

From *Measure of Time*,
BAMPFA, 2007



Marcel Duchamp

France, 1887-1968

Boîte—Series F

1966

Red leather outside, red linen lining; containing miniature replicas, photographs, and color reproductions of works by Marcel Duchamp
15 x 16 x 4 inches

Museum purchase: Gift of Thérèse Bonney,
Class of 1916, by exchange
1993.27

A museum within a museum, *Boîte* is a portable retrospective of the work of Marcel Duchamp. The compartments of the red box unpack to reveal meticulous reproductions of notorious works like *L.H.O.O.Q.* (1919), a postcard of the Mona Lisa improved with a mustache and a rude pun, and *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even* (1915-23), also known as *The Large Glass*, its enigmas here writ small. Resembling the sample case of a traveling salesman, *Boîte* (French for *Box*) tweaks the habit of collecting and our collective investment in the artistic “original.” At the same time, it serves as a time capsule and a reliquary once removed, its aging artifacts accruing value—aesthetic, historical, and commercial—as this great anti-artist’s rank in the artistic pantheon only ascends with the years.
—Juliet Clark

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