



**PRESS RELEASE**

**EXHIBITION**

**ON KAWARA**

**CURATORS**

**JEAN LOUIS MAUBANT AND PASCAL PIQUE**

**PRESS OFFICE**

**MASSIMO MELOTTI**

**OPENING**

**THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 1997**

**PERIOD**

**21 FEBRUARY - 20 APRIL 1997**

**MUSEUM HOURS**

**TUESDAY TO FRIDAY 10am-5pm.  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 10am-7pm  
THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH  
MONTH 10am-10pm  
MONDAY CLOSED**

**EXHIBITION SITE**

**CASTELLO DI RIVOLI  
MUSEO D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA  
PIAZZA DEL CASTELLO  
10098 RIVOLI (TORINO)**



## THE EXHIBITION

### *Whole and Parts*

Seen for the first time in Italy, this retrospective exhibition presents works produced by On Kawara since 1964. *Whole and Parts* comprises an exhibition and a publication, both conceived and produced in close collaboration with the artist.

Since 1966, On Kawara's artistic work has been concerned with different ways of recording time and space and with the concepts of permanence and temporaneity. His efforts at recording take various forms: a series of painted dates, the sending of telegrams or postcards, the production of calendars and of newspapers. The fixed point is implicitly understood to be On Kawara himself, at the time and place in which he is located. Each of the artist's works thus paradoxically affirms his presence, even though the date is bound to refer to a moment already passed. By fixing on one moment in particular, his works become symbolic of history in general and of a specific awareness of recording in the real world.

*Whole and Parts* provides us with a comprehensive overview of On Kawara's work as revealed in the exhibition *continuity/discontinuity*, presented at Stockholm, Essen, Eindhoven and Osaka in 1979.

On Kawara's exhibition includes works from the second half of the Sixties; the period in which he left Japan for the West. This important moment is recorded in a previously unseen series of drawings produced in Paris in 1964.

The exhibition includes *One Million Year Past* (1969) and *One Million Year Future* (1981). A section of this one-man exhibition is devoted to the artist's work from 1965, a date which marked a change in On Kawara's output. This group of works include the first paintings to use language (*Viet Nam*), paintings which mark a location by simply indicating longitude and latitude, and also paintings which represent the transposition of narrative systems through the use of codes for which only the artist possesses a key. The exhibition also includes *Date paintings* from the series *Today*, begun in 1966; an early series refers to the period 1966-1995, with a painting for each year, a second series reproduces a month from the year 1970. Other exhibits include cardboard boxes containing a painting and a page from a daily newspaper.

The autobiographic nature of On Kawara's work is evident in the different items posted by the artist: *I Am Still Alive* telegrams and *I Got up at, I Went and I Read* postcards.

This exhibition is a first for Italy, and was originally produced by the Nouveau Musée/Institut d'Art Contemporain, Villeurbanne. It will move to the Contemporary Art Museum in Barcelona and the Contemporary Art Museum in Tokyo at the beginning of 1998.



## The publication

The book was produced by and with On Kawara. It sets out to provide a general and detailed look at activities carried out in the years between 1964 and 1995. Certain parts, such as those devoted to the production of *Date paintings*, may be seen as specific contributions in their own right. The volume consists of three sections: the first includes reproductions of works, the second a selection of critical texts published in the original language and the third offers images from major exhibitions devoted to On Kawara between 1970 and 1995. The seven hundred or so pages in the book contain five hundred photographs (colour and black and white) which go to make up the most comprehensive selection of illustrations published to date. The work is published by Presses du Réel in conjunction with the Nouveau Musée/Institut d'Art Contemporain, Villeurbanne.