



**Museum Tinguely presents two important new acquisitions:
La Jalousie I (1960) and *La Tour* (1960) by Jean Tinguely**

Museum Tinguely is exceedingly happy to present two important new acquisitions to the public. The works *La Tour* (*Berner Zytglogge*) and *La Jalousie I*, that fill major gaps in the museum's collection, have been integrated into the permanent exhibition. On Sunday 15 December 2019, at 12:45 pm, the kinetic sculptures will briefly be set in motion.

With 120 kinetic sculptures and 1,500 works on paper, Museum Tinguely has the world's largest collection of works by the Swiss artist Jean Tinguely (1925–1991). This collection has now been enriched by the acquisition of two important sculptures, *La Tour* (*Berner Zytglogge*) and *La Jalousie I* (both 1960), outstanding works belonging to key phases of the artist's oeuvre.

The works were made for an exhibition at Kunsthalle Bern, Tinguely's first major show in Switzerland. Tinguely, who had previously shown his work above all in Paris and New York, shared the exhibition with Bernhard Luginbühl and Norbert Kricke. The tower-like construction *La Tour* (*Berner Zytglogge*) refers to Bern's famous landmark, the medieval Zytglogge clock tower, whose astronomical clock, moving figures and mechanism exert a similar fascination to Tinguely's kinetic sculptures. Unlike the precision mechanism of the clock, *La Tour* is a crooked, wobbly construction that squeaks and clatters when set in motion. From 1960, Tinguely began to make machine sculptures out of discarded everyday materials. The material for these assemblages of the garbage of civilization often came from scrapyards. Tinguely explained his approach as follows: "I love the rebirth of found objects, reinventing them by giving them a new form of existence in a new dimension." An important impulse for his use of scrap as a material for kinetic sculptures came from his meeting with the artists Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and Richard Stankiewicz in New York early in 1960.

The dancing curtain *La Jalousie I* consists of painted bamboo sections threaded on strings. A motor moves the curtain back and forth so that it appears to be either

merrily swinging or ecstatically dancing, depending on the speed. The work is characterized above all by this particular movement; it is extremely rhythmical. Among the works of this period, *La Jalousie I* is an exception because although Tinguely did not paint the parts of his sculptures in the early 1960s, he decided to paint this work black to heighten the contrast between the curtain and the white wall, thus emphasizing the movement. In this way, *La Jalousie I* anticipates the *black sculptures* that Tinguely began to make from 1963, painting them black as a way of deliberately distancing them both from his own junk sculptures and from *Nouveau Réalisme*.

Due to their condition, the two works cannot be activated on a daily basis as part of normal museum operations. As a result, specific multimedia installations have been developed for their presentation in the permanent exhibition at Museum Tinguely, giving visitors an impression of each sculpture's movement and sounds. However, on 15 December 2019 at 12:45 pm, there will be a unique opportunity to see the works in motion. On this occasion, they will be explained by the curator Sandra Beate Reimann and set in motion for the public by our conservators Olivia Mooser and Jean-Marc Gaillard.

General Information:

Address: Museum Tinguely | Paul Sacher-Anlage 1 | 4002 Basel, Switzerland

Presentation: Sunday, 15 December 2019, 12:45 pm

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, daily 11 am-6 pm

Special Opening Hours: Tuesday, 24 December 2019, 11 am-3 pm | Wednesday, 25 December 2019, closed | Thursday, 26 December 2019, 11 am-6 pm | Tuesday, 31 December 2019, 11 am-4 pm | Wednesday, 1 January 2020, 11 am-6 pm

Website: www.tinguely.ch

Current special exhibitions:

Tadeusz Kantor: *Où sont les neiges d'antan*, until 5 January 2020

Len Lye – motion composer, until 26 January 2020

Social Media: @museumtinguely | #museumtinguely | #tinguely | #latour | #jalousie

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