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## Gagosian Gallery

January 11, 2000

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **GAGOSIAN GALLERY**

456 North Camden Drive TEL (310) 271-9400  
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GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am–6:00pm

### **GILBERT & GEORGE: *The Rudimentary Pictures***

Thursday February 3 – Saturday, March 11, 2000

Opening Reception Thursday, February 3, 6 – 8 PM

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of **The Rudimentary Pictures** by Gilbert and George. Remarkably, **The Rudimentary Pictures**, a group of thirty-three works, will be the first solo exhibition by the internationally renowned duo on the West Coast.

Since they galvanized the international art world in the late 1960's with their presentations of *Living Sculptures*, Gilbert and George have created a body of work based primarily on the concept that their lives and experiences form the content of their art. Since the beginning, the artists have been inspired by the essence of life on the streets in the East End of London: the graffiti, the refuse, the street boys and the local people. Recently, they have incorporated the structures created from microscopic enlargements of essential body fluids, such as blood, tears, sweat, urine and semen. Many pictures in this exhibition, *Money City*, *Gum City*, *Crying City* and *Blood City* employ street maps as a background or surface. In *Sex City*, *Kink*, *Naked Cemetery*, and *Love Spunk*, detailed areas of the street map are precisely selected and encircled so that street names and locations reveal an urban system of verbal double meanings.

"They (the pictures) deal with the thoughts and feelings that lie within us all and with the issues that confront us daily. Our cities, your tears, their money, the rain, our sexuality, your sweat, their views are all in "The Rudimentary Pictures"\*

**The Rudimentary Pictures** exemplify the clarity of vision Gilbert and George have developed with their singular vocabulary of visual imagery. These new pictures, infused with wit and a tragic poetry guide us, their audience, through the worldview of the artists; a world of love, power, sex, beauty, sadness and intolerance.

A fully illustrated catalogue including an interview with Gilbert and George by David Sylvester accompanies the exhibition. **The Rudimentary Pictures** were previewed as the inaugural exhibit at the Milton Keynes Art Gallery in England from October 1999 to January 2000.

\*Gilbert and George quote from interview with Stephen Snoddy AN Magazine 1999.