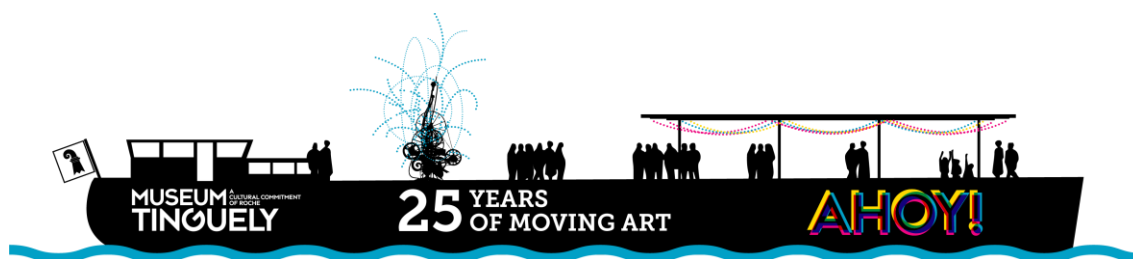


PRESS
INFO

August 2021



Museum Tinguely AHOY! Paris – Amsterdam – Basel

17 July – 26 September 2021

Departure from Basel 25 June, 2021

The project

This summer Museum Tinguely will celebrate its 25th anniversary by weighing anchor and embarking on a very special journey. *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* is devoted to taking the art of Jean Tinguely (1925–1991), one of the greatest and most innovative Swiss artists of the twentieth century, to the people in a specially converted barge. Its travel stops will be places of relevance to Tinguely's artistic career, from Paris to Antwerp and Amsterdam, and from there upriver through the urban centres of the Rhine-Ruhr region and back to Basel. First stop for the barge will be Paris, on 17 July, followed by eleven weeks spent chugging through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany before returning to Basel on 25 September 2021. Besides having an exhibition installed inside the hull, the barge will also feature a spectacular fountain sculpture on deck. The itinerary envisages eleven stops, at each of which there will be a two-day programme of events staged in collaboration with local partner institutions and comprising not only the onboard exhibition, but also various educational activities and performances by contemporary artists. The route alone attests to how internationally minded the artist was, even in the mid-1950s, and tells of the close ties that Museum Tinguely still cultivates with other institutions in other countries. The travelling venue for *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* is the MS Eolutie, a 40-metre-long barge that has been converted specially for the occasion.

Museum Tinguely's festivities celebrating *25 Years of Moving Art* will continue until December of this silver jubilee year. One highlight of the programme will come in the summer, when Museum Tinguely climbs aboard a converted barge and sets off on an adventure to bring art to Europe's waterways, just as Tinguely himself might have done. For the museum team, the voyage is a chance to present itself to the world, to revive long-standing partnerships and to initiate new ones. And since this is such a special year it is also a way of giving people across Europe an unprecedented and unforgettable experience of art. The barge will return to Basel in time for the planned Birthday Party on 25–26 September 2021, during which it will be anchored on the Rhine in front of Museum Tinguely.

The documentary exhibition on the art of Jean Tinguely installed inside the hull of the vessel follows his artistic trajectory, paying special attention to the ports of call visited during the trip. The show will follow the trail left by Tinguely the artist, traveller, networker and friend. One focal point of the presentation will be Tinguely's kinetic sculpture *Schwimmwasserplastik* (1980). This is the fountain which normally stands in front of Museum Tinguely in Basel, but will be mounted on the deck of the barge for the travelling exhibition.

The Route



The route taken by the MS Evolutie will lead from Paris to Amsterdam and then back to Basel with stopovers in places that played a role in Jean Tinguely's career and the reception of his works. The barge will leave Basel on 25 June and reach its first port of call, Paris, on 17 July. From there it will travel to Antwerp and Amsterdam, before returning up the Rhine to Basel, where it will arrive just in time for the Museum Tinguely Birthday Party to be held from 25–26 September 2021. The travel stops were selected on grounds of their historical relevance regarding Tinguely's career as an artist, although they also include cities that are home to institutions with close ties to Museum Tinguely. The route also emphasizes how internationally minded artists were even in the mid-1950s and how crucial this cross-border network still is to Museum Tinguely, even today.

