



**Media Talk:**

15 November 2018 | 11 am  
[at Schaulager](#)

**Press documents:**

[Tinguely.ch/en/presse-downloads](http://tinguely.ch/en/presse-downloads)

## **Jean Tinguely's *Méta-Harmonie II* returns to Museum Tinguely**

**Museum Tinguely is happy to announce that one of its exhibition highlights will be returning from 24 November 2018. *Méta-Harmonie II* (1979) is the second of four kinetic, visual-acoustic machine sculptures created by Jean Tinguely in the years 1978–1985. The work is on permanent loan from the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation and has been an important part of the museum's main exhibition since it opened in 1996. This major work belongs to a central group within Tinguely's oeuvre and plays a key role in the museum's efforts to present his artistic universe and his works as a synaesthetic, interactive experience. Having been in operation continually for more than two decades, the four-meter-tall sound sculpture was urgently in of comprehensive restoration. As part of a research project initiated and funded by Schaulager, a team from Schaulager and Museum Tinguely restored the work over a period of twelve months, creating detailed documentation in the process.**

Working together closely, the coservators Marcus Broecker and Carole Maitre (from Schaulager) and Jean-Marc Gaillard (from Museum Tinguely, one of the artist's last assistants), analysed and documented the years of wear and tear to individual elements of *Méta-Harmonie II* (a sculpture measuring 380 x 690 x 160 cm with a total weight in excess of two tonnes). Where possible, components were restored in accordance with conservational guidelines. In this partnership, the experts' various skills and experience in dealing with kinetic sculptures complemented each other perfectly. With their meticulous research and attention to detail they managed, among others, to give the machine sculpture back its original sounds on the basis of historical recordings.

In addition, the individual restoration processes were documented on film with the twofold aim of facilitating continued scientific discourse in the long term and making the restoration process, which often takes place in closed laboratories, accessible to a broad audience. In mid-November, the work will return to the Museum where, as part of the new permanent exhibition of the Museum's collection, it will represent the music machines as a key chapter in the artist's oeuvre. From 24 November, the spectacular visual and acoustic effects of *Méta-Harmonie II*, generated by countless brightly coloured musical instruments, everyday items and other found objects, will once more cast their spell over the Museum's visitors.

### Discovering restoration digitally at the Museum

To give a better insight into the challenges currently facing a museum dealing with kinetic artworks, from February 2019 an info touchscreen, produced by Schaulager and installed in front of *Méta-Harmonie II*, will help visitors to understand the individual restoration phases and the accompanying scientific discussions and conservational considerations. At the same time, the short film sequences offer interesting background information about the work itself and about the work of an object restorer.

### Museum Tinguely – the leading authority on restoration of works by Jean Tinguely

Maintaining the movement of the machine sculptures is a central task of the Museum's restoration department. This is a special challenge, as all moving parts are subject to wear and tear. The conservation strategies are many and varied: restriction of running times, replacement of worn-out parts, researching and installing identical replacement parts or copies while preserving the original substance, and, as the last resort, taking a sculpture out of service. In all cases, the reversibility of interventions is a key requirement. And the tools are the same as those used by Tinguely in his studio. The restoration department at Museum Tinguely sees itself as a centre of expertise on the preservation and restoration of the artist's works, and it possesses many years of experience in conservation practice. This expertise is also made available to other institutions, museums and private collectors.

### Museum Tinguely

Museum Tinguely holds the world's largest collection of works by the Swiss artist Jean Tinguely (1925–91). With his kinetic artworks, he was a pioneering figure in the art of the period after 1950. Since 1996, the museum – built by Mario Botta on the riverside site of the Rhine – shows a selection of his work, from the delicate early reliefs to the monumental machine sculptures of the 1980s. Based on Tinguely's artistic and conceptual universe, the Museum shows a varied exhibition programme that seeks dialogue with other artists, art forms and disciplines, promising an interactive museum experience for all of the senses.

### **General information**

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

**Temporary exhibition:** Radiophonic Spaces, until 27 January 2019

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

**Website:** [www.tinguely.ch](http://www.tinguely.ch)

**Social Media:** @museumtinguely | #museumtinguely | #tinguely | #musicmachine  
#radiotinguely | #radiophonicspaces

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