

Quand...

'Quand...', a text written in neon by the artist Frank JMA Castelyns, can be read both as an autonomous poetic text and as a reflection by the artist on the idea of the infra-mince put forward by Marcel Duchamp around 1930. Duchamp assumed that the infra-thin could not be defined, but could only be understood through examples.

Duchamp's original text on which Castelyns' neon work is based can be found in one of Marcel Duchamp's 46 notes on the infra-mince. This text was first published on the back cover of 'View' in 1945, New York, and in 'Les quatre vents', Cahiers de littérature 1947, Paris.

Infra-thin implies that certain properties are passed on to a second phenomenon. Infra-mince indicates a transition, a passage in a dynamic process.

The transition from one to the other takes place in the infra-thin. It indicates an imperceptible difference or interval between two phenomena or objects.

What prompted Marcel Duchamp to disguise himself as a woman in Rrose Sélavy?
Was Duchamp already addressing the question of the fluidity of sexual identity in the 1920s.

