

PIERRE KELLER

LE KILO-ART



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CATEGORIES: [Art Theory](#), [Books](#), [Hapax Series](#)

SPECIFICATIONS:

French

Publication: April 2018

ISBN: 978-3-03764-544-4

Softcover, 165 x 105 mm

Pages: 64

Pictures B&W: 29 / Color: 4

Price: CHF 12, EUR 10, GBP 7, USD 15

ART AS A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARD

This publication revives the fascinating adventure of Pierre Keller's invention and dissemination of the "Kilo-Art," the "Swiss standard for art measurement." For the two years 1972 and 1973, the young artist—now a key figure of the contemporary artistic and pedagogical scene in Switzerland—dedicated his life to what he called "conceptual art with realization."

From its first production tests to its exhibition in Geneva, Lausanne, and Venice, through the voluminous correspondence needed for its ratification by the Swiss Federal Office for Weights and Standards, this book follows every step of the birth of the "Kilo-Art." To be interested today in the "Kilo-Art" is to understand how a young Swiss artist, informed by the lessons of Marcel Duchamp and American Conceptual art, could, at the beginning of the 1970s, propose an artwork more subversive than it may initially appear, in which avant-garde art meets the normative administrative system.

Introduced by Clément Dirié, the volume brings together texts by Tommaso Trini and Martine Lanini written in the 1970s, as well as many documents and never-before-published photographs recreating the adventure and atmosphere of a project typical of its time.