



## Marcel Duchamp: Etant Donnes

By Julian Jason Haladyn

Afterall Publishing, United Kingdom, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 206 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Following Marcel Duchamp's death in 1968, the Philadelphia Museum of Art stunned the art world by unveiling a project on which he had been working secretly for twenty years, long after he had supposedly given up art for chess. Installed by the museum curators with the assistance of Duchamp's widow Teeny and stepson Paul Matisse, tant donnés (known in English as Given, or, literally, being given ) consists of a small room with a locked wooden door; through a peephole can be seen a landscape of trees, with a naked female figure at the front, her arm outstretched, holding a lamp. In this illustrated study, Julian Haladyn argues that Duchamp's intention in this final piece was similar to Raymond Roussel's in How I Wrote Certain of My Books: not, as many have maintained, to provide a neat summation of his career, but the opposite—to open his artwork (which he had made sure was fully represented in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's collection) to endless interpretation and reinterpretation. Duchamp's engagement with his legacy (by orchestrating first...



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French artist Marcel Duchamp was a leading figure of the Dadaist movement in America. His controversial pieces challenged the definition of art and the role of an artist. This unconventional approach inspired later movements such as Minimalist, Conceptual, and. 6. His widow and son installed his secret project, "Étant donn s," after his death. Duchamp spent the last 25 years of his life designing an erotic diorama. Contained within a room, the piece is visible through two eye holes set in a door. The tableau depicts a nude woman holding a lamp and lying in a bed of twigs. The figure's body was made from casts of a woman he had an affair with. Casts for the hand were taken from his second wife. Duchamp (1887-1968) constructed "Étant donn s" in complete secrecy over a period of twenty years, from 1946 to 1966, during which he publicly claimed to have gone "underground" and given up art for chess. It was not until after his death on October 2, 1968 that the work was discovered in his studio. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of its public unveiling, Marcel Duchamp: "Étant donn s" will situate the extraordinary assemblage within the context of almost 100 related works of art, including all of its known studies and related materials, including books, photographs, and works on paper. Duchamp also made a number of "erotic objects," small-scale sculptures that directly relate to the casting process of the female nude in "Étant donn s."

Étant donné (Given: 1. The Waterfall, 2. The Illuminating Gas, French: Étant donné: 1. la chute d'eau / 2. le gaz d'éclairage) is Marcel Duchamp's last major artwork, which surprised the art world because it believed he had given up art for competitive chess which he'd been playing for almost 25 years, following a prolific art career. He had been making work with the Surrealists when he made The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (also known as The Large Glass). He is also known for other Interior view of Marcel Duchamp's Étant donné, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Image via the Wall Street Journal. More images and story after the jump. According to the show's curator and the Museum's curator of modern art, Richard Taylor, the initial installation of Étant donné in 1969 tripled the Museum's attendance for that year, attracting crowds of people that spilled out into the hallways of the gallery and out through the front of the museum. A page from Marcel Duchamp's Manual of instructions for the assembly of Étant donné which pertains to peephole logistics. Image courtesy of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The show, given the pieces it includes as they surround its crux, follows the production of Étant donné. Marcel Duchamp was known for creating cryptic, provocative art out of bicycle wheels and urinals. But his final piece, an installation that requires viewers to peek through peepholes to look at a plaster model of a naked woman in front of a waterfall, was in many ways his most mysterious. This weekend, to coincide with the 40th anniversary of its installation, the Philadelphia Museum of Art is unveiling a new exhibit on "Étant donné" (which roughly translates as "Given"), Duchamp's last work. The show, which To Read the Full Story. Étant donné (Given: 1. The Waterfall, 2. The Illuminating Gas, French: Étant donné: 1. la chute d'eau / 2. le gaz d'éclairage) is Marcel Duchamp's last major artwork, which surprised the art world because it believed he had given up art for competitive chess which he'd been playing for almost 25 years, following a prolific art career. He had been making work with the Surrealists when he made The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (also known as The Large Glass). He is also known for other very famous works like Fountain among others.