

looking for the black cat...

MARCEL BROODTHAERS



Among the many projects of Belgian artist and poet Marcel Broodthaers was a museum of his own invention, the *Musée d'Art Moderne, Département des Aigles*. In it, he would discuss, display, categorize, and store artworks, forming a prescient critique of the institutionalization of art. In *Interview with a Cat*, which he recorded in his museum in 1970, he tries to understand a work of art by asking a cat: *est-ce que c'est un bon tableau, celui-là?* (Is that one a good painting)? With this piece installed in the entrance lobby, the exhibition begins rather blindly, with a cat, meowing about a painting that isn't there.

(Sept. 11, 2009 –Jan. 3, 2010)

Marcel Broodthaers was born in 1924 in Brussels; he died in 1976 in Cologne. Originally a surrealist poet, Broodthaers founded a fictitious museum, the *Musée d'Art Moderne, Département des Aigles*, through which he organized exhibitions, publications, and films. In 1972, the final section and ending of the *Musée d'Art Moderne* was presented as a contribution to *Documenta 5* in Kassel, Germany. Broodthaers was among the first artists to question the role of the institution, display, and text in an art object's reception. The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels; and Kunsthalle Wien, have all hosted solo exhibitions of his work.

Image:

Interview with a Cat, 1970

Sound recording, 4 minutes 55 seconds

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