



# John Cage: Zen Ox-herding Pictures

**Stephen Addiss  
Ray Kass**

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- Fifty never-before-seen Zen watercolour images from the brush of avant-garde artist and composer John Cage
- Accompanies an exhibit by the Southbank Centre of the Hayward, which will travel throughout the UK in late 2009 / early 2010, following several Cage exhibitions organised by the University of Richmond Museums in the US in late 2009

*John Cage: The Zen Ox-Herding Pictures* brings together fifty never-before-seen watercolour images from renowned artist and composer John Cage, revealing the powerful influence of Zen in his life and work. These pieces were originally created on paper towels at the 1988 Mountain Lake Workshop as Cage experimented with the flow and tone of colours from his brush as he prepared for larger works. Authors Stephen Addiss and Ray Kass unite them here in patterns both planned and dictated by chance, the same methods by which Cage himself composed his later works. Ray Kass and Stephen Addiss provide introductory essays, discussing their experience with the works and the artist himself. They also explore fragments of Cage's poetry and his many statements about Zen practice, providing a fascinating lens through which the images seem to become mysterious echoes of the centuries-old "Ten Ox-Herding Paintings"-images about searching for, finding, and returning from the path to enlightenment.

Ray Kass is founder of the Mountain Lake Workshops and Professor of Art Emeritus at Virginia Tech University. Stephen Addiss is Tucker-Boatwright Professor in the Humanities: Art, University of Richmond, and author of several books on Zen art.