

# Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC



## Marcel Duchamp (1887 - 1968)

*Contrepeterie* (Disk with Puns)

Replica of the disc *Esquivons les ecchymoses des esquimaux aux mots exquis*, used as a cover for S.M.S (New York), No. 2 (April 1968), attached to paper portfolio, with printed inscription "a guest + a host = a ghost Marcel Duchamp 1953"

Disk diameter: 6 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> (17.5 cm)

Portfolio size: 11 x 7 x 1 in (28 x 17.75 x 2.5 cm)

1968 (1926)

Duchamp contributed a seven-minute recording of himself reading transposed letters, words and syllables. The record can be removed and played. This work was one Duchamp's last pieces. He died shortly after his SMS (Shit Must Stop) contribution. This piece reprises the spinning word-play discs from his 1923 masterpiece *Anémic Cinéma*. The quasi-alliterative phrase inscribed on the front of this record can be roughly translated, "We dodge the bruises of the Eskimos in exquisite words." The record itself captures Duchamp reading many such enigmatic phrases.

Nine discs were made in 1926 to be used in the film *Anémic Cinéma* (Cat. 289), where they alternate with ten *Discs Bearing Spirals* (Cat. 286). One disc has been lost.

This work is from the edition of approximately 2000 published by Letter Edged in Black Press.

## PROVENANCE

George Stubbs, London

## LITERATURE

Arturo Schwarz, *The Complete Works of Marcel Duchamp*, Thames and Hudson Ltd, London, 1969, number 288a, p. 495, original 1926 Disk with Puns number 139, p. 322, reproduced

## EXHIBITED

*Disruptive selection*, Fall 2019, Popcorn Gallery Akim Monet Fine Arts, Los Angeles  
*Assisted Readymade*, Winter 2022, The Lone Star Gallery Akim Monet Fine Arts, Dallas

## NOTES

The SMS Portfolios were a collaboration between William Copley and Dmitri Petrov, which they published through their Letter Edged in Black Press. Involving some of the most important artists of the twentieth century, and exemplifying the community ethos of the '60s, SMS bypassed traditional institutions to distribute the artist's work directly to its audience. Six portfolios containing eleven to thirteen objects were produced in editions of 2000.

The present SMS edition is a seven-minute recording by Duchamp of "contrepetrie", a word play involving transposing words, letters, and syllables and their sounds to make puns and effect new meanings.



