

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

NO. 64

## ELLSWORTH KELLY RETROSPECTIVE

### Advance Fact Sheet

Dates: September 12 - November 4, 1973

Travel: Pasadena Museum of Modern Art - approx. Jan. 14, 1974 - Mar. 3, 1974  
Walker Art Center Minneapolis - approx. Mar. 30, 1974 - May 19, 1974  
Detroit Institute of Art - approx. June 17, 1974 - Aug. 4, 1974

Guest Director: Eugene Goossen, art critic and Professor of Art History, Hunter College. (Professor Goossen was Guest Director of the Art of the Real exhibition presented at the Museum in 1968 and of the Helen Frankenthaler retrospective which was shown at the Whitney Museum in 1969 and traveled abroad under the auspices of The Museum of Modern Art's International Council.

Contents: Approximately 55 paintings and sculptures, many dating from 1949 to very recent work, (not previously shown), plus about 16 drawings and collages.

Early in the planning of this exhibition of Ellsworth Kelly's work, it became clear that much in his art was the direct consequence of the uniqueness of his visual experience quite outside the world of art. Less dependent on current styles than his colleagues, and less involved in the more obvious "problem-solving" practiced by many of his contemporaries, Kelly has always been something of an anomaly to his critics. In the course of Goossen's many conversations with the artist, clues turned up that upon investigation led to sources and inspirations that might never occur to the casual viewer. The exhibition includes most of the key works which indicate the overall pattern of Kelly's approach, from the first mature period in France (1948-54) to the Curve series of 1972-73.

Publication: Ellsworth Kelly by Eugene Goossen. Approximately 128 pages, 16 color plates, 54 black-and-white illustrations, plus about 30 reference illustrations. \$12.50 clothbound, distributed by New York Graphics Society Ltd.; \$6.95 paperback, available at the Museum.

Certainly this study may appear to be a veritable potpourri when the Isenheim Alterpiece, the 603rd Engineer's Camouflage Battalion, the icons of a Muscovite painter named Rublev, the architecture of Le Corbusier, and the birds of Audubon are all mixed together in the same visual history. Nevertheless these are the crucial though disparate elements that have merged to become Kelly's aesthetic. Even his most recent and thoroughly abstract work is directly traceable to and consistent with the earliest characteristics of his vision.

7/23/73

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Photographs and additional material available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, 956-7504

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Contents: Approximately 50 paintings and sculptures (many not previously shown), dating from 1949 to very recent work; about 25 drawings and collages.

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Publication: Ellsworth Kelly by Eugene C. Goossen. 128 pages, 18 color plates, 66 black-and-white illustrations, plus 51 reference illustrations. \$12.50 clothbound, distributed by New York Graphic Society Ltd.; \$6.95 paperback, available at the Museum.

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