Artmobile

Bucks County Community College’s traveling art museum

MARVELOUS MACHINES

Horse-power Treadmill Model

11 ¼” x 6 ¼” x 20 ¾”

Models of large farm machines were often used as salesmen's samples as well as in patent applications. This horse-power model, given by H.D. Ruos, owner of the Doylestown Agricultural Company in 1921, was made by Jacob Sharp, foreman of their woodworking shop, and patented by the company.

From the Collection of the Mercer Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society

Clockwise, from left

Screw Clamp

8” x 13 ½” x 1 ¼”

Hatchet

15 ¾” x 6” x 1 ¼”

Keyhole Plate Door Latch

3 ¼” x 7” x 4 ½”

These three historical examples of simple machines were collected by Henry Mercer a century ago. The keyhole plate door latch was purchased at Osborne's Antique Store in Philadelphia by Mercer in 1916.

From the Collection of the Mercer Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society

Wagon Jack

54" x 8" x 29"

This wooden wagon jack, an historical example of a lever, was collected by historian and archeologist Henry Mercer (1856-1930) along with tens of thousands of other objects to preserve the material history of the Pre-Industrial era.

From the Collection of the Mercer Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society

Pulley Block
14 ½” x 4 ½” x 5”

This pulley block may have been used in the construction of Henry Mercer’s six-story concrete castle, built in 1916 to display his growing collection of artifacts.

From the Collection of the Mercer Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society

Chris Eckert, *Babel*, video, 0:52min

An installation of twenty writing machines, each scouring the internet for a specific term and writing the results, in different friends' handwriting and in different languages, explores the common insecurities of our global society.

Arthur Ganson

My Little Fiddle

Steel, fiddle, feather

