Cat. no. OE 11

*Morceau de coton hydrophile roulé instantanément et abandonné (catégorie des « automatismes avortés »)*

Piece of cotton wool instantly rolled up and abandoned (category of «aborted automatisms»)

Unique Original Work

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Author: Salvador Dalí i Domènech - Gyula Halász, alias Brassaï

Date: ca. 1933

Technique: Photograph and found object or object of automatic origin
Gelatin silver print

Dimensions: 23.2 x 16.4 cm
The dimensions correspond to the original print run of the photograph

Inscriptions: Dalí’s writing appears on the back: *morce de coton roulé instantanément et l’aisse / il se classe parmi les "automatismes avortés"
On the back: *Morceau de coton hydrophile / roulé instantanément et abandonné / (catégorie des "automatismes avortés")*
Location: Centre Pompidou - Musée national d’art moderne - Centre de création industrielle, Paris
Description

Between 1932-1933, Dalí took on the artistic direction of a series of photographs made with Gyula Halász, alias Brassaï (1899-1984), in which certain objects, probably of automatic origin, acquire a new conceptual and artistic dimension, grounded in the essence of the photographic image. Several of these photographs were published anonymously in 1933 in the magazine *Minotaure*, under the heading ‘Sculptures involontaires’, each with a descriptive title drawing attention to details of the work. A number of these photographs that were not made public at the time constitute further examples of this type of creation. This is the case of this photograph, conserved in the Centre de création industrielle at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, with a handwritten note by Dalí on the back establishing the title of this creation.

Observations

Dalí’s original spelling of the title on the back of the photograph has been corrected: “Morço de coton roule instantanément et l’aissse il se classe parmi les «otomatismes avortes»”.

The dimensions and the inscriptions correspond to the original print run of this photograph, which is conserved at the Centre de création industrielle in Paris.

Bibliography

- Brassaï, *Conversations avec Picasso*, Gallimard, [Paris], 1964, p. 49
- Didier Ottinger, *Dictionnaire de l’objet surréaliste*, Gallimard, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2013, pp. [245], 246, [307], ill. (reversed image)
- Anna Dezeuze, Julia Kelly, *Found sculpture and photography from surrealism to contemporary art*, Ashgate, Farnham, UK, Burlington, VT, 2013, pp. 5-9, [13]-18, 30, 99-102
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