

## S.M.A.K. JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY



### *Regency-style mirror, 1973*

An item has to be truly special to be put on display in a museum. This Broodthaers Cabinet is a museum within a museum. Are the objects presented in this Cabinet therefore even more exceptional? Have you ever looked at this old-fashioned mirror somewhere else? Take a good look. There's an animal above the mirror. Can you see which animal? This animal is a symbol (a shape that represents an image, for example).

Who is the head of the museum? The director or the artist? If you look in this mirror, you may find the answer...

#### EXERCISE!

Everything you see in the mirror becomes a work of art. Make a selfie together in the mirror and put a finger in your nose, like Marcel Broodthaers.



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### *Broodthaers Cabinet*

Welcome to the Cabinet of the poet and artist Marcel Broodthaers. Marcel Broodthaers was a unique character. It was only during the last twelve years of his life that he worked as an artist. As for his first work of art, Marcel Broodthaers produced it from collections of his poems that he was unable to sell. He glued them together on a plinth with plaster. They were no longer books, as they had been transformed into a sculpture. The poet suddenly became an artist. Marcel Broodthaers liked to shake up the artistic world. For instance, one day he decided to walk into a Brussels museum accompanied by a camel. Can you find the camel in Broodthaers' Cabinet?

If you have completed all the exercises, go to the reception desk, where you will find a surprise waiting for you.

Marcel Broodthaers did not eat the 289 eggs featured in this work of art. He collected the empty egg shells from a local restaurant. They had to be well matched, although no two eggs are ever the same. What happens if an egg from this work breaks? Egg shells are extremely fragile. The museum has a first aid box containing fairly similar egg shells.

See how amazed people are when you tell them this interesting fact: people used to make paint with egg yolks in the past. Is this work of art an inverted painting? Play at "what egg am I?" Choose an egg and let the others guess which one caught your attention.

#### EXERCISE!

Do you think Marcel Broodthaers really used 289 eggs? If not, count them again. And can you think of a more poetic title, using only two words?



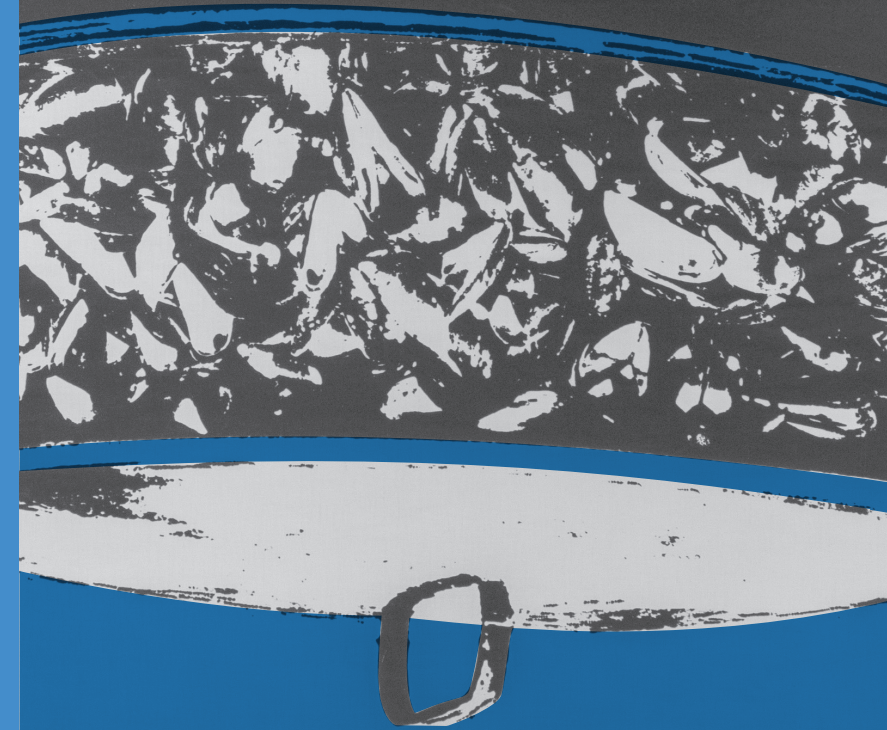
Hey, what's that pot of mussels doing here? Mussels with fries and a mug of beer for grandfathers as well. There's nothing special about it, is there? Or maybe there is? It is a typically Belgian dish and that is precisely what Marcel Broodthaers wanted to show. Is the pot quite full? What do you think?

