

# THE GOSS-MICHÆL FOUNDATION

## SARAH LUCAS



We do it with Love, 2005, Edition of 10, C-print, 22.5 x 17 inches

**Exhibition October 25, 2008 – January 31, 2009**

Sarah Lucas's work confronts big, unwieldy questions – from sex and mortality to the underlying function of the work of art.

Made from an incongruous range of found objects and materials – cigarettes, concrete, wax – Lucas's art is imbued with a defiant, base materialism. Her visual language is playfully symbolic, ranging from coarse puns to veiled allusions. *Little Man Big Willy* (2000) is comically blatant: a penis made from the sheath like form of a nylon sleeping-bag sits in a metal bucket, crowned with a workman's hard hat. Lucas celebrates yet also satirizes the stereotype of the macho male and uses words as an important additional raw material – the titles are often as basely embellished as the objects.

In *Self-Portrait with Skull* (1996) Lucas questions assumptions of what a female – and more specifically, a female artist – should look like, by purposefully assuming a masculine role. She sits impassively behind a skull, the classic *memento mori*, at once invoking and disavowing the canonical 'great tradition' from which it derives.

Bawdy and provocative, Lucas's work has a spirit of dissent – whatever the seriousness of the subject matter it sets out to address. In *Untitled (couple)*, gender differences are addressed through the hilarious *double entendre* of a raw chicken and a large sausage. A grimmer kind of viscerality resides in *Where does it all End?* (1994). This grisly, metonymic fragment of a face with its extinguished cigarette implies an inevitable expiration – of tobacco, of time, and of human life itself. Here and throughout her work Lucas sees the skull beneath the skin.

Sarah Lucas came to prominence in the 1990s as a leading figure of the Young British Artists (the YBAs). Her work quickly achieved international recognition for a beguiling capacity to provoke moral indignation at the same time as amusement.

She was born in Holloway, London, 1962, and studied at Goldsmith's College. She was included in the ground-breaking group exhibition, *Freeze*, in 1988, with contemporaries including Angus Fairhurst, Damien Hirst, and Gary Hume. Her work has been included in most major surveys of new British art in the last decade, including *Sensation - Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection*, at the Royal Academy, London, 1997, and the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, 1998; and *Intelligence - New British Art 2000*, Tate Britain, London, 2000. Solo exhibitions include *Perceval*, Doris C Freedman Plaza, Central Park, New York, 2008; *Sarah Lucas*, Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 2006; *Sarah Lucas*, Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich, travelling to Kunstverein in Hamburg, Germany, and Tate Liverpool, 2005. Various International group shows include *The Third Mind – Carte blanche à Ugo Rondinone*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, 2007; *Aftershock: Contemporary British Art 1990-2006*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Beijing, China, 2006; and *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vidda*, with Angus Fairhurst and Damien Hirst, Tate Britain, London, 2004. In 2005, the monograph *Sarah Lucas: A Catalogue Raisonné* was published by Hatje Cantz and Tate Publications. She lives and works in the UK.

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**The Goss-Michael Foundation** was founded by George Michael and Kenny Goss in June 2007. The Foundation offers the public a rotating schedule of exhibitions derived from Goss and Michael's private collection as well as other institutions. These exhibitions serve as a challenge to preconceived art notions and strive to set a new standard in artistic awareness by providing visitors with fresh and fascinating art experiences. Through these experiences, the Foundation hopes to generate new perspectives and conversations on the creative methods of contemporary artists. Locally, the Foundation is dedicated to contributing to Dallas's thriving artistic community and enhancing the public's familiarity and interaction with mid-career and emerging international artists.

**The Goss-Michael Foundation Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 10:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm, Monday by appointment only.