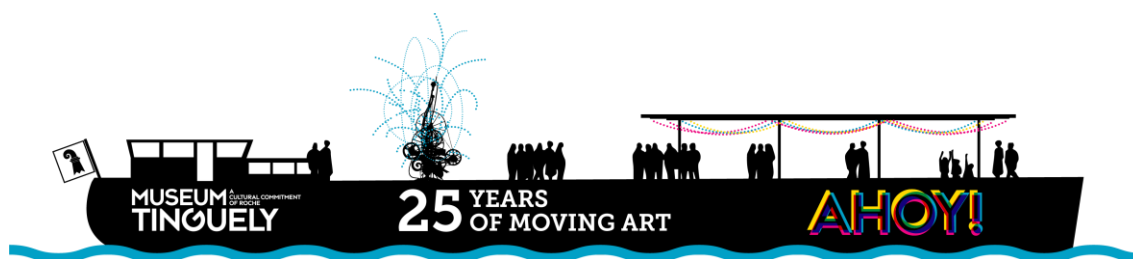


PRESS  
INFO

April 2021



# Museum Tinguely AHOY! Paris – Amsterdam – Basel

17 July – 26 September 2021

Departure from Basel 25 June, 2021

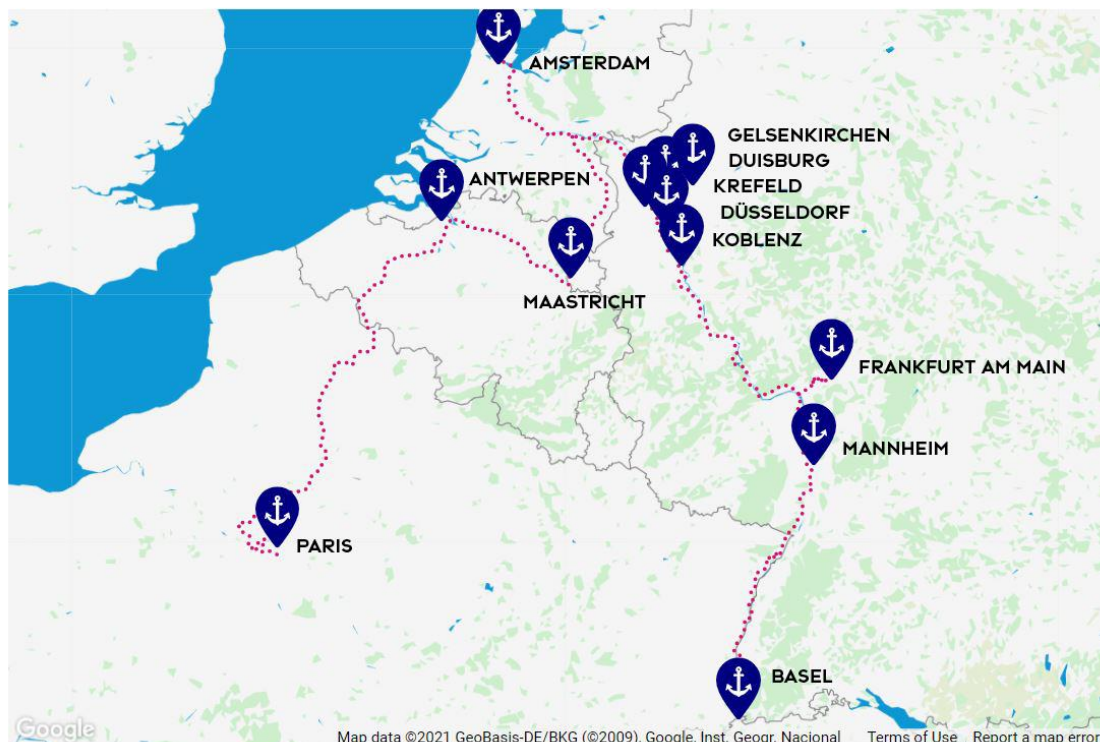
## The project

**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, Holland and Germany before returning to Basel on 24 September 2021. Besides having an exhibition installed inside the hull, the floating museum will also feature a spectacular fountain sculpture on deck. The itinerary envisages twelve 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 Evolutie, 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 24–26 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 24–26 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.

