



## 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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methods, some with eloquence. A Question Mark Above the Sun: Documents on the Mystery Surrounding a Famous Poem By Frank  
O'Hara [Kent Johnson, Eric Lorberer, David Koepsell] on Amazon.com. \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.Â Controversial since it  
first appeared and continuing to receive as much adulation as irritation, this striking expose of information about authorship as written by  
Kent Johnson who proposes that one of Frank O'Hara's best known poems was actually written by his close associate Kenneth Koch.  
But before commenting on the book, it seems only fair to present the poem in question in a condensed (non-formatted) version for the  
reader to be reminded.Â Would O'Hara mind the mystery, if the poem is actually his? I dare suspect he wouldn't.' "A Question Mark  
Above the Sun: Documents on the Mystery Surrounding a Famous Poem "By" Frank O'Hara", Starcherone Books, 2012.  
Detective Criticism. Amos Lassen. In this new book, Kent Johnson that Kenneth Koch forged one of Frank O'Hara's greatest  
poems.Â I suppose this book can be classified as experimental criticism. He starts with the idea that O'Hara's last poem, "A  
True Account of Talking to the Sun at Fire Island" was actually not written by him but by Koch and the fact that O'Hara died as the  
result of a dune buggy on Fire Island adds to that. It was, as Johnson suggests, attributed to O'Hara as a gift. The problem with this  
thesis is that Johnson was not allowed to quote directly from the original poem.

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