The barge will be open to visitors in each country, subject to the prevailing Covid-19 regulations.

The Travel Stops

Paris, 17–18 July, Rmn-Grand Palais, La Villette and Centre Pompidou

Paris was the central place of activity and inspiration in Tinguely's early artistic career. Numerous gallery exhibitions and later major museum retrospectives were held here from 1954 onward. In Paris in 2022, the major Tinguely retrospective *Jean Tinguely. Le mouvement, le geste, le bruit* (6 April - 31 August 2022) will take place in collaboration with the Grand Palais/La Villette.

Antwerp, 28–29 July, Het Bos and Royal Academy of Fine Arts

In Antwerp, Tinguely took part in two influential group shows: the 4th *Biennale voor Beeldhouwkunst*, Middelheimpark, in 1957, and *Vision in Motion – Motion in Vision* at Hessenhuis in 1959.

Maastricht, 2–3 August, Bonnefantenmuseum

The Bonnefantenmuseum cooperates with Museum Tinguely on various projects.

Amsterdam, 8–9 August, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

Over the course of Tinguely's life, many pioneering exhibitions of his work took place at the Stedelijk Museum: *Jean Tinguely: Tekeningen* (1969), *Jean Tinguely* (1973), *Jean Tinguely* (1984), as well as the group shows *Bewogen Beweging* (1961) and *Dylaby: dynamisch labyrint* (1962). And most recently, in 2016/2017, a major retrospective: *Jean Tinguely – Machine Spectacle*.

Gelsenkirchen, 16–17 August, Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen and Musiktheater im Revier

In 1958 and 1959, Tinguely was invited by Yves Klein to participate in the decoration of Musiktheater Gelsenkirchen, where he installed a kinetic relief that is still there today.

Duisburg, 20–21 August, Lehmbruck Museum

In 1976, Tinguely was awarded the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Prize and in 1978 the museum staged a major one-man show *Jean Tinguely: Meta-Maschinen*. Even today, several of the artist's kinetic sculptures are among the most spectacular works in the museum's collection.

Krefeld, 25–26 August, Kunstmuseen Krefeld

In 1960, Tinguely had his first one-man museum show at Museum Haus Lange, now part of Kunstmuseen Krefeld. Tinguely's first relief multiple, the *Maschinenbild Haus Lange* (1960), was made for Krefeld.

Düsseldorf, 28–29 August, ZERO foundation

Tinguely was friends with the Zero artists, with whom he conducted an artistic dialogue. He took part in joint exhibitions and publications and had several exhibitions at Galerie Schmela in Düsseldorf (1959, 1976, 1989). And it was here, in 1959, that he staged the dropping of his manifesto *Für Statik* from an airplane.

Koblenz, 3–4 September, Ludwig Museum Koblenz

Works by Jean Tinguely, Niki de Saint Phalle and Eva Aeppli are part of the museum's collection.

Frankfurt, 8–9 September, Frankfurter Kunstverein

In 1979, the Städel Museum hosted the exhibition *Tinguely – Luginbühl*.

Mannheim, 14–15 September, Kunsthalle Mannheim

In its collection, Kunsthalle Mannheim has a special focus on the medium of sculpture and in 2002/2003 it hosted the Tinguely retrospective: *Jean Tinguely – Stillstand gibt es nicht*.

Basel, 25–26 September, Museum Tinguely

Founded in 1996, five years after Tinguely's death, Museum Tinguely celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2021.

The fountain sculpture *Schwimmwasserplastik*

One highlight of the trip will be Tinguely's *Schwimmwasserplastik* (1980), the fountain that normally stands in Solitude Park in front of Museum Tinguely, but that for the duration of *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* is to be mounted on the deck of MS Evolutie. This fountain sculpture with its distinctive black drive wheels and five different waterspouts sprays water in several directions at once. Depending on which way the wind is blowing, viewers of this mechanical spraying spectacle risk getting sprinkled themselves. Tinguely wanted his fountain sculpture to spurt copiously to the four winds like a watery fireworks. Water's playfulness was something he was especially fond of. He used it to broaden the scope of his aura, some of which he fitted with waterspouts, just as he invested others with movement and/or sound and by doing so turned them into a multi-sensory experience.



