
On Kawara

One Million Years

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The first volume «For all those who have lived and died» starts in 998031 BC and ends in 1969 AD, namely *One Million Years* later. At this date starts the *One Million Years* in the oeuvre of On Kawara, transcribed here for the edition on 2000 pages. The second volume «For the last one» starts in 1993 AD and ends *One Million Years* later, in 1001992. This period is equally transcribed for the edition on 2000 pages. The text of each page is laid out in 10 columns, rigorously aligned and subdivided in 5 blocks of 100 years. Each block contains 10 lines and each line contains a decenium. The two volumes of the book correspond, their internal organization is identical.

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About *One Million Years* by On Kawara

Past - For all those who have lived and died

Future - For the last one

«In September 1997, I took on the production of *One Million Years*. Two volumes, 2012 pages each, 144 x 105 mm, printed on 32g Bible Veritable Ivory paper. The first volume, «For all those who have lived and died», starts in 998031 BC and stops in 1969 AD, *One Million Years* later. The second volume, «For the last one», starts in 1993 AD and finishes *One Million Years* later, in 1001992 AD. Each page holds 500 years. The text of each page is laid out in ten columns, aligned and subdivided in five blocks of 100 years. Each block contains ten lines, each line contains a decade. I start by inverting the usual process: I know what not to do. Because of the transparency of the paper, the columns of numbers have to be rigorously aligned both horizontally and vertically in order not to confuse the time that precedes or that follows with the time one reads: time shouldn't be shifted, it can only be superimposed on itself. It is therefore imperative that the time one reads hides earlier times, without indicating the time that is still to come. This is the improbable reality on which I had to base my working method in order to realize this work. In the case of the Today series, time is light, and space is magma, here, time will become a time-block that will detach itself from the white paper (time-block/spacewhite). It will materialize in the milky white of the paper, which is smooth and silky to the touch. Is this not being in touch with the real, with the materiality of a defined time? On 3 June 1999, at 1 p.m., the production of *One Million Years* was completed and signed by On Kawara.»

Michèle Didier

(Excerpt from On Kawara © Phaidon Press Limited, First published in 2002, p.23)

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One Million Years

Specifications

- In two volumes
- Each volume is 2012 pages
- Each volume is 14,4 cm x 10,5cm
- Printed on Bible Veritable Ivory Paper 32 g
- Cover : Black leather over 400 gr cardboard
- Silver / Gold embossing on front and spine
- The two volumes come in a black slipcase, measuring 11,5 x 9,2 x 16,2 cm

Production

- Limited to :
 - 500 numbered copies (from 061 to 560) +
 - 60 numbered and signed copies (from 01/60 to 60/60) +
 - 10 A.P. (from 561 to 570)

Produced and published in 1999 by Éditions Micheline Szwajcer & Michèle Didier

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