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Photographs by  
ROBERT MAXWELL

Provocateurs at heart, the artists featured here are no less stimulating when it comes to style. For some, the way they dress cannot be separated from their work; for others, it's an independent vehicle for expression, one piece in a larger project of reflecting and interpreting the world around them. Untouched by stylists and fashion freebies, these Originals know only one way to get dressed: their own.

Text by Alex Hawgood



Gilbert and George |  
Dynamic Duo

Their his-and-his bespoke suits have made them two of the most recognizable peacocks in the art world. But unlike their perfectly tailored demeanor, the work of the London artists Gilbert and George is a messier affair. Often the stars of their own pieces, the pair have explored taboo subject matter like bodily fluids and skinhead subcultures in their photography and performance art. (An image from their 2005 series "Ginkgo Pictures" shows them morphing into a sort of two-headed monster.) A retrospective of their work was shown this year at the Tate Modern and is making its way to the Brooklyn Museum in October 2008. Much like their sartorial habits, their work appears timeless.