

NAHMAD PROJECTS

Press Release - 01.03.17

JEAN TINGUELY

3rd March – 28th April 2017

Mon-Fri: 10:00-18:00

"... to play is art - consequently I play. I play enraged."

Nahmad Projects is proud to present the first gallery exhibition of Jean Tinguely's work in London for almost twenty years. Swiss-born painter and sculptor Jean Tinguely is best known for his sculptural machines, rooted in the Dada tradition and officially known as *metamechanics*. In a similar fashion to Marcel Duchamp's ready-mades, Tinguely's sculptures are *machines à penser*; they are a stimulating reflection on our relationship with machines, art, and the age we live in.

Tinguely belongs to a generation of European artists who came together in the 1950s and 1960s over a shared interest in the dynamics of life beyond the arts. He exhibited with the international ZERO group, the French Nouveaux Réalistes, and Kinetic artists. Collaboration was a central aspect of Tinguely's practice, inviting participation from the public, and creating works with iconic artists including Yves Klein, Robert Rauschenberg, and Daniel Spoerri.

His colourful and often humorous sculptures initially appear as a cheerful celebration of life, but they are also useless, absurd, and sometimes self-destructive. This abjection of the commercial machine satirizes the mindless overproduction of material goods in the advanced industrial society of his post-war world. Optimism is undercut by irony throughout his oeuvre, elucidating his fascination with the idea of play alongside that of mortality. Whirring and clanking, his work goes against the literal "static" conventions of art, and in turn art's institutions.

Jean Tinguely is the third exhibition at Nahmad Projects, a new space for showcasing innovative and unusual perspectives on art in Mayfair. The gallery launched in June 2016 with a cycle of thirty performances: *I am NOT tino sehgal*, followed by *BLISS* with an exploration of eroticism through three iconic artists spanning a century: Jason Rhoades, Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Pierre Auguste Renoir.

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Practical details

Nahmad Projects

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Opening times: Tuesday – Friday, 10AM-6PM; Sat, 11AM-5PM

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