Jean Tinguely, *Schwimmwasserplastik* (1980)
407 x 214 x 184 cm, iron parts and wheels, water hoses, water jets, two electric motors,
Museum Tinguely, Basel, donated by Paul Sacher
© 2021 Museum Tinguely, Basel; photo: Daniel Spehr

The Exhibition

Et tout ceci est vrai!

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

Exhibition on board the MS Evolutie, 17 July to 26 September 2021



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 are to include the exhibition *Et tout ceci est vrai!* on board the converted barge MS

Evolutie. The exhibition will reference the various stops on the *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* jubilee voyage, and with photographs, writings, audio stations, films and models installed in the ca. 100 square-meter hull of the vessel will showcase Jean Tinguely the artist and his art. 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 Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg in 1978. To convey the works' immediacy and the sensory pleasure of experiencing them live – even 'on the road' – the museum has built models inspired by Tinguely's kinetic originals. On pressing a button, therefore, visitors will be able to enjoy the jangling, squeaking and clanking of his machines and to sway to the videos, audios and projections of his works.

Tinguely's history

The documentary exhibition will begin in **Paris** where Tinguely's career first took off and from there will unfold along the route defined by the barge's ports of call. The move from Basel to the French capital was crucial to Tinguely's growth as an artist. His talent for networking proved to be a great asset during his stay there, and it was in Paris that he exhibited most frequently and above all met all sorts of fellow artists, curators and other interesting people. Among these were the curator and museum director Pontus Hultén, the artist Yves Klein, who became a close friend and collaboration partner on several joint projects, and last but not least his second life partner, the artist Niki de Saint Phalle. 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!* will be 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 on board 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 with this machine, driven by a petrol engine, that Tinguely stood 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 in the hull of the MS Evolutie. 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.

Exhibition curator: Giorgio Bloch

The exhibition will be open to visitors at travel stop from 10 am to 8 pm. Admission is free of charge. Online tickets can be booked two weeks in advance of the intended visit at the website www.mtahoy.com.

On returning to Basel, the exhibition will be transferred to Museum Tinguely and an enlarged version of the same shown there from 20 October 2021 to 23 January 2022.

Et tout ceci est vrai, photocollage by Jean Tinguely, postcard 1956
Reprography: Hans Hammarskiöld

The Performance Programme

Museum Tinguely AHOY! is flanked by a wide-ranging, high-calibre performance programme. This will include three different performances, for which Museum Tinguely itself will be the guest of local partner institutions. Three performance artists of international renown, Nevin Aladağ (D), Keren Cytter (IS) and Marie-Caroline Hominal (CH) are each preparing a new piece especially for this project. Rooted in different fields ranging from music to theatre and dance, their works will showcase an array of different performance approaches. In this respect, their work will recall the many-faceted performance practices of Jean Tinguely himself, as well as the blending of art and life that he so famously aspired to. The performances will be adapted to the given situation at each location and will take place next to the barge or at the respective partner institution.

Nevin Aladağ, *Body Instruments*, 2021

A performer straps musical instruments to his or her body and walks through the urban space with them. The two accordions, bells and drums carried on the head are played by his or her own body movements. What emerges is a piece of experimental music that balances unavoidable sounds, such as those produced by walking, with the poetic tones emanating from the artist's deliberately initiated movements.



Nevin Aladağ, *Body Instruments*, 2021, Paris
© 2021 Museum Tinguely, Basel; photo: Matthias Willi

Keren Cytter, *The Lady of the Lake*, 2021

(in English language)

This theatre piece consists of a dialogue performed by the actress Fernanda Farah and the actor Damian Rebgetz. The play is a combination of storytelling, singing, dancing and stand-up comedy. Two individuals recall what is most memorable about their lives, such as belonging to a rowing club as a child or having five husbands. The poignant and sometimes absurdly comical dialogue meanders from one association to the next. Woven into it are Cytter's incisive metaphors and precise analyses of contemporary society.



