



Marcel Broodthaers (Brussels 1924 - Cologne 1976)

La Souris écrit rat (à compte d'auteur), 1974

Black and red letterpress print.

763 x 565 mm.

Published by the Société des Expositions du Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, and the artist.

Edition of 150 copies.

Annotated à compte d'auteur, numbered, dated 74 and signed M.B. bottom right.

The edition is split up in two series:

- The first series has the title *La Souris écrit rat* printed in black, the autograph text *à compte d'auteur*, number, date and signature in red ink.
- The second series has the title *La Souris écrit rat* printed in red, the autograph text *A compte d'auteur*, number, date and signature in blue ink.

Literature:

Jan Ceuleers, *Marcel Broodthaers - The Complete Prints and Books*, Galerie Ronny Van de Velde, Antwerp, 2012, p. 48-49, no. 21

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 than he states. From beginning to end, he keeps mixing high and low culture in a way at once subtle and disruptive.