Yves Klein By Himself

author: Klaus Ottmann
artists: Yves Klein

Yves Klein By Himself is an intellectual biography of one of the most influential artists of the second half of the twentieth century.

His innovative use of painting, sculpture, performance, film, and photography has influenced Minimalism, conceptual art, and performance art from the late 1960s through to the present day.

This book intermixes biographical fact with texts written by some of the many artists who have been inspired by this charismatic agitator for social change.

A glossary of keywords is complete with definitions by Klein himself, many of which are previously unpublished.

The biography is rounded off by a selection of critical writings from Klein’s own time, including an in-depth analysis of his philosophical ideas by curator-writer Klaus Ottmann.

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190mm x 120mm
Yves Klein (28 April 1928 – 6 June 1962) was a French artist and is considered an important figure in post-war European art. He made a lot of monochrome paintings, mostly in his famous blue, and in gold colour. He had a lot of influence on Manzoni, the Zero-artists and Joseph Beuys. sorted chronologically, after date of the quotes of Yves Klein. Blue has no dimensions, it is beyond dimensions, whereas the other colours are not. They are pre-psychological expanses, red, for example, presupposing a site Yves Klein was a very unique individual who is very difficult to characterize, as he himself did not wish to be classified, nor to be compared to any other artist. As far as I have seen in my research, Klein denies any artistic influences on his work. This aside, the comparison to Marcel Duchamp is inevitable, and it is highly unlikely that Klein was not even slightly influenced by Duchamp’s ways. Like Duchamp, Klein’s art relies on the viewer’s presence to complete the work. Klein’s intent is to spread the energy of pure color into a space, and impregnate the viewer with it. Klein surely was Yves Klein by himself is the intellectual biography of one of the most influential artists of the second half of the twentieth century. Through his innovative approach to painting, sculpture, film and photography, he influenced minimalism, conceptual art and performance art from the late 1960s to the present. In this book, Klaus Ottmann brings together biographical elements, texts by writers and artists who inspired Klein to varying degrees, a glossary of his key words and the definitions he gives them in his texts including certain previously unpublished manuscripts a selection of contemp