SIEMONALLENGUSTAVOARTIGA SAVANTCARGUARDWAYNEBARK **ERJAMESBECKETTCANDICEBRE** ITZCAROLYNCHRISTOV-BAKARG **IEVBARENDDEWETBRIANENOEL** ANGAMAKERKENDELLGEERSLIA MGILLICKDOUGLASGIMBERGBR **ENDENGRAYSTACYHARDYTRASI** HENENARYANKAGANOFANDRE WLAMPRECHTMACGUFFINBETTI NAMALCOMESSTHANDOMAMA RAFAELMOUZINHOCHRISTIANN **ERFONEMILLIONANDFORT** SEANO'TOOLESYLVESTEROGBE CHIEKRISTOFERPAETAUPEETPIE NAARCESAREPIETROIUSTIROBI NRHODECOLINRICHARDSRUTH SACKSJAMESSEYKATHRYNSMIT **HMICHAELSMITHNATHANIELSTE** RNROBERTSTORRJOHANTHOM LIZEVANROBBROECKEDYOUNG

One Million And Forty Four Years (And Sixty Three Days). Book.

'I am requesting responses from a broad range of respected artists, writers, curators and thinkers to the question: Is the avant-garde still a viable and/or tenable notion in the current contemporary movement? If not, why: and if so, how does the contemporary avant-garde define itself? What forms does it take, and how does it differ - if it does - from the 'historical' avant-garde? Can it – or should it – be 'rescued' from its relationship to modernism, or is it intractably bounded/ determined by that? If it does not exist in some or other form, what caused its ultimate death? Can we even speak about certain contemporary practices in terms of avant-garde discourse? In other words, if it looks like the avant-garde, and sounds like the avant-garde, is it the avant-garde?'

The above text is an extract from an e-mail sent by Kathryn Smith to eighty potential correspondents, in an attempt to 'take the temperature' of contemporary attitudes towards avant-gardism, both as praxis and historical conceit.

Conceived as a companion to an exhibition by Douglas Gimberg, Christian Nerf, Ruth Sacks and Ed Young, this book publishes responses to the above question received over a four-week period in 2007.