In mid-1969, Matta-Clark moved to New York City and his early projects involved transformations such as Photo-Fry (1969), Agar (1969-1970), Garbage Wall (1970), and Time Well (1971).

He began executing building interventions in 1971 when he cut walls in a loft in New York City to create Sauna (1971) and at the Museo de Bellas Artes in Santiago where he made an untitled wall cutting (1971).

Throughout the following years of his major building cuts, Matta-Clark continued to explore other aspects of cities and their structures.

This book unpacks the comprehensive Gordon Matta-Clark collection at the CCA Montreal, opening it up to provisional readings from different points of view.

Yann Chateigne reorganizes Matta-Clark’s library into areas of inquiry, from alchemy to psychoanalysis, as a framework for gathering traces—written and drawn—of his thinking.

Hila Peleg reassembles hours of discarded film footage, challenging the notion of documentation and returning.

Published on the occasion of the exhibition at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, 6 June 2019 – 2 August 2020.

Key Selling Points

Gordon Matta-Clark was born in New York City, New York, on 22 June 1943 and died in Nyack, New York, on 27 August 1978.

He was the second of twin sons born to two Surrealist artists.

He entered the architecture program at Cornell University in 1962 but left in 1963 and spent the following year in Paris living with his father and studying French.

He returned to Cornell in 1964 and by the time of his graduation in spring 1968 he was among the outstanding students.