



**Press Preview:**

Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 10:30 am

**Opening:**

Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 6:30 pm

**Pressematerial:**

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**Et tout ceci est vrai!**

**In Tinguely's footsteps between Paris, Amsterdam, and Basel**

20 October 2021 – 23 January 2022

An avid creator of kinetic sculptures, Swiss artist Jean Tinguely (1925–1991) made movement the centerpiece of his oeuvre, indeed of his whole life. Hence the opening of his 'Für Statik' manifesto, which according to a legend he printed as a flyer and scattered from a plane over Düsseldorf in 1959: 'Everything moves! Rest does not exist'. True to this motto, Museum Tinguely's festivities to mark 25 Years of Moving Art include the exhibition «*Et tout ceci est vrai! In Tinguely's footsteps between Paris, Amsterdam, and Basel*» on board the converted barge MS *Evolutie* which embarked on a great journey through Europe this summer. Now the trip has come to an end and the exhibition can be seen at the Museum Tinguely from 20 October 2021 to 23 January 2022. It references the various stops on the *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* voyage by showcasing Jean Tinguely the artist and his art with photographs, writings, audio stations, films and models as well as original works. On this journey back in time visitors will be able to follow Tinguely's trajectory from his first exhibitions in galleries in Paris in the late 1950s and his first solo show at the Haus Lange Museum in Krefeld in 1960 to the great retrospectives of later years, including that at the Lehmbrock Museum in Duisburg in 1978.

**Tinguely's history**

The documentary exhibition that will be completed with original works in Basel begins with **Paris**, where Tinguely started his career in 1953 when he moved there with his first wife Eva Aeppli. There he met artists, curators, and friends such as the curator and museum director Pontus Hultén, the artist Yves Klein, and by no means least the artist Niki de Saint Phalle, who was to become his second wife. One of the first ever shows on the theme of kinetic art was *Le Mouvement* organized by Denise René's gallery in Paris as early as 1955. Co-curated by Pontus Hultén, this exhibition gave the young Tinguely an opportunity to present his works alongside those of artists of renown such as Marcel

Duchamp and Alexander Calder. Another section of «*Et tout ceci est vrai!*» is dedicated to **Gelsenkirchen**, where through the good offices of Yves Klein Tinguely was involved in the building of a new music theatre, for which he created an impressive wall relief that still exists today. It was again Klein who took Tinguely to **Düsseldorf**, where in 1959 the Galerie Schmela staged his first solo show in Germany and where on 11 March, or so the story goes, Tinguely had 150,000 flyers printed with his 'Für Statik' manifesto scattered from a plane circling over the city. His appearances in Düsseldorf brought Tinguely to the attention of the artists of the ZERO group, among them Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, and Günther Uecker, as well as the champions of Fluxus John Cage and Nam June Paik. It was the activities of the ZERO group in **Antwerp** that led to Tinguely taking part in the exhibition *Vision in Motion – Motion in Vision* at the Hessenhuis there in the spring of 1959. His ties to **Amsterdam** also date from the early days of his career and grew out of his friendship with the director of the Stedelijk Museum, Willem Sandberg. Thus it was Sandberg who entrusted the organization of an exhibition of kinetic art to Daniel Spoerri, Pontus Hultén and Jean Tinguely, the end result of which was the now legendary touring show *Bewogen Beweging* that opened at the Stedelijk in Amsterdam in 1961. The prominence given to Tinguely in that exhibition did much to enhance his status as one of the most important kinetic artists of his time.

### **An interactive experience**

Among the works that visitors will be able to experience the MS Evolutie is a model of part of the over life-size drawing machine *Méta-Matic No. 17*, which Tinguely presented at the first *Biennale de Paris* in 1959. It was this machine, driven by a petrol engine, with which Tinguely turned the traditional relationship between author, work and recipient on its head – and that in front of a large audience, too. Like the original that it is based on, the model on show in the exhibition blows air unceasingly into a balloon, which eventually bursts with a loud bang.

The sound sculpture *Mes étoiles – Concert pour sept peintures* (1957–59) consists of seven reliefs with assorted found objects made of glass, sheet metal and aluminium. «*Et tout ceci est vrai!*» will feature a console resting on the same concept that invites visitors to elicit sounds from similar ensembles and hence to try their hand as composers of their own cacophonous melodies.

Tinguely's success as an artist manifested itself in 1960 when in his first solo show in a museum at Haus Lange in Krefeld he explored the question of whether art can be serially produced. In the catalogue he even addressed his audience directly by calling on them to build a Tinguely work of their own and even supplying instructions for the *Maschinenbild Haus Lange* relief. A relief belonging to that DIY edition of the *Maschinenbild Haus Lange* made according to Tinguely's own instructions will also be on show. This work – like the other two interactive stations about Tinguely's art – was made by Museum Tinguely's own conservator, Jean-Marc Gaillard, who was one of Tinguely's last assistants to work with him personally.

The extended exhibition in Basel will feature *Piotr Kropotkin*, *Friedrich Engels* and *Henri Bergson* from the 1988 group of works *Philosophers*. Tinguely created it for the third and final stage of his extensive travelling exhibition *Jean Tinguely: 1954-1987*, which was shown at the Centre Pompidou in Paris from December 1988 to March 1989. In addition to the model *Crocrodrome* from 1977, which was created for the ephemeral

installation *Le Crocodrome de Zig et Puce*, the *Frigo Duchamp* (1960) and the large work *Klamauk* (1979) will also be on display.

Exhibition curator: Giorgio Bloch

### General Information Museum Tinguely:

**Exhibition title:** «Et tout ceci est vrai! In Tinguely's footsteps between Paris, Amsterdam, and Basel»

**Presentation on board:** 17 July – 26 September on the converted cargo ship MS *Evolutie* as part of «Museum Tinguely AHOY!»

**Presentation at Museum Tinguely:** 20 October 2021 – 23 January 2022

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

**Opening hours:** Tuesday – Sunday, from 11 am–6 pm

**Websites:** [www.tinguely.ch](http://www.tinguely.ch) | [www.mtahoy.com](http://www.mtahoy.com)

**Social Media:** @museumtinguely | #museumtinguely | #tinguely |  
#museumtinguely25 | #ettoutceciestvrai

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**Museum Tinguely is subject to the Covid certificate requirement. Therefore, we ask you to present your certificate and your identity card at the entrance.**

