



Klaus Scherübel

Mallarmé, Het Boek

About *Mallarmé, Het Boek* by Klaus Scherübel

“Everything in the world exists in order to end up in a book.”

Throughout the last thirty years of his life, French poet Stéphane Mallarmé (1842-1889) was engaged with a “wonderful work”, that he simply called *The Book (Le Livre)*. He envisioned *The Book* as a cosmic text-architecture: an extremely flexible structure that would reveal nothing short of “all existing relations between everything.” This “Grand Oeuvre”, wholly freed from the subjectivity of its author and containing the sum of all books was, for Mallarmé, the essence of all literature and at the same time a “very ordinary” book.

The realization of this “pure” work that he planned to publish in a bestseller edition never progressed beyond its conception and a detailed analysis of structural and material questions relating to publication and presentation. Yet to Mallarmé, *The Book*, which was to found the “true cult of the modern era”, was by no means a failure. “It happens on its own”, he explained of *The Book*’s unique action in one of his final statements, “as long as the author has separated himself from it, the impersonalized book also ceases to lay claim to the approach of a reader”. From this point onward, *The Book* becomes the announcement for and expectation of the work that it is.

For the exhibition *Mallarmé. Het Boek* held at S.M.AK. in 2009, Klaus Scherübel made a study of Mallarmé’s utopian dream to produce *The Book*. Presenting himself as the publisher of Mallarmé’s nonexistent literary masterpiece, he created here sham of it.

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Specifications

- 24 × 15,8 × 3,6 cm
- Jacket printed by Arte Print
- Polystyrene and blister produced by Kramo

Production

- Limited edition of 426 copies and 50 A.P.

Produced and published in 2009 by mfc-michèle didier

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