The poet and artist, Marcel Broodthaers loved wordplay. For example, the French word "moule" refers to both a "mussel" and a "mold". A mussel shell is the mold containing the mussel.

### *Large Pot of Mussels, 1966*

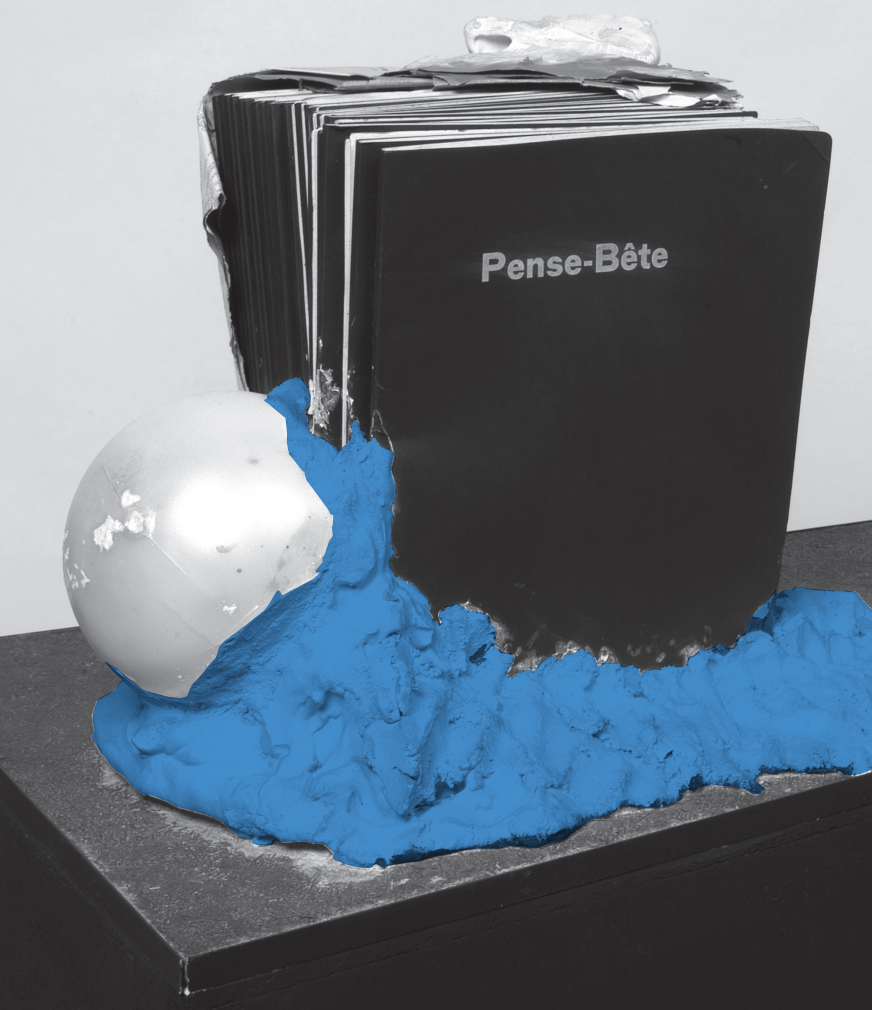
What are the differences between a pot of mussels in a restaurant and the pot of mussels here in the museum? Can you think of seven differences?

#### EXERCISE!





We are only showing a photo of this work, as the actual work of art is just too fragile to be put on display.



*Reminder, 1964*

The artist's signature signals the completion of a work of art. Where is Marcel Broodthaers' signature in the Cabinet? A signature is a kind of drawing. Make a drawing of your name in the space below.



FURTHER DRAWING EXERCISE

Can you see the letters near the palm tree opposite? Just like Marcel Broodthaers, write the initials of all those who are visiting the Broodthaers Cabinet with you. Connect the letters together. Do you recognise anything? Add some details to explain what you recognise.



*The Mouse writes Rat  
(at the author's expense), 1974*

Look in the exhibition to discover a cat that is not a cat. Found it? Do you see that the cat only looks like a cat owing to the play of shadows? Just like a drawing, a shadow is not always what it seems to be. It deceives us.

Two other animals appear in the title of this work: a mouse and a rat. The Mouse writes Rat. If you pronounce the title, you will hear the Mouse writing. Once again, it is the artist creating a play on words.

EXERCISE!

Imagine and draw the form of an animal. Can you also create the shadow with your hands? Draw the shadow on the blank page opposite.

