

Tracey Emin



Above and overleaf: Tracey Emin, *I Kiss You* (2004), detail

► Pavel S. Pyś

Tacit and unnoticed, just like blinking and breathing. A gesture, figure of speech, intonation. A favourite mug, a beloved necklace. The creaking of the bedroom door, the chiming of the grandfather clock at night. The route of the afternoon stroll, the worn down fabric of the armrest. A shared, favourite song.

The Shape We're In (Camden)

So many have passed through the doorway of the St John the Baptist & Bartholomew Apostle church in Kazimierz Dolny that its step has gradually bowed, witness to fleeting presence. Hundreds, if not thousands of passengers every day at the Ploshchad Revolyutsii station in Moscow rub the nose of a bronze sculpture of a dog, believed to bring luck. Most visitors to Istanbul's Hagia Sophia insert their index finger into a small, damp hole in the 'crying column', a pillar thought to cure diseases and grant wishes. Rome's La Bocca della Verità has marble possibly the smoothest to human touch.

In 2008, a Victorian cobbled street was unearthed on the site of the London Olympic Park, said to be part of the original Temple Mills Lane. In 2010, a 32-foot long boat dating back to the mid-1700s was discovered on the site of the World Trade Center, between Liberty and Cedar Streets. In 1982, a small box containing a 2,000 year old magnolia seed was found among other objects in a storage chamber buried underneath a tomb in the Japanese region of Yamaguchi. The plant matured in 1993, its flowers having one petal more than any of the contemporary magnolia varieties.

High on the cliffs above Sydney's Bondi Beach, one might stumble upon Eora Aboriginal rock carvings, some possibly over 2,000 years old. They are located in the middle of a public golf course, in the vicinity of a large chimney of the local sewage treatment works.

Two capsules, created for the 1939 world fair, are still buried 50 feet below Flushing Meadows Park, New York. Set to be opened in 6939 AD, their contents include, among others, a dollar bill, Camel cigarettes and copies of LIFE magazine. Maison Martin opened its doors to the public in the French town of Moulins in early February 2011. According to its

owner's will, the mansion was sealed for over a century, and has since opened as a museum. The KEO satellite is set to be launched into space in early 2012. Citizens of the earth are encouraged to send in messages that will be included in the contents of the capsule that will re-enter earth's atmosphere in 500 centuries.

In 1965, Roman Opalka began the 1965 / 1 – ∞ series of canvases that count from 1 to infinity. A year later, On Kawara started the Today series which consists of paintings that mark the date on which the work is produced. Kris Martin's My Days Are Counted (2005) is a tally of the days that have passed since the artist's birth. In a 2001 issue of the magazine Trans, Tacita Dean published Found Ice: Berlin, August 2000 — fifteen black and white images of frozen fountains.

Italy's smallest volcano can be found in the Northern Apennines, outside Bologna. Constantly spewing gaseous hydrocarbons, its fire has burnt ceaselessly for centuries, day and night. A faded tombstone can be found at the Parisian cemetery of Père Lachaise, most of its engravings indiscernible apart from three words — Amor vincit omnia. What is both more lasting and fleeting than a kiss?

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I Kiss you

