*, however each of cards has a different photographic image on its front. The printed texts inside each card reflect the artists' famous states of inebriation.

This set complete with all of the eight mailed envelope, each stamped in red *PINK ELEPHANTS* with a small drawing of a wine-glass; on the reverse stamped *GG* in red.

The set was originally mailed to the renowned French art critic and cultural philosopher Pierre Restany (one envelope is addressed to another).

[(Eindhoven_ Gilbert & George 1968 to 1980, pp. 128 - 129; Die Sammlung Marzona in der Kunstbibliothek, pg.120]. £4,000



GILBERT & GEORGE. Jahn, Wolf (Intro.). *Death, Hope, Life, and Fear.* Stuttgart. Edition Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart Reuchlinstrasse. 1990.

4 loose sheets of card. (260 x 156 mm / 310 x 204 mm) + Additional text leaf. (c.295 x 210). 4 colour images representing 'Death,' 'Hope,' 'Life' or 'Fear', each printed on thick card with publication and other details verso, with the additional sheet of text by Wolf Jahn. Loose as issued in original envelope, printed titles to front cover in black, the signatures of Gilbert & George in red ink to centre, justification to rear with number in red ink.

The scarce *Death, Hope, Life, and Fear* by Gilbert & George.

From the edition limited to 300 copies, signed in red ink by Gilbert & George to the original envelope recto, numbered in red ink verso.

The envelope contains colour plates of the 4 paintings shown in the Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart. The text is dated 1990 but the envelope and the plates are dated 1984. £750





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