

# Jannis Kounellis

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*Jannis Kounellis*

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## MALIK SYLVIA

*Jannis Kounellis* Nicholson

In the Greek port of Piraeus, there is a small tramp steamer moored at the dock. The Ionian's cargo decks are laden with the works of the Italian artist Jannis Kounellis, born in Piraeus in 1936. The ship, and its manifest, are a metaphor for the high priest of Arte Povera, the art movement founded in Italy in the late 1960s.

*Jannis Kounellis* Parkett Publishers  
 Jannis Kounellis was one of the cofounders of Arte Povera in Italy in the 1960s. His work combines apparently contradictory substances, forms, and principles to explore themes involving the basic principles of life: heat and distance,

transience and endurance, creation and decay. There is no hierarchy among materials in his art: coffee, coal, oil lamps, steel plates, gas flames, shoes, and fabric all play equally important roles in his installations. This monograph covers every period of Kounellis' career -- from early pictures with numbers and letters, to creations using coal and fire, to his works of the 1990s.

*Jannis Kounellis* Trolley Press

This monumental publication on the artist Jannis Kounellis covers the entirety of his career from the late 1950s through the 1990s. Kounellis was a co-founder of the Italian movement Arte Povera and used a variety of materials, organic (coffee, coal), and inorganic (steel plates, textiles), to create his sculptural works, which speak to basic and elemental themes like heat, creation, decay, endurance, and more.

385 illustrations

*Jannis Kounellis (in Acq)* Phaidon Press

This sixth title in Ivorypress' LiberArs series devoted to small-format artists' books presents a series of monotypes by Jannis Kounellis (born 1936), created with second-hand coats that the artist found in small flea markets and subsequently deployed to apply pigment onto paper. *Ausst. U.d.T.: Jannis Kounellis* Ediciones Polígrafa S.A.

Cet ouvrage a été publié à l'occasion de l'exposition "Jannis Kounellis", Monastero Mechitarista, Isola di San Lazzaro degli Armeni, Venezia, du 10 juin au 4 septembre 2003.

*Jannis Kounellis* Reaktion Books

Over the past 40 years, sculptor and installation artist Jannis Kounellis has established himself as a unique presence in the world of contemporary art. His work,

whether included in temporary exhibitions or placed in semi-permanent installations, invariably lingers in the memory because of its forceful character and its ability to transform its immediate environment. Stephen Bann refers to Kounellis's working practice as a process of "making strange". In all his installations, the material impact of the work sets off a trail of associations. Potent examples include his 1969 installation of twelve tethered live horses in a gallery in Rome, the city where the prototypes of the equestrian monuments of Antiquity can still be seen, or his 1975 Civil Tragedy installation in which a hat-stand with black hat and coat against a gold-leaf background lit by a small lamp recalled the café society of Central Europe against a wall of Byzantine splendor. As an artist, Kounellis has found his special location in Rome. At the age of 20, he made the journey there from Piraeus, the ancient port of Athens, and began his career. His works continue to bear the hallmarks of his Eastern Mediterranean origin, as well as testifying to his concern with the links between Russian Modernism and the Byzantine tradition. Stephen Bann has not set out to write a conventional monograph about the artist. Rather, he looks at the underlying mechanisms in Kounellis's practice, suggesting the ways in which they are important in the broader context of late modernist art. He outlines the distinctive way in which Kounellis takes account of space as a necessary preliminary to working within it, and discusses the historical and cultural dimension to which Kounellis lays claim. [Jannis Kounellis](#) Prestel Publishing

The ultimate monograph on one of the most important artists of the twentieth century - a key figure in Arte Povera This book is the final, most comprehensive book ever made by Greek-born Jannis Kounellis, one of the key artists in the Arte Povera movement. Following his

breakthrough in the late 1960s in Rome, when he questioned the traditionally sterile environment of the gallery by exhibiting live animals within its walls, Kounellis went on to include diverse materials in his work, including fire, earth, gold, wood, and charcoal, quickly establishing himself as one of the most innovative sculptors of our time. Writings by the artist and a collection of tributes from people who have known and worked with him over the years, such as Pierre Audi, David Hammons, Gloria Moure, Giulio Paolini, Vassili Vassilikos, and many others, are included. Jannis Kounellis is the latest addition to the acclaimed Phaidon Contemporary Artists Series.

[Jannis Kounellis \(in Acq\)](#)

KEYNOTE: This book presents the definitive retrospective of the avant-garde European artist Jannis Kounellis' work as seen within its spatial context. Born in Greece in 1936, Jannis Kounellis witnessed some of the most tumultuous periods in Modern art and radically impacted the art scene since the 1960s. Based in Rome since 1956, he began working on canvas, but after his "Alphabet" paintings Kounellis abandoned the two-dimensional surface. He became a central figure of the Arte Povera movement, developing a vocabulary of modest materials such as coal, wool, and coffee, and even incorporated living animals like parrots and horses into his art. Kounellis' work took on a spatial dimension with his poetic installations reflecting industrial and agrarian societies, as well as moral and social concerns. This riveting monograph includes an in-depth and richly illustrated survey of 22 projects in factories, warehouses, churches and castles all over the world, including Rome, Chicago, Barcelona, Cologne, Mexico City, Berlin, and London. Each location represents a unique event where Kounellis' work and the architectural environment merge to

create a dialogue between the artist and the space. The book offers readers a unique opportunity to observe the evolution of Kounellis' work as the artist explored increasingly unconventional--and often controversial--methods for delivering his social and political messages. AUTHOR: Marc Scheps has been Director of the Tel-Aviv Museum of Art, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany, and the Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation. He is the author of many publications on Modern and Contemporary art. ILLUSTRATIONS 400 duotone illustrations \*

### **Jannis Kounellis**

Having made a name for himself in the Roman art scene of the early 1960s, Jannis Kounellis resurfaced, with extraordinary intuition and creative force, in the Arte Povera movement -- the first Italian art movement to be recognized on an international level. Using materials that were initially considered unusual, such as wool, coal, live animals, plants, and theatrical sets, and endowed with a keen sixth sense, Kounellis worked to eliminated the ideological boundary that separates life from art, ethics from aesthetics, creation from production, the social and the political from the individual and the anarchic. Kounellis's intense artistic odyssey, his more than four decades of fervent and impassioned activity, is here richly illustrated on the occasion of his first large-scale exhibition in Belgium.

[Kounellis, Jannis, 1936-](#)

### **Echoes in the Darkness**

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