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KEY TITLE INFORMATION

ELLSWORTH KELLY

THE EARLY DRAWINGS 1948–1955



author: Yve-Alain Bois

artists: Ellsworth Kelly

During his expatriate years in France (1948–54), Ellsworth Kelly developed the visual strategies that would make him one of the most important artists of our era. This is most evident in his French drawings, presented here with a searching commentary by Yve-Alain Bois.

In drawing and collage, Kelly evolved four strategies for making art: transfer, chance, modular grid, and monochrome panel. His goal was to develop an alternative to traditional composition at once radically inventive and stubbornly impersonal. Kelly shared this paradoxical ideal with several artists he came to know at the time, from Jean Arp to John Cage, but no one pursued it with greater determination.

This catalogue which accompanies an exhibition organised by the Harvard University Art Museums and the Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland, offers an intimate view of the process of artistic conception. If Kelly's art looks simple, this quality is the result of an arduous labour of refinement, a process of selection and elimination by which a maturing artist negotiated a stimulating and unfamiliar environment.

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Ellsworth Kelly. Biography. Biography. Considered a pioneer of hard-edge painting, Ellsworth Kelly is best known for his crisp nonrepresentational works, intensely colored and radically simplified. His early training in the applied art program at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, was interrupted by his induction into the army in 1943. Art Historian E. C. Goossen has speculated that Kelly's assignment to a camouflage battalion provided him with invaluable lessons about the interaction of form and shadow in space, which were applied later in his collages, paintings, and sculpture. Ellsworth Kelly was born in 1923, a remarkable figure of American Post-Painterly Abstraction and Minimalism. Find more works of this artist at Wikiart.org – best visual art database. Ellsworth Kelly (May 31, 1923 – December 27, 2015) was an American painter, sculptor, and printmaker associated with hard-edge painting, Color Field painting and minimalism. His works demonstrate unassuming techniques emphasizing line, color and form, similar to the work of John McLaughlin and Kenneth Noland.