Keren Cytter, *The Lady of the Lake*, 2021
© The artist; photo: Gianmarco Bresadola

Marie-Caroline Hominal, *Eurêka, c'est presque le titre*, 2021

The artist dances a sequence of numbers on a large silver disc of a stage. John Cage and Jean Tinguely appear in a dream, a witch rides a broomstick and an object-creature comes to life. Hominal operates with various found objects that gradually cluster together to form an assemblage. Similarly, one after another the various numbers in this piece cluster together to form a colourful yet harmonious picture of an imaginary, tragicomic world.



Marie-Caroline Hominal, *Eurêka, c'est presque le titre*, 2021
© The artist; photo: Gregory Batadon

«We at Museum Tinguely are constantly striving to continue the dialogue between art and life that was so central to Jean Tinguely's own artistic practice and that we now extend to contemporary art and culture. This endeavour manifests itself in our exhibition projects and activities involving contemporary artists and is likewise expressed in the high-calibre performance programme that is to flank the *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* project. With three performances in our programme, we ourselves will be the guest of our local partner institution on at least one day.»

Quote of the curator of the performance programme: Dr. Sandra Beate Reimann

Art Education on Board

The varied programme of onboard education events and workshops designed to promote a more hands-on form of engagement with Jean Tinguely's artistic cosmos is aimed primarily at children and young people. Water, sound, and communication – those are the themes from Tinguely's work that best fit the AHOY! project and that will be at the centre of our educational activities.

Two hands-on stations *Message in a Bottle* and *Méta-Splash* will enable visitors on the barge to be spontaneously inquisitive and creative, while organized groups, parties of schoolchildren but also individual visitors will be able to book a visit of the barge combined with a workshop free of charge at www.mtahoy.com.



Workshop: Water Sounds

How can water sound? In this workshop we will experiment with water sounds and make some audio recordings. Whether it is the Rhine slapping against the barge, the glugging of a water bottle or the flushing of the on-board toilet, participants will get to experience the element of water first and foremost from an acoustic angle. Still more water noises will be identified and recorded and the recordings then spliced together to create sound collages.

Listening to these, especially against the backdrop of Jean Tinguely's *Schwimmwasserplastik*, visitors will appreciate why the sculptor so relished working with water and sound.

Workshop for teenagers, children (aged 8 and over) and adults

Workshop: Message in a Bottle

Here we will design a letter collage and send it off on an exciting journey. In parallel to his creation of kinetic sculptures, Jean Tinguely also sent hundreds of illustrated letters to a wide range of recipients. His letters are accomplished, playful, and attest to the pleasure he took in communicating with others. For us, *Museum Tinguely AHOY!* is the perfect opportunity to engage in just such a creative exchange. Participants will design a message of their own to an unknown recipient and in exchange will get to fish out a message in a bottle from an earlier stage of the voyage – perhaps from Basel, Paris or Amsterdam?



For children (aged 6 and over), teenagers and adults

Accompanying digital programme www.mtahoy.com

Interactive offer with competition: Sound in a Bottle

To accompany the boat trip, Museum Tinguely invites visitors to share their own water sound experiments on the project's website. The goal of Sound in a Bottle is to promote awareness of the acoustic perception of one's environment and the joy of experimentation – from making music to coming up with an imaginative title for one's own sound contribution. The uploaded contributions can then be discovered on the route map of this website, and the origin of the sound can be guessed like an acoustic message in a bottle. The project is designed as a competition, whereby the two most exciting contributions will win a weekend in Basel during the anniversary festival (25–26 September 2021).

Logbook (in German)

Attila Gaspar, who on board ship will be doubling as sailor and event manager, will report regularly on the adventures of the MS Evolutie as it wends its way across Europe. The logbook offers the possibility to travel along digitally and also to participate from home.

