Marcel Broodthaers (Brussels 1924 - Cologne 1976)

Les animaux de la ferme (Farm Animals) (V. 22)

Complete set of two color offset lithographs, one with hand additions in pencil, printed on Schoeller-Parole paper, full sheets. (luxe edition)

Both sheets: 820 × 599 mm.

Edition of 120 copies.

One of 20 proofs in Roman numerals, and inscribed in pencil 2 Teile (two parts). Left sheet signed, dated 1975, numbered XIV/XX.

Published by Edition Staeck, Heidelberg, Germany.

Literature:

Jan Ceuleers, *Marcel Broodthaers - The Complete Prints and Books*, Galerie Ronny Van de Velde, Antwerp, 2012, p. 52-53, no. 22

Artist description:

Marcel Broodthaers began his career as a poet, making his first work of art—a sculpture consisting of his unsold books of poetry—at the age of 40. Broodthaers's work shows varied compositions between sculpting/constructions and poetry. His deep concern with language and linguistic conventions made him play with ideas and double meanings of words. He played with the authorship and uniqueness of the words which revealed the cultural stereotypes and symbols of national identity embedded in everyday forms of communication. He introduced language in his art and used some raw materials like the shells of eggs or mussels, but also furniture, clothing, garden tools, household gadgets and reproductions of artworks. Marcel Broodthaers stands out among the 'conceptual' artists who often employ philosophical language, but seldom with mastery. While most of his colleagues work away unhindered by this lack of knowledge, Broodthaers always knows more that he states. From beginning to end, he keeps mixing high and low culture in a way at once subtle and disruptive.