

## DUCHAMP BIOGRAPHY

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1887. Marcel Duchamp is born in Blainville near Rouen, France. He has two elder brothers and three younger sisters.

1905-1910. He earns a living making humoristic drawings, like his brother Jacques Villon. In his serious work he is influenced by Cézanne. A year of training as a graphic artist gives him a one year exemption from military service.

1911. Joins the Section d'Or, a group of artists painting in a Cubist idiom. Influenced by chronophotography.

1912. A turning point in his career as an artist. After being criticized by his 'colleagues' on account of his painting *Nude Descending a Staircase 2* he decides to withdraw the painting from a group exhibition. Befriends Picabia, Picabia's wife Gabrielle Buffet and Apollinaire. Together they visit Raymond Roussel's play *Impressions d'Afrique*. Duchamp would later say that this play "showed him the way". During a two-month stay in Munich, he makes some paintings that became a prelude to the *Bride in the Large Glass*. After spending ten days in the Jura with Picabia, Apollinaire and Gabrielle Buffet, he decides to give up painting.

1913. Begins working as a librarian. Starts with writing associative notes and sketches for what became his masterpiece *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (The Large Glass)*. He puts a bicycle wheel on a stool and one year later buys a bottle rack for which he invents the term ready-made in 1915 or 1916. *Nude Descending a Staircase* is a *succès de scandale* in New York.

1915. Arrives in New York where he is welcomed by his patrons Walter and Louise Arensberg. Begins to work on the *Large Glass*. The next few years he creates a dozen ready-mades.

1918/19. Spends a year in Buenos Aires, where he starts playing chess seriously. After a short visit to Paris where he creates *L.H.O.O.Q.*, he returns to New York.

1923. Ceases work on *the Large Glass*. Together with Man Ray he creates some cinematic works of optical experiments. Signs as his female alter ego Rose Sélavy (later Rrose). Starting point of his chess career.

1934. Publishes *the Green Box* with his notes and sketches for *the Large Glass*.

1941. Publication of the first copies of the *Box in a Valise* with a selection of his work consisting of reproductions in miniature in a pull-out box.

1954. Marriage to Alexina Sattler.

1964. Schwarz Gallery in Milan publishes multiples of fourteen of the former readymades.

1967. Publishes *À l'Infinitif*, a box of until then unknown notes.

1968 Dies in Neuilly near Paris. After his death he appears to have worked on an installation called *Etant donnés* from 1946 on.