LOGBUCH

7. Mai 2021
 N 47° 33,503', E 7° 34,396'
 Kleinhüningen

Willkommen an Bord, liebe Schwimwasserplastik

Ob Jean am unwirtlichen Wetter während der Montage der «Schwimwasserplastik» auf der MS Evolutie Freude gehabt hätte, bezweifle ich. Für unser Team war es auf jeden Fall eine zusätzliche Herausforderung. Etwas so Wertvolles mit einem riesigen Kran aufs Schiff zu hieven, braucht neben viel Erfahrung eine ruhige Hand. Irgendwie ist alles dauernd in Bewegung – daran hätte Jean sicherlich seine Freude gehabt. Damit steht unsere Galionsfigur auf dem Oberdeck der MS Evolutie, bereit für die grosse Fahrt. Wer sich jetzt fragt, wie wir damit unter einer Brücke durchkommen, schaut am besten hier wieder rein. Dann zeigen wir, wie das umgebaute Frachtschiff mit Brunnenkulptur seine Testfahrt durch Basel meistert.



ROUTE
 VERANSTALTUNGEN
 LOGBUCH
 TINGUELY HISTORY
 AUSSTELLUNG
 KUNSTVERMITTLUNG
 PERFORMANCES
 MULTIMEDIA
 JUBILÄUM

25 years Museum Tinguely – 25 Years of Moving Art

«For twenty-five years, Museum Tinguely has upheld the validity of the equation «art = life» with a programme, addressed especially at children and young people but open to all, which centres on the live experience of art that moves – in both senses of the word. Tinguely’s art is sensuous, playful, radical and subversive. These are consequently the qualities that we look for in our exhibitions of the artists who influenced him, the artists of his own generation, and our programme of contemporary positions.»

Roland Wetzel, Director Museum Tinguely



Museum Tinguely has staged over 110 shows since it first opened in 1996 and will soon have attracted three million visitors. The museum rests on an initiative by Roche, which had it built to mark the company’s centennial in 1996 and has been financing it in full as its largest cultural commitment ever since. The museum’s collection, the world’s largest of Jean Tinguely, rests on a donation by his widow, Niki de Saint Phalle, and is presented to the public in regularly changing presentations – which is what makes the museum so unique, even today.

For twenty-five years Museum Tinguely has been inviting people to discover art and culture with all the senses, to be surprised and delighted by many experimental projects and collaborations. Thanks to its unique location on the Rhine in the Solitude Park, Museum Tinguely is a pleasant place to linger and to enjoy for both locals and tourists alike. It welcomes both families and art experts and offers scope for both silent contemplation and the hands-on, interactive experience of art. The museum’s varied programme seeks dialogue with other artists, art forms and areas of science, promising an interactive museum experience for all of the senses. The permanent exhibition presents an overview of four decades of his creative activity, from the artist’s early beginnings in the 1950s with motorised reliefs, through to the large-scale sculptures and mechanical sculptures of the 1980s. Our programme of events ranging from classical concerts to DJ sets, Family Sundays to barrier-free tours, workshops for schools and young adults to get-togethers with seniors further broadens our spectrum in terms of both content and the diverse audiences we can welcome to our institution.

The project team



City Partners



Präsidiatdepartement des Kantons Basel-Stadt

Aussenbeziehungen und Standortmarketing



Partner Institutions

Rmn-Grand Palais, La Villette und Centre Pompidou, Paris

Het Bos and Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp

Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen and Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen

Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg

Kunstmuseen Krefeld, Krefeld

ZERO foundation, Düsseldorf

Ludwig Museum Koblenz, Koblenz

Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt

Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim

General Information:

Route of the cargo ship: Departure from Basel on June 25th, 2021 /

1. station Paris, 17 July 2021 / Returning to Basel on September 25th, 2021

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

1st presentation: 17 July – 26 September on the converted cargo ship MS Evolutie as part of «Museum Tinguely AHOY!»

2nd presentation: 20 October 2021 – 23 January 2022 at Museum Tinguely (Opening Day: 19 October 2021, 11 am–6 pm)

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

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

Websites: www.tinguely.ch | www.mtahoy.com

Social Media: @museumtinguely | #museumtinguely | #tinguely | #museumtinguely25 | #museumtinguelyahoy | #tinguelyontour

Press contact: Isabelle Beilfuss | T.: +41 61 68 74 608 | Email: isabelle.beilfuss@roche.com