Gilbert & George: *The Paintings*

Lower Gallery

The Paintings (with Us in the Nature) are a group of large triptych panels which the sculptors Gilbert & George made during the winter of 1970-71. Gilbert & George whose work is more widely known through the photo pieces, the form they have concentrated on over the last decade, have used a wide variety of media since they began working together in 1968.

They refer to all their activities as sculpture and their constant presence in the earlier pieces is of crucial importance in understanding this description. In their appearances as living sculptures Gilbert & George were literally able to embody the work's form and they continued this servient role in two-dimensional pieces such as *The Paintings* by representing the living sculptures in apparent harmonic accord with humanised nature.

By immersing themselves in the conventional, habitual and banal aspects of life, Gilbert & George bring to our attention the hollowness of our received understanding of these experiences and invite us to view them with a new clarity. They have devoted their lives to an extended exploration of the interface between art and life and have unerringly pursued this enquiry in all that they do.

Gilbert & George *Triptych 1* 1971 (detail)

Gilbert & George *Triptych 3* 1971 (detail)

Catalogue

A large-format catalogue of 32 pages on *The Paintings* has been published by the gallery to accompany the exhibition. It includes a text by the German critic Wolf Jahn and reproduces all the paintings in colour. It is priced £4.20 (£6.30 plus post and packing by mail order).

Video

Throughout the exhibition there will be regular showings of *The World of Gilbert & George*, a film made in 1981. It lasts approximately 70 minutes.

Events

Admission to all events is *free*.

Friday 30 May at 11 am

Gilbert & George will be in the gallery to answer questions from students.

Saturday 31 May at 12 noon

Marjorie Allthorpe-Guyton, writer and critic, will give a public talk entitled *My Approach to Gareth Fisher's Sculpture*.

Saturday 7 June at 12 noon

Gray Watson will give a public talk entitled *Politics, Sex and Religion in the Work of Gilbert & George*.

Friday 20 June at 11 am

Gareth Fisher will discuss his work with students.

Introductory Tours

Short guided tours of the exhibitions are available on request. Please contact Moira Innes on 031-225 2383 to arrange a suitable time.

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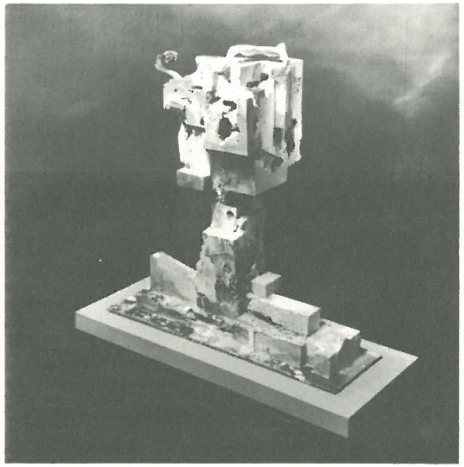
Gareth Fisher: *Sculpture*

Upper Gallery

This is Gareth Fisher's first solo exhibition of his sculpture in Scotland, although his work has previously featured in several mixed exhibitions including the prestigious *British Art Show*. All the works on display are fairly recent, the latest being distinguished by the artist's adoption of pale pre-coloured plaster as the predominant material.

The exploration of the medium by casting, carving and building is central to Fisher's work. He employs a wide range of textures and forms and creates a dramatic interplay between light and shade. He combines the material with foreign objects and fragments and exploits its ability to transform or conceal them within itself. Indeed many familiar images and objects appear translated into the language of the sculpture.

In spite of enigmatic first appearances the works make recognisable references to the real world (e.g. in the recurring motif of the cooling-tower). Their diverse strata often bear a strong resemblance to images of archeological and geological exploration.



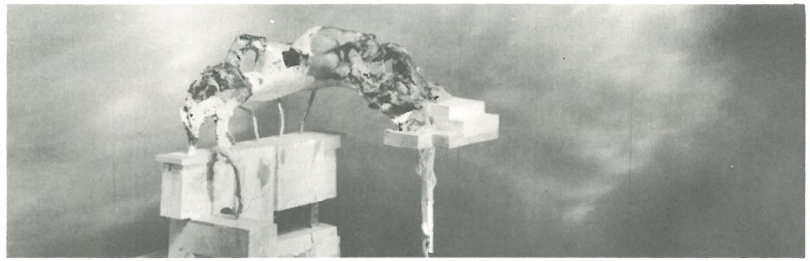
Gareth Fisher *Castlehead* 1985-6 (detail)

The world they represent, however, has been transformed by the imagination of the artist.

Gareth Fisher has lived in Scotland since 1969. At present he is based in Dundee where he lectures at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art. This exhibition will continue to Artspace, Aberdeen and The Seagate Gallery, Dundee who collaborated in its realisation.

Catalogue

A 16-page catalogue accompanying the exhibition has been published by The Fruitmarket Gallery with Artspace, Aberdeen and The Seagate Gallery, Dundee. It contains text by Marjorie Allthorpe-Guyton and both colour and black and white reproductions of the works. It is priced £2.50 (£3.75 plus post and packing by mail order).



Gareth Fisher *Regeneration* 1985-6 (detail)

Forthcoming exhibition

19 July-31 August

The Mirror and the Lamp

A thematic exhibition with work from British, European and American artists which examines the subject of identity and how it is represented in recent art. Paintings, sculpture, photographs and installations are included, by (among others) Christian Boltanski, Helen Chadwick, David Salle and Ulay and Marina Abramovic.