And so, we have chosen to mount the first retrospective of his work based on the recurring themes of his practice, namely his irreverent and anti-establishment spirit, and his habit of confronting the artistic legacy of many of art history’s biggest names, especially within contemporary art, with whom he maintained an ambivalent relationship. This exhibition explores his work in all its forms and at each stage of his life, from excerpts of films in which he starred as a young actor, to artworks he created while a student, such as the video titled, Mathieu Lefèvre est un artiste important (2005), to pieces he had been working on in his studio at the time of his death, and a recreation of the essential elements of that space. We have even realized his projet/testament (will/project), created during the Baie Saint-Paul Symposium, which could only be carried out after his death, with his death. That is, to expose during the Baie Saint-Paul Symposium, which could only be tombe (Memoirs from Beyond the Tomb), written before the author’s death!

How should one be faithful to the memory of an artist and to the meaning of their work? This is one of art history’s fundamental questions. The same could be said for friendship. For this retrospective on the work of Mathieu Lefèvre, who died in Brooklyn in 2011, we’ve gone to great lengths to re-establish a dialogue with the artist and his work. We have even consulted with a medium so Mathieu could tell us how to deal with the work he’s left behind. The answer that seemed to emerge from the hereafter was, “Make it Big”. Which was fitting, given Mathieu’s characteristical humour. And make it big, we did. To our knowledge, this exhibition is the first to have been organized with the help of the artist’s spirit, no less. Even more impressive than Chateaubriand’s Mémoires d’outre-tombe (Memoirs from Beyond the Tomb), written before the author’s death!

Finally, this exhibition will be complemented by the Montréal launch of, I Don’t Understand Art About Art, a book written by Mathieu’s parents, as well as the launch of issue 113 of ESPACE art actuel, which has dedicated its front cover and a special insert to the memory of Mathieu Lefèvre.

Like a rock star, his death came all too soon at age 30. Mathieu Lefèvre was a shooting star who left behind a prodigious and multitudinous body of work.
The opening of MAKE IT BIG will be the opportunity to launch two publications related to Mathieu Lefèvre. Firstly, there will be the Montreal launch of the commemorative catalog I Don’t Understand Art About Art, a book put together by Mathieu’s parents, Alain and Erika, together with Harley Smart. Moreover, Espace Art Actuel will be launching number 113 of the magazine, dedicating it's cover and a special section to Mathieu Lefèvre. The 18 pages include images of Mathieu’s work and texts by Hrag Vartanian and Nicolas Mavrikakis. These publications, as well as Mathieu’s Guide pratique pour artistes (2007) will be available for consultation and for sale at CLARK for the whole time of the exhibition.

LAUNCH OF TWO PUBLICATIONS ON THE ARTIST + DISCUSSION AROUND THE WORK OF MATHIEU LEFÈVRE

THURSDAY JUNE 9, 6 PM

CLARK invites you to the launch of two other publications put together by Centre CLARK. The first one entitled Fever For Everrr - biographie « non autorisée » is a compilation of anecdotes about Mathieu and significant moments related by friends and family members. The second, entitled KAYÉ(s), is a selection of his drawings and notes found in his sketch books. This double publication launch will be followed by a discussion in which various speakers will address different angles of Mathieu’s work and its worth.

POSTE AUDIO CALL FOR PROPOSALS!

DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2016

CLARK invites all sound creators to submit their project ideas for our 2016-2017 programming. All details for this simplified call can be found at www.clarkplaza.org!