

From: *Gilbert & George : death, hope, life, fear 1984*, curated by R. Fuchs, exhibition catalog (Rivoli-Torino, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea), Castello di Rivoli - Comitato per l'arte in Piemonte 1985.

In modern art there is great distrust of sentiment. Almost nobody can get away with it. Contemporary man is cool and tactical; our view of the world is pragmatic and scientific. Yet the expression, the use of sentiment has always been one of the means to sustain the hardship of life. The great history of religion in our culture is a proof of that, also the history of popular song. At present the sentimentality of television and cinema are great comforters. Gilbert & George, the artists, have chosen sentiment as their theme and mode of expression. That was a bold choice which brought them criticism and slander - particularly as they touched upon sentiments and feelings often sunk deeply into the mud of human consciousness. Their precise eloquent images have moulded contemporary feelings into monuments, sometimes huge and resonant like a cathedral, always unavoidably sharp like the sword hanging above your head. An art, therefore, of extreme relevance and urgency - as there is nothing funny about this world.

Rudi Fuchs