



A Question Mark Above the Sun: Documents on the Mystery Surrounding a Famous Poem By Frank O'Hara

By Kent Johnson

Starcherone Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 240 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.4in. x 1.0in. At the end of last year, an extraordinary work of detective criticism briefly appeared, despite legal threats. Kent Johnson's *A Question Mark Above the Sun* (Punch Press) movingly speculates that Kenneth Koch forged one of Frank O'Hara's greatest poems as a posthumous tribute to his friend. A noir-ish middle also recounts some very funny run-ins with the English avant-garde. Shame on the poets who forced its redaction and suppression. Jeremy Noel-Tod, *The Times Literary Supplement*, including a previous edition of *A Question Mark Above the Sun* as one of its 2011 Books of the Year. What you have in your hands is a kind of thought-experiment. It proffers the idea that a radical, secret gesture of poetic mourning and love was carried out by Kenneth Koch in memory of his close friend Frank O'Hara. I present the hypothesis as my own very personal expression of homage for the two great poets. The proposal I set forward here, nevertheless, is likely to make some readers annoyed, perhaps even indignant. Some already are. A few fellow writers, even, have worked hard through legal courses to block this book's publication....



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