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Ellsworth Kelly: A Retrospective

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Published to coincide with a major exhibition to tour both the US and Europe. this volume offers a survey of the artist's paintings, sculptures, works on paper and photographs. The catalogue spans five decades, beginning in the late 1940s when Kelly formulated a visual language that he has continued to elaborate and explore throughout his artistic career. Interested in the work of Arp, Matisse and other European artists, Kelly developed his own style of abstraction while working in Paris after the Second World War. Following his arrival in New York in 1954, Kelly continued to work independently, creating flatly painted geometric works at odds with the gestural brushwork of Abstract Expressionism, the dominant style of American abstraction.

From Library JournalKelly's name brings to mind large abstract forms engaged in a dialog of color and space. His work is deceptively simple but embodies enough force of its own to resist categorization. His quiet labors are about

visual process and are to be perceived in a direct manner. Often, this is precisely what confuses, because so many of us have forgotten how to see. Still, his images are never arbitrary; they are carefully planned in a holistic manner, often through the use of collage. This companion to the first major retrospective of Kelly's career since the early 1970s includes examples of his work in all media. A team of stellar writers, headed by editor Waldman, the Guggenheim's deputy director and senior curator, relate his life story, his friendship with the Arps and John Cage, his years in Europe, and his return to the United States. An important addition to any collection dealing with 20th-century art. Susan M. Olcott, Columbus Metropolitan Lib., Ohio Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.