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**« le Définitif – c'est le Provisoire »
New presentation of Museum Tinguely's collection
3 March – spring 2023**

A quarter-century after the opening of Museum Tinguely on the banks of the Rhine in Basel, the new permanent exhibition (opening 3 March 2021) will focus on the charismatic artist Jean Tinguely and the media impact of his kinetic sculptures and actions. The new exhibition draws to an unprecedented degree on the unparalleled collection of documents and archive materials used by the museum in its unique research work. With the rehangings of the permanent exhibition, Museum Tinguely will also open the «Schauatelier» where visitors will be offered insights into conservation & restoration work.

Tinguely and his art in the news

At the beginning of his artistic career, at the end of the 1950s, Tinguely's DIY art machines caused a sensation both in the art world and in the international press. With his drawing machines, the *Méta-Matics*, he catapulted himself onto the front pages of major newspapers, prompting journalists around the world to write headlines like: "Want To Be An Artist? Just Buy This Machine, And You Are In." Works from the Museum's extensive collection are complemented by major loans. In this way the exhibition explores the beginning of Tinguely's career abroad, followed by his first appearances in Switzerland. The show places documents on paper, photographs, sound and film recordings in a new media context. Tinguely's work of the 1950s and '60s, presented in exhibitions and actions from Paris to New York, via Bern, Lausanne and Tokyo, is multi-faceted and defies previous art-historical conventions. Provocative and amusing in equal measure, it declares life to be art. His works invite us to participate directly, always addressing multiple sensory levels of art experience.

Spectacles on different stages

As a pioneer, Tinguely managed to repeatedly reposition his kinetic machine art. He created loud sound spectacles using everyday objects, putting them and himself in the spotlight by taking part in various international theatre productions – sometimes as set designer, sometimes as part of the cast – using his works to address urgent issues of the time.

With warmest regards – treasured artists' letters

Tinguely understood his art as meaningful nonsense. In his productions, joie de vivre plays an important role, but also ephemerality. This is reflected not only in his kinetic sculptures, but also in his works on paper, where we discover him as an inventive creator of drawings and collages. Over the course of his artistic career, he sent hundreds of letters to friends and people with whom he worked around the world. The colourful drawings and collages contained in these letters have a distinctive visual idiom, making them fascinating works in their own right. In the exhibition, visitors can rediscover the creative activity of letter writing, something that has fallen from prominence in today's digital world, and send handmade letters à la Tinguely to their own friends.

Conserving Tinguely's kinetic art

The exhibition also offers information on the materiality and functioning of Tinguely's works, providing interesting insights into their construction, as well as surprising hidden technical details concerning their conservation: which measures must be taken to keep Tinguely's works running as long as possible? The information on offer includes recent findings concerning the radio sculptures of the 1960s, and approaches to restoring such fragile works as *Ballet des pauvres* (1961) or the *Balubas* (from 1961). And what actually happens to the ephemeral materials used by Tinguely to make his collages, such as nail varnish, stickers or transfers?

The new «Schauatelier» – Conservation & Restoration

Museum Tinguely's conservation & restoration team has moved house! From now on it will operate in full view of the public. This will allow its valuable work to be more readily understood and the conservation of Tinguely's works to become a recurrent theme of our exhibitions.

The new «Schauatelier» is located at the far end of the museum's top-floor galleries behind a glass door that can be left wide open if required. Here, visitors have a unique opportunity to gain a direct insight into the work of our conservation team.

Henceforth it will be possible for the manifold conservational challenges that Tinguely's works pose to be explained and demonstrated right there on the spot. A range of media will be used to present current conservation projects and to discuss the specific problems that they present in greater depth.

Not only does the «Schauatelier» promise to become a platform for exchanging experience and ideas, but in future it will be the number one address for the conservation & restoration of Jean Tinguely's entire oeuvre.

General Information:

Title: « le Définitif – c'est le Provisoire »

New presentation of Museum Tinguely's collection

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

Duration: 3 March – spring 2023

Opening Day: Tuesday, 2 March 2021, 11 am-8 pm

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, daily from 11 am–6 pm, Thursday until 9 pm

Website: www.tinguely.ch

Social Media: @museumtinguely | #museumtinguely | #tinguely | #swissartist |

#provisoire | #kineticart | #conservation

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