
Garry Neill Kennedy: Printed Matter / Imprimés 1971-2009 is the eighth title in the award winning series Occasional Papers, published by the Library and Archives of the National Gallery of Canada. Author Peter Trepanier, Reference Librarian at the National Gallery and former student of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) during Kennedy’s transformative twenty-three-year term as president, has assembled an impressive catalog of over 100 pieces of printed matter created by or in collaboration with Kennedy, including previously unrecorded works. Trepanier consulted with the artist himself during every step of the publishing process, which comes through in the meticulous attention to detail.

Inspired by an exhibition at the National Gallery Library and Archives entitled Garry Neill Kennedy: Superstar Shadow (1984-2005), this volume celebrates Kennedy’s continuing contributions to the Canadian conceptual and contemporary art movement. The book offers a perfect supplement to Kennedy’s work, indexing the evolution of his artistic practice, as well as notable moments in his professional and personal life. Each piece of printed matter featured stands independent as a work of art, and when paired with the insightful explanations, creates a series of fascinating stories.

Kennedy has been producing printed matter for over forty years, some of it being exhibited as art, and some providing information about a painting, exhibition, or installation that isn’t apparent when viewing the work. As a conceptual artist, documentation is an integral part of Kennedy’s practice. Included in this volume are examples of documentation and printed matter from many of his exhibitions.

Fully bilingual in French and English, and arranged chronologically, each full-colour entry includes a thorough physical description with the title, date, format, binding (where applicable), printing method, pagination, dimensions, publisher, and place of publication. Descriptive notes follow the entries, providing valuable new information supplied by Kennedy. The formats of the items included range from books, pamphlets, leaflets, sheets, cards, page work, posters, and wallpaper.

The volume includes an extensive bibliography of critical works on Garry Neill Kennedy, articles relating to his role as president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and a format and title index of printed matter featured. Recommended for libraries collecting art history material, in particular material about North American contemporary art.

Hillary Webb, Visual Resources Librarian, NSCAD University Library, hwebb@nscad.ca