«Museum Tinguely AHOY!» is a unique opportunity to take both Tinguely the artist and the museum dedicated to him on tour – that is to say, out of Basel and to various European cities that figured prominently in his life and works. The barge will be open to visitors in each country, subject to the prevailing Covid-19 regulations.

## The Travel Stops

### Paris, 17–18 July, Grand Palais

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.

### Antwerp, 28–29 July, 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, Musiktheater

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, Wilhelm 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, 24–26 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 attached to pliable hoses 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 contraption 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 metal sculptures, 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 of MS Evolutie, 17 July – 26 September 2021

An avid creator of kinetic sculptures, Swiss artist Jean Tinguely made movement the centerpiece of his oeuvre, indeed of his whole life. His manifest *Für Statik*, which according to legend he printed as a flyer and scattered from a plane over Düsseldorf some time after 1959, begins with the words: «Everything is in motion. Nothing ever stands still.» As part of its festivities to mark «25 Years of Moving Art», Museum Tinguely is to stage an exhibition true to the same motto – in a converted barge. The show will follow the trail left by Tinguely the artist, traveller, networker and friend. The exhibits installed inside the hull of the barge – c. 100 square metres in area – will take visitors back in time, enabling them to follow Tinguely's trajectory from his first shows in galleries in Paris in the late 1950s to his first solo exhibition at the Haus Lange Museum in Krefeld in 1960 and the great retrospectives, including that at the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg in 1978.

After the presentation on the cargo ship, the exhibition will be on view at Museum Tinguely in Basel from 20.10.2021-23.01.2022.

Curator of the show: Giorgio Bloch



*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.

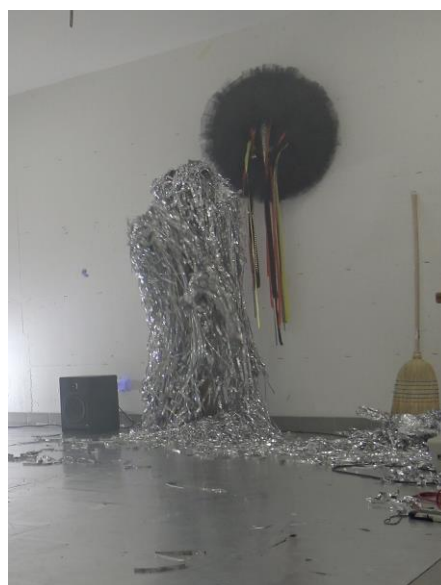


Nevin Aladağ, *Kostüm Instrumente* / *Costume Instruments*, 2021  
 preliminary digital visualization  
 by Clemens Vogel

Keren Cytter, *There's No Us In Masterpiece*, 2016-2018

«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.»

Sandra Beate Reimann, Project Manager  
 «Museum Tinguely AHOY!»



Marie-Caroline Hominal, video still / image

## 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.

Group activities such as *Wassertonfall*, *Flaschenpost* and *Méta-Splash* will enable visitors on the barge to be spontaneously inquisitive and creative, while organized groups and parties of schoolchildren will be able to book a visit of the barge combined with a workshop.

The barge's journey will be accompanied by a series of podcasts in form of a weekly blog with stories relating to the places visited and the people encountered en route. Visitors to the website [www.mtahoy.com](http://www.mtahoy.com), will be able to take up the museum's challenge to post their own water audio experiments as a *Sound in a Bottle*.



## 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 Basel’s centrally located 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 disciplines, 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.



Team «Museum Tinguely AHOY!»

**City Partners:**

Standortmarketing Basel-Stadt

Basel Tourismus

**Partner Institutions:**

Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht

Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt

Grand Palais, Paris

Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim

Kunstmuseen Krefeld, Krefeld

Ludwig Museum Koblenz, Koblenz

Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen

Royal Academy of Arts, Antwerp

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum

Zero Foundation, Düsseldorf

## 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 24th, 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](http://www.tinguely.ch) | [www.mtahoy.com](http://www.mtahoy.com)

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

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