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Human Dust, 1969 [cat. no. 35]

HUMAN DUST

He was an artist. He died of a heart attack. He was born fifty years ago, which means he lived half a century, or appr. 2/3 of his expected lifespan. His father was a tailor and his mother a housewife. He had 4 brothers and 1 sister. He was in love 3 times, married once, fathered 2 human beings, thus beginning a chain of 60 or more human beings added to the world population within 4 generations (counting up to 2000 A.D.). Taking genetic and environmental factors into consideration, 4 of these will be doctors, 2 will write, 34 will bear children, 6 will be engineers or teachers, 1 will have an unusual talent, 1 will be a politician, 1 will collect garbage, 8 will be unskilled laborers, 1 will go to jail and two

During his lifetime he visited 18 countries and spoke 2 languages. He traveled 55,000 miles not including commuting and read 4100 books. He attended college for one year. His aspirations were to be a great writer or a great artist. He wrote about 1/2 million words and painted 48 paintings, all told. In his lifetime he earned \$160,000.00, was fired three times and held 17 positions after maturity. He was unhappy and lonely more often than not, achieved 1/10,000 of his dreams, managed to get his opinions across 184 times and was misunderstood 3800 times when it mattered. He believed in a god, was fairly religious at the beginning and toward the end of his life and could be considered superstitious. During his lifetime he consumed 4800 lbs. of bread, 3000 gallons of water, 140 gallons of wine and 360 quarts of whiskey. He ate 56,000 meals, slept 146,850 hours and moved his bowels 18,548 times. He was sick 23 times, caught 31 colds, pneumonia once, 7 virus infections and broke his leg falling off a chair while hanging one of his paintings. He served in the marines, was shot at several times but never wounded. He had relations with 27 women in his lifetime and ejaculated 3858 times. He voted in 24 elections and knew his opinions changed nothing. He was not a popular man - he had honest but uneven beliefs. His work was good but not great, and the last 10 years of his life he resigned himself to this fact. He had 4 friends at various times in his life and was loved by 17 people, including his parents. He was liked by 312. His brain contained 1010 neurons and it received 109 electrical impulses from his own sense organs, to each of which he responded. He smoked 210,000 cigarettes and tried drugs twice. 34 people remembered him or spoke of him after his death and his remains shown here represent 1/85 of his entire body.

Human Dust, 1969 (detail)