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« The form of the Post Card Piece lends itself to the expression of finer feelings, stirring thoughts and beautiful views.

Through our hearts, brains and bodies the cards crystallise into our crosses of Monarchical, Christian, Nationalistic, Violent, Pagan, Floral, Sexual Post Card Pieces.

They are our shields, our swords, our emblem, our vision, our trombone and our lifemasks »

Gilbert & George 1981

Gallery Baronian_Francey is pleased to present an exhibition of new work titled : THE URETHRA POSTCARD ART of Gilbert & George

In 2009, nearly four decades after their first exhibition of POSTCARD ART, and twenty years since their last group of pictures to be made in the medium of postcards, Gilbert & George returned to the form to make the epic and dazzling group of THE URETHRA POSTCARD PICTURES.

The art of Gilbert & George has always described, with utmost clarity, poignancy and intensity, the unifying experiences of being alive in the modern world. The artists have addressed those subjects that are seldom considered within the language and focus of contemporary art and culture: that which is lowly, discarded, hidden, quotidian, awkward, confrontational, unfashionable, volatile, isolated or left un-regarded.

THE URETHRA POSTCARD PICTURES reveal Gilbert & George at their most intent and artistically all seeing. These new pieces are united, compositionally, by their elements comprising "an angulated version of the sign of urethra". This shape - a continuous rectangle of cards, with a single card in its central space - mimics the sexual symbol used by the one time theosophist C. W. Leadbetter (1853 - 1934) to accompany his signature, and as such proposes that this group of new art works is infused with a still confrontational libertarianism.

Advancing their long-standing engagement with commercially manufactured images and texts - including in this case, picture postcards, telephone box cards and flyers - Gilbert & George describe, in THE URETHRA POSTCARD PICTURES, both a modern urban world and a sexual society that is covert or marginalised within that world. In this group of pictures, prostitution and sexually transmitted disease (for example) are treated with precisely the same sense of scale, aesthetic and compositional language as nationhood and civic identity.

In this THE URETHRA POSTCARD PICTURES affirm themes that Gilbert & George have addressed throughout their art, and most recently in such groups as THE NEW HORNY PICTURES and THE JACK FREAK PICTURES. In their sheer visual intensity, the extremism of their language, and above all the forceful unity of their composition, THE URETHRA POSTCARD PICTURES both extend the POSTCARD ART of Gilbert & George as a specific form, and comprise one of the most powerful, mesmeric, and intensely conceived and created groups of art works that the artists have ever made. Michael Bracewell, (The Complete Postcard Art of Gilbert & George, Prestel 2011)