



DUCHAMP, Marcel

Blainville-Crevon, Seine-Maritime 1887 - Neuilly-sur-Seine, Hauts-de-Seine 1968

Porte-bouteilles

Bottle Rack

late 1958–early 1959 replica of lost 1914 original, signed 1960

galvanized iron

ready-made

diameter at base: $23 \frac{1}{4} \times 14 \frac{1}{4}$ in.

signed by Duchamp in 1960: Impossible de me rappeler la phrase originale
M.D. / Marcel Duchamp / 1960 [Impossible for me to recall the original phrase]

Acc. No.: 2017.422

Credit Line: Through prior gifts of Mary and Leigh Block, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. Culberg, and Mr. and Mrs. James W. Alsdorf; Charles H. and Mary F. S. Worcester Collection Fund; through prior gift of Mary and Earle Ludgin Collection; Sheila Anne Morgenstern in memory of Dorothy O. Morgenstern and William V. Morgenstern; through prior bequests of Joseph Winterbotham and Mima de Manziarly Porter; Ada Turnbull Hertle and Modern Discretionary funds

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Provenance

- Replacement of original piece bought by Man Ray in Paris, Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville



- Sent to America
- Sold to Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008), New York
- 2016, October, Sold by Robert Rauschenberg Foundation through Taddaeus Ropac Gallery, Paris
- 2017, Through prior gifts of Mary and Leigh Block, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. Culberg, and Mr. and Mrs. James W. Alsdorf; Charles H. and Mary F. S. Worcester Collection Fund; through prior gift of Mary and Earle Ludgin Collection; Sheila Anne Morgenstern in memory of Dorothy O. Morgenstern and William V. Morgenstern; through prior bequests of Joseph Winterbotham and Mima de Manziarly Porter; Ada Turnbull Hertle and Modern Discretionary funds

Bibliography

- Museum's website (accessed December 13, 2018)

Exhibitions

- 1959 New York
Art and the Found Object, New York, Time-Life Reception Center, 1959

1961-1962 New York/Dallas/San Francisco

The Art of Assemblage, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, October 2-November 12, 1961; Dallas, The Dallas Museum for Contemporary Arts, January 9-February 11, 1962; San Francisco, San Francisco Museum of Art, March 5-April 15, 1962

Was lent to shows at the Ludwig Museum in Cologne, the Menil Collection in Houston, the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid and the Philadelphia Museum of Art

2016-2017 Paris

Marcel Duchamp, Porte-bouteilles, Paris, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, October 20, 2016-January 14, 2017 (see: <https://ropac.net/exhibition/porte-bouteilles>)

Comment

Museum's website (accessed December 13, 2018):

Marcel Duchamp began his career as a painter of conventional portraits and nudes. By 1912, however, he set out to prove the end of “retinal art”—pictures created to delight the eye—in order to “put painting once again at the service of the mind.” His answer was the “readymade,” an ordinary object transformed into a work of art by virtue of the artist selecting it. Taken out of context, repositioned, and signed by the artist, the readymade upended tradition and artistic convention by revolutionizing the way we think about what an artwork is, how it is produced, and the ways in which it is exhibited. In 1914 Duchamp purchased this mass-produced bottle rack at a department store. He felt free to acquire new versions for exhibitions and display after his sister accidentally



discarded the “original.” He selected the present version for the 1959 exhibition Art and the Found Object in New York. Artist Robert Rauschenberg acquired Bottle Rack and asked Duchamp to sign it. He obliged, writing in French, “Impossible for me to recall the original phrase M.D. / Marcel Duchamp /1960.”

