

AV FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ART, TECHNOLOGY, MUSIC AND FILM / AVFESTIVAL.CO.UK

AS SLOW AS POSSIBLE 1-31 MARCH 2012

**AV FESTIVAL NEEDS 1000 PEOPLE FROM NORTH EAST ENGLAND TO
CREATE TWO EPIC WORKS OF ART:**

On Kawara: *One Million Years*

Thu 1 March – Sun 29 April, 10am-6pm daily, Tue 10.30am – 6pm
BALTC Centre for Contemporary Art

Hamish Fulton: *Slowalk*

Sat 31 March, 1 - 3pm
Spiller's Wharf Carpark, Newcastle Quayside

AV Festival is **urgently** seeking 1,000 people to create two epic works of art conceived by international Japanese artist, On Kawara, and renowned British artist Hamish Fulton. These are both opportunities for the public to have an unforgettable experience whilst contributing to the art of critically acclaimed international artists.

On Kawara's *One Million Years* is an extraordinary ongoing artwork conceived by the artist in 1969 as a 20-volume typewritten record of one million years into both Past and Future. The work is created as the dates are read aloud in the gallery space. The first reading of *One Million Years* took place in 1993 at Dia Center for the Arts in New York. Since then live readings have been performed across the world, with a man and a woman alternating the reading of Past and Future dates together. Each new reading continues in numerical order from the previous session, until all the years are read. *One Million Years* enables time to be grasped in the physical act of reading the dates aloud, condensing human history to only a few pages, and an average human life to a few lines.

For *One Million Years* AV Festival is looking for 250 men and 250 women to read in 90-minute slots together. Each day, four time slots are available, for the duration of the two-month exhibition. Participation can be for one or more sessions, ideally with a friend or partner of the opposite gender. To book your place for the exhibition please visit the AV Festival website [here](#)

Hamish Fulton's *Slowalk* takes place in the landmark location of Newcastle Quayside on Spiller's Wharf. AV need 500 people (over 18s only) to take part in a unique communal walk designed by the artist, across an abandoned car park. Immersed in the post-industrial landscape, participants will walk slowly and silently together as a meditative experience. Participants are both the art and the audience. Advance booking required by visiting the AV Festival website [here](#)

For images or interviews please contact Janette Scott Arts PR
on press@avfestival.co.uk.

Notes to Editors

AV Festival is the UK's largest biennial festival of contemporary arts and technology, featuring visual art, music, sound and film across North East England in Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland and Middlesbrough. It is thematically curated to engage the public and artists with ideas across society and technology. AV Festival has previously worked with artists including: Anthony McCall, Ryoji Ikeda, Carsten Nicolai, Kenneth Anger, Charlemagne Palestine, Bill Fontana, Liliane Lijn, Gustav Metzger, Alan Moore, Aura Satz, Iain Sinclair, Kaffe Matthews, Michael Nyman and Chris Watson. www.avfestival.co.uk. Since the first edition in 2006, **AV Festival** has established itself firmly on the international arts festival calendar and has grown audiences both locally and globally. AV Festival 10 featured 140 artists, 31 venues, 20 new commissions, 20 exhibitions, 10 public realm installations and 68 other events spanning concerts, screenings, talks and conferences. **AV Festival 12** is funded by Arts Council England, BFI, PRS for Music Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Henry Moore Foundation, Sunderland Council and Middlesbrough Council.