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**DELVING INTO THE ORIGINS OF THE INFLUENTIAL & ELUSIVE ARTIST-POET,  
WHOSE WORK PLAYS IN THE INTERSTICES BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND IMAGE**

# **MARCEL BROODTHAERS: MY OGRE BOOK, SHADOW THEATER, MIDNIGHT**

***ON THE OCCASION OF THE BROODTHAERS RETROSPECTIVE AT MOMA***

**PUB DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2016** \$39.95 HB 6 x 7.75 160 pages 80 color and bw illustrations ISBN: 978-1-938221-11-8  
TRANSLATOR: ELIZABETH ZUBA with Maria Gilissen Broodthaers

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This intimate and gorgeously produced book pairs Belgian artist-poet Marcel Broodthaers's earliest collections of poetry *My Ogre Book* (1957) and *Midnight* (1960)—both previously unpublished in English—with an eighty-image projection work *Shadow Theater* (1973-74) made toward the end of his too brief life. Together these works reveal a dizzyingly prodigious interplay between the images and texts—particularly illuminating Broodthaers's use of the oblique and dark fairytale framework within (and against) which he plays with reflections and reproductions, inversions and fictions, body and shadow, decor and violence.

*My Ogre Book* (*Mon livre d'ogre*) and *Midnight* (*Minuit*) served as an archetypal wellspring for Broodthaers's later visual works: he continuously drew from their source, recycled and reworked them into new schemata in his installations, films, sculptures and paintings. Both are wildly cinematic books that perform like a fictional theater set (or museum) for a dark fable of which we are only dimly aware. In this vein *Shadow Theater* (*Ombres chinoises*), published in full for the first time here, creates a fantastical poetic landscape of semblance and sleights of hand. The silhouettes, isolated cartoon frames, and appropriated illustrations embody an artificial and topical cosmogony—images of images, whose resemblance to “the real” is twice removed and even caricatured. The three works are published together to provide the reader with an unprecedented opportunity to read Broodthaers in both language and image.

★

Born in Brussels, **Marcel Broodthaers (1924-1976)** is the subject of a major retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, February 11 - May 15, 2016. Embracing poetry, fiction, art, and cinema, Broodthaers's highly interdisciplinary practice was deeply innovative in its conceptual scope and inimitable concatenations of child-like play and institutional critique, deadpan humor and investigation into the nature of meaning (and meaninglessness). Influenced by Renee Magritte, Stéphane Mallarmé and Charles Baudelaire, Broodthaers's visual work, made in the 1960s and 70s, now wields its own extraordinary influence on contemporary conceptual art and writing. From books of poetry transformed into unreadable objects, to sculptures made of eggshells and muscels, to his dense and sprawling *Musée d'Art Moderne, Département des Aigles*, Broodthaers's work persists in its challenge and relevancy.

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