

Artist Resources – KAWARA On 河原温 (Japanese, 1932-2014)

[Kawara at David Zwirner](#)

[Kawara at Dina Vierny](#)

[Kawara at MoMA](#)

[Kawara at the Art Institute of Chicago](#)

[On Kawara: I READ \(1966-1995\)](#) was on view at David Zwirner Gallery in 1999, which was the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery that has continued to represent his estate. This presentation was followed by [On Kawara: One Million Years \(Past and Future\)](#) in 2001.

In 2002, *On Kawara – Consciousness. Meditation. Watcher on the Hills* began traveling as the most comprehensive exhibition of Kawara's work to that date. Organized by the [Ikon Gallery](#) in Birmingham and Le Consortium in Dijon, the exhibition traveled to numerous locations including [The Power Plant](#) in Toronto and the [Govett-Brewster Art Gallery](#) in New Zealand.

David Zwirner hosted the 2004 exhibition, [On Kawara: Paintings of 40 Years](#), featuring one *Date Painting* from each of the past 4 decades.

In 2009, [On Kawara: One Million Years](#) was on view at David Zwirner Gallery, marking the first time Kawara's epic *One Million Years* project was read aloud and recorded live for a CD production process. Watch a [New York Art Tours video](#) of the installation.

[Date Painting\(s\) in New York and 136 Other Cities](#) was installed at David Zwirner Gallery in 2012.



Kawara, 1975
Photograph: One Million Years Foundation

In 2015, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum installed [On Kawara: Silence](#). The major retrospective was the first full representation of the artist's work since 1964, including every category of his oeuvre: date paintings, postcards, telegrams, maps, list of names, newspaper cuttings, inventory paintings, and calendars. Read an article in [Artforum](#) in anticipation of the exhibition and reviews in [The Guardian](#), [Hyperallergic](#), [CAA Reviews](#), and the [New York Times](#). Also watch a [video](#) about the *Today* series with Guggenheim curators Jeffrey Weiss and Kasper König.

[On Kawara 1966](#) was on view at the Museum Dhondt-Dhaenes in Deurle in 2015, featuring 51 paintings from the *Today* series made in the year 1966.

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Nusantara in Jakarta launched [On Kawara: One Million Years](#) in 2018 as part of the institution's one year anniversary celebration. Read a [review](#) by Dhanika Sarahtika for Jakarta Globe.

In 2020, [On Kawara and the Grande Complication](#) was at Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon in Dresden, Germany.

[On Kawara: Date Paintings](#) and [On Kawara: Early Works](#) were installed at David Zwirner London and Paris (respectively) in 2024. Read a review in [Apollo Magazine](#) on both exhibitions by Rowland Bagnall.



Kawara, unknown date

KAWARA On (Japanese, 1932-2014)

JUNE 21, 1967, 1967

Acrylic on canvas

Private Collection; L2024:119.1

On Kawara was born in Japan and lived in Mexico, France, and the United States throughout his career. The conceptual artist was fascinated by time; his work often uses chronological time to reflect on and measure the experience of human existence. On January 4, 1966, Kawara began to create his *Today* series, which he continued nearly every day until 2013. **JUNE 21, 1967** is an early example, featuring the date in the artist's signature sans serif font against a monochromatic red background. The language and grammar used for each painting reflect the country where it was created, and works since 1967 are accompanied by a custom box lined with the day's local newspaper. The monumental series marks the passage of time and becomes a physical manifestation of Kawara's favorite phrase: "I am still alive."

On view February 12 – May 18, 2025

