

### Marcel Duchamp, The Big Winner in 2018, maybe?

I think that in the run of this year 2018, there could come shocking news straight from Marcel Duchamp. It is only a guess, but it looks like a logical final step in his more than lifelong strategy. And it is to be the closing part of the game he played with the art world in his days and still now with us. In the same way magazines publish the solutions to their puzzles, riddles, problems and puns in a next edition, Marcel Duchamp will give us the correct answers in some next time.

Duchamp once said that the work of an artist only becomes true art decades later by the viewers of another era and that the aim of the actual artist does not matter at all (see El Greco). Since every work of art will be judged out of the context and the fashions of its conception days, a true artwork can only be seen somewhere in time.

This statement does not mean that Duchamp didn't care about possible posterior opinions. I think that, on the contrary, he was very much focused on this phenomenon and that he wanted the whole world to look at his work in his way, preferably many decades after his death.

Already one year after his decease, Marcel Duchamp said loud and clear where his art was about, through "Etant donné: 1) chute d'eau, 2) gaz d'éclairage". This artwork was a riddle again, but it was the easiest riddle he ever made. With this work Duchamp was pushing us to solve all his artistical problems by ourselves. This given was a true present, in order to make us see the way he had seen: mentally and... nasty. Also to make us realise, at last, how extremely clever he always had been. And in case we missed this intention, and we would keep on having only clean retinal-based appreciations for his work, he himself will slap the correct view right into our faces, some day. Because for him it is essential. And winning too.

Marcel Duchamp was a player, a chess master on world champion level. And each chess player likes to analyse the moves after the game. They want to proof how brilliant they had been. So making art with a chess player's mind and ending on a draw isn't much satisfying when you know you did a real marvellous game, and that the draw was only a fake one, to keep peace with your clumsy opponent. And with all your colleagues. You are the factual winner and you will claim the honours. Duchamp, I think, had planned to receive these honours, beyond life.

Trying to be logical, I am quite sure that Marcel Duchamp, sooner or later, will tell us everything about his fantastic oeuvre. Proofing how brilliant he was, he will unveil all its secrets. For he is very proud of his own superior genius. And truly, he did an incredible job!

He was the greatest, compared to all the others playing the same secret game. And others there were... plenty! Will he have to explain about the others too then? Probably, just maybe or rather not? How deep was he hurt after the "1912 incident", when the other cubists refused his work? How resolute can his revenge be? Will he give away what the others had concealed all their life? He will be hated, causing a real earthquake in our art history.

But, always ready for a little scandal, Marcel Duchamp will love to do so. And after that he definitely will be The Big Winner.

So that is what I think... I expect an outing.

This year, 50 years beyond his passing away, is an excellent timing. Possibly established in his last will, he was already having great fun imagining the consequences of this Pandora's box in 2018.

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