

The Museum of Modern Art

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Ellsworth Kelly by E. C. Goossen. 128 pages, 18 color plates, 66 black-and-white illustrations, plus 51 reference illustrations. \$12.50 clothbound, distributed to the trade by New York Graphic Society Ltd.; \$6.95 paperbound.

The noted critic, E. C. Goossen, author of Ellsworth Kelly, published by The Museum of Modern Art in September 1973, contends that formal criticism alone can give only an inadequate account of this esteemed contemporary American artist. Therefore, he freely invoked the artist's life, his travels and his environment to provide a richly informative and illuminating study.

Throughout his career Kelly (b. 1923) has followed his own distinctively personal bent -- while anticipating the work of the hard-edge, shaped canvas, and color-field painters, and at the same time establishing a reputation in sculpture and printmaking. In his fresh comprehensive view of Kelly's work to date, Goossen draws upon numerous conversations with the artist. He retraces his development from the formative years at the Boston Museum School through the wartime service with a camouflage unit and to the six-year stay in Paris. He continues with the artist's subsequent career in New York where, by the late 1950s, Kelly was recognized as an artist of major stature.

Goossen gives detailed analyses of some 30 canvases. Tracing the sources of these works, he directs our attention not so much to current aesthetic styles as to the world of Kelly's immediate experience: specific forms in nature, especially plants and birds; the shapes of pipes and chimneys on city walls; the strange, calm outlines of Mediterranean architecture; even the patterns of wartime camouflage. Numerous reference photographs, an appendix on Kelly's military service with a camouflage unit and a bibliography complete the volume.

E. C. Goossen is Professor of Art at Hunter College, New York, where for 11 years he served as Chairman of the Department of Art. He directed the current

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Ellsworth Kelly exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, which will travel across the country throughout 1974. Author of monographs on David Smith and Stuart Davis, Goosen wrote The Art of the Real: USA 1948-1968 and directed the exhibition of the same title at The Museum of Modern Art. He is also the author of an early monograph on Kelly published by the Galerie Maeght, Paris, in 1958.

 Review copies and photographs available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501; 956-7504.
