Basic Detail Report



Title

Untitled from "Fundaziun per promover igl Art / Stiftung zur Foerderung der Kuenste / Fondazione per l'incremento delle arti / Fondation pour l'encouragement des arts / Foundation for the Promotion of the Arts" Artist Joseph Beuys, Edition Staeck, Heidelberg, [1973] Date [1973] Dimensions sheet: 11 5/8 x 8 1/4 in. (296 x 210mm) Medium Original multiple: fat-treated white wove letter paper Classifications Books **Credit Line** Molly and Walter Bareiss Art Fund

Object number

1988.142B

Published References

cf. Schellmann, Jörg, editor, Joseph Beuys, the Multiples: Catalogue raisonné of Multiples and Prints, Cambridge, Mass., 1997, no. 77

Label Text

Joseph Beuys Multiples While in the German air force during World War II, Joseph Beuys almost died in a plane crash in the frozen Crimean peninsula in the Ukraine. He survived because someone wrapped him in felt and an insulating layer of animal fat. As a result of this experience, these materials later became recurring motifs in his works, symbolizing warmth. They also symbolize spiritual warmth, the genesis of change, and/or a spiritual awakening. After the war Beuys became an artist, teaching at the Düsseldorf Academy beginning in 1961. Eleven years later the administration dismissed him because of his unorthodox teaching methods. In response, Beuys founded his own school, the Free International University, where he could teach and create art. Part of his theories of freedom and democracy included the production of multiples—a work of art that could be reproduced many times. With his multiples, Beuys hoped his art and his ideas would reach a large number of people. Beuys often used commonplace materials and drab colors, believing they would evoke a colorful world within the viewer. For him, it did not matter if the multiples were not easily or fully understood. He said, "...the multiples are often quite minimal allusions, just suggestions."

Not On View