



Art & artists → Július Koller → NO ART!

NO ART!

1970



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NOT ON DISPLAY

ARTIST [Július Koller](#) 1939–2007

ORIGINAL TITLE UME NIE!

MEDIUM	Digital print on paper
DIMENSIONS	Support: 149 × 203 mm
COLLECTION	Tate
ACQUISITION	Purchased 2008
REFERENCE	T12572

## SUMMARY

*NO ART!* is a conceptual artwork consisting of a Czechoslovakian postal telegram slip, with text printed on it in green ink. The artist has stamped his name and address in the 'Sender' box, and the date as 1970, but the 'Recipient' box is addressed simply 'Československo' ('Czechoslovakia'). The slip has also been stamped with the word 'Bratislava' in faint black ink, suggesting that this is the location where Koller acquired the slip. The text in the message box reads UME NIE!, which is a play on the Slovak words 'umenie', meaning 'art', and 'ume nie' meaning 'nevermore'. The critic and curator Georg Schöllhammer has commented that, from 1970 onwards 'symbols of eternity appear more and more often in [Koller's] work, along with question marks and the negation NIE' (quoted in Rhomberg and Ondák, p.130). The exclamatory message can be read as a call for action, or a more ambivalent statement of intent.

Koller began making text works on paper, which he also referred to as 'text-objects', in 1965. He used children's stamps to create each work in various editions, each of which was hand-printed. In 1971, he wrote a manifesto entitled 'Text-Cards (Card-Texts), Text-Objects (Object-Texts)' (see Böhler and Seidl, p.79). Many of the early text objects contained references to his concept of the 'anti-happening' and later, bore the initials 'U.F.O.'. Schöllhammer has suggested that the works were inspired by the use of text and collage in the work of the dadaists and the surrealists.

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Július Koller  
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date not known

