

NEW RELEASE 2025

l'univers tinguely 15 Dimensions of the Work of Jean Tinguely

Curated by Museum Tinguely, Basel

Texts by Andres Pardey

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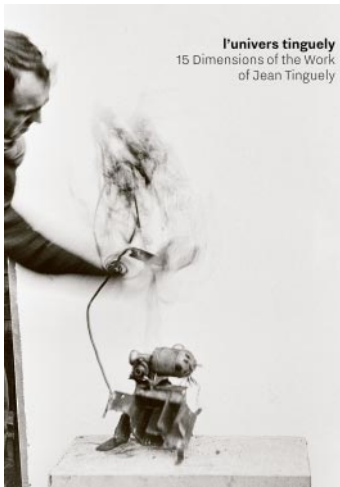
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A fascinating overview of the work of the important Swiss artist

Jean Tinguely (1925–1991) is considered one of the most influential artistic pioneers of the twentieth century, with a particular focus on kinetic art. In his extraordinary artworks that bring machines to life, Tinguely redefined the boundaries of art and explored the relationship between humans and machines in fascinating ways.

On the occasion of the centenary of the Swiss artist's birth, *l'univers tinguely* invites readers to discover the impressive diversity of Jean Tinguely's oeuvre. Using around fifteen thematic areas and selected works—including iconic machine sculptures, spectacular actions, fleeting installations, and inspiring illustrations—this extensive publication traces the path of an exceptional artist whose creative energy knew no bounds. The exemplary works chosen not only illustrate Tinguely's artistic development, but also reflect the diversity and inventiveness that characterize his outstanding oeuvre. Lavishly illustrated with nearly 300 images, the book offers a vivid journey through a body of work that is poetic, rebellious, collaborative, and constantly in motion.

The fifteen thematic sections—ranging from 'Machines and Movement' to 'Collaboration and Friendship,' 'Politics and Protest,' and 'Destruction and Ephemerality'—serve as entry points into Tinguely's complex universe. Each dimension offers a unique lens to explore his artistic practice, revealing how he merged engineering with emotion, irony with activism, and spectacle with deep existential reflection. These thematic pathways allow for a multifaceted reading of his art, rather than a chronological one, echoing the non-linear spirit of Tinguely

himself. A key figure in the postwar European avant-garde, Tinguely was associated with Nouveau Réalisme and collaborated with artists such as Yves Klein, Daniel Spoerri, and Niki de Saint Phalle. His machines rattled, smoked, self-destructed, and laughed in the face of convention. Drawing from movement, performance, politics, and absurdity, his works challenged the boundaries of art and the mechanized realities of modern life. "Art is the distortion of an intolerable reality," Tinguely once wrote. "I correct the vision of reality that assaults me in everyday life."

As editor **Andres Pardey** notes, "This universe can be experienced in fifteen dimensions and collages – as a fragmentary, polyphonic approach. This book is an invitation to encounter the artist and poet Tinguely in all his complexity in a meandering space of possibilities. In his view, Tinguely was never interested in static meaning: "He allows us to dream of an art that functions like a living being: full of contradiction, warmth, irony, movement, and poetry."

The press selection features eight key photographs from the book, offering a concise yet evocative overview of Jean Tinguely's creative universe—from early kinetic sculptures and personal studio moments to monumental public works and late reflections on destruction and transformation.



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Press Images



01_ Jean Tinguely at work. In the background: *Méta-Malevich* (1954), *Formes mouvementées* (1955), *Noir sur blanc* (1956), *Blanc, jaune et noir* (1956), *Méta-mécanique à trépied* (1954) and other unknown works in his studio in Impasse Ronsin, Paris, ca. 1956.
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02_ Jean Tinguely, *Méta-Malevich*, 1954. Museum Tinguely, Basel
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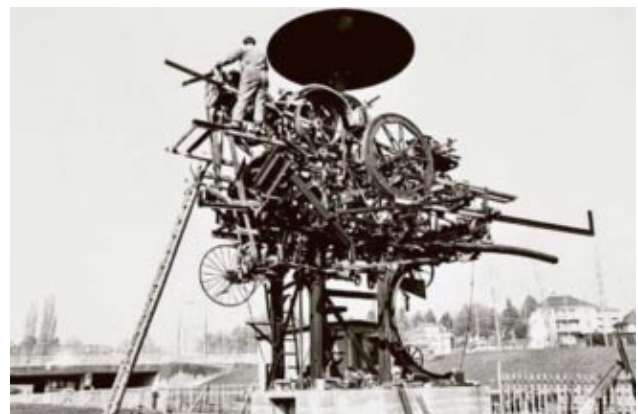
03_ Jean Tinguely, *Wundermaschine Méta-Kandinsky I*, 1956 Museum Tinguely, Basel
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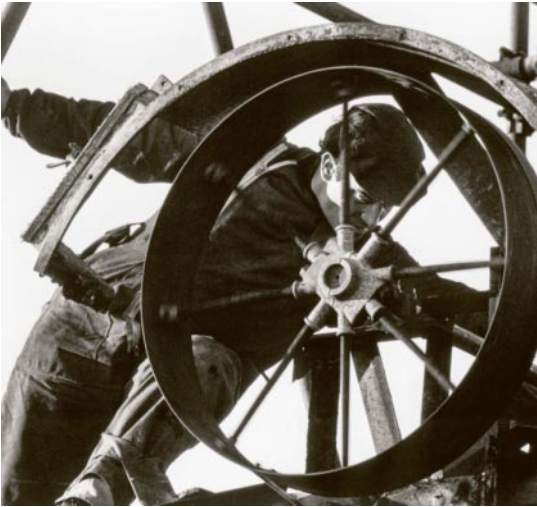
04_ Jean Tinguely and Eva Aeppli eating together in their studio in Impasse Ronsin, Paris, 1956
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05_ Visitors at the exhibition *Les méta-matics de Tinguely* interacting with an unidentifiable, wall-mounted *Méta-matic*, Galerie Iris Clert, Paris, 1959
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06_ Jean Tinguely during the construction of *Heureka*, 1964
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07_Jean Tinguely during the construction of *Heureka*, 1964
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08_Jean Tinguely, *Mengele: Dance of Death*, 1986, in the Museum Tinguely, Basel
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