

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1982)

Heft: 1793

Rubrik: The arts

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

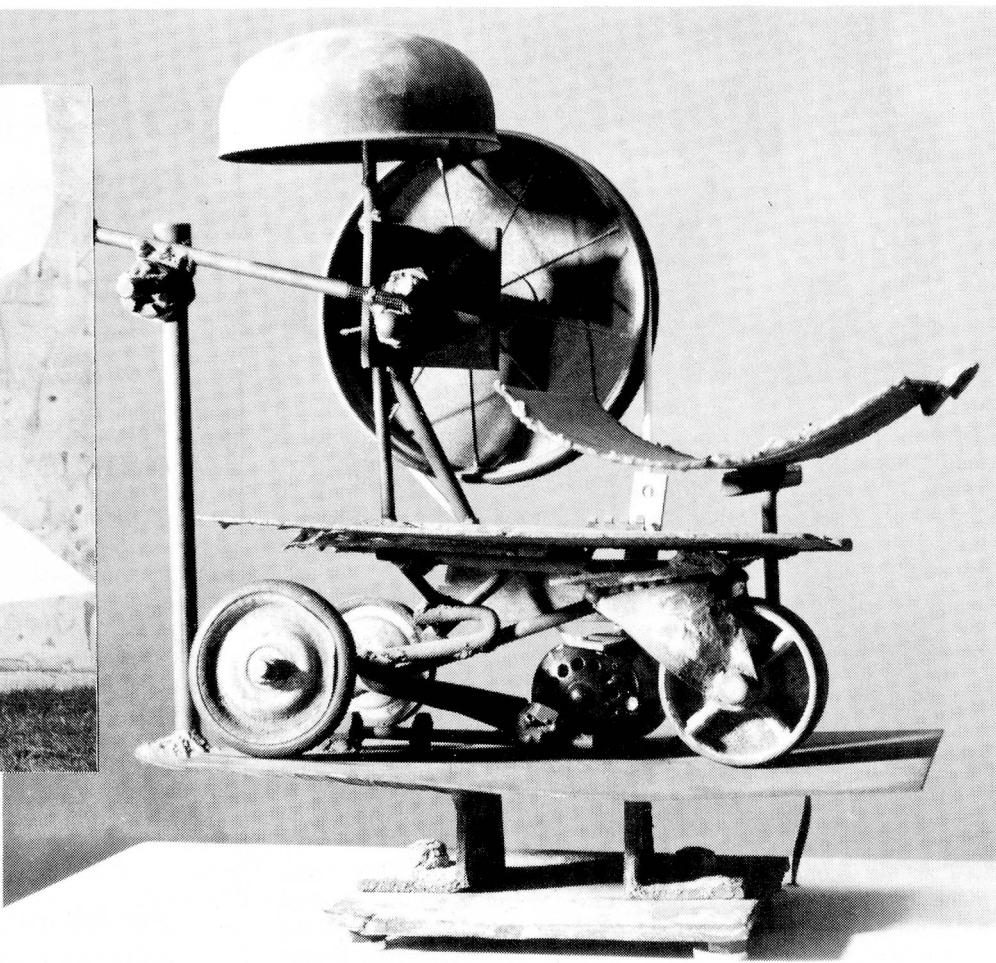
The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 12.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



This plywood propeller by Pierre Degen is worn with the aid of a harness. Degen's work will be on show from September 22 to October 24 at the Craft Council's Gallery in London.



"Vehicule Stabile" (1960) by Jean Tinguely is made of cast iron and scrap metal welded with found objects. It is powered by an electric motor.

Movement and sound at work

SWISS sculptor Jean Tinguely is well known on the Continent and in America but his show at the Tate Gallery in the autumn will be the first time that he has been shown here in depth.

Tinguely, born in 1925, went to Paris in the early Fifties where he started to make a series of abstract reliefs and constructions in wire and metal, their painted cut-out shapes made to move with

the aid of electric motors.

In 1960, after a visit to New York where he met Rauschenberg and Johns, his sculptures became larger, and were built of scrap metal, rusty wheels and other junk or found objects.

Movement and sound are an integral part of Tinguely's work. His functioning but useless machines have a crazy, unpredictable life of their own which

can amuse, surprise or seem to threaten the spectator.

Tinguely has made sculptures which squirt water, throw balls, crush bottles or plates, make abstract paintings, emit a variety of loud noises and even destroy themselves.

Since the mid-1960s his works have tended to be monumental in scale, some of them suggestive of monsters, half animal, half machine. Their movements are often a grotesque parody of human actions. The exhibition includes 40 sculptures from all phases of Tinguely's career, with particular emphasis on the work of the early Sixties.

●
Pierre Degen was born in Switzerland in 1947 and began his training as jewelry designer at the Ecole d'Arts Appliqués in La Chaux-de-Fonds from 1963 to 1968. He worked and studied

further in Lucerne before coming to London in 1971.

After a period at a language school, he got a job as technician and part-time lecturer at Central School of Art and Design. Since 1973 he has been a freelance jeweller and lecturer at the Jewelry Department of Middlesex Polytechnic in London.

The pieces shown at the coming exhibition at the Crafts Council's Gallery, from September 22 to October 24, are rather large and have been conceived to be worn in open spaces such as countryside, seaside, etc.

The variety of jewelry caters for specific and general occasions and the pieces just widen the choice of the already available items and occasions.

The propeller in the photograph is made of thin plywood and worn with the aid of a harness, like a rucksack.

FOR YOUR DIARY

EXHIBITION of works by **Jean Tinguely**, September 8 to November 14, Tate Gallery, London.

Exhibition of jewelry by **Pierre Degen**, September 22 to October 24, Crafts Council's Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, London SW1.

Exhibition, "The Plan of St.

Gall", July 22 to September 15, Peterborough Cathedral; September 27 to October 20, Gloucester Cathedral.

The performances of Oscar Araiz' "Tango" by the **Geneva Opera Ballet** at the Edinburgh International Festival have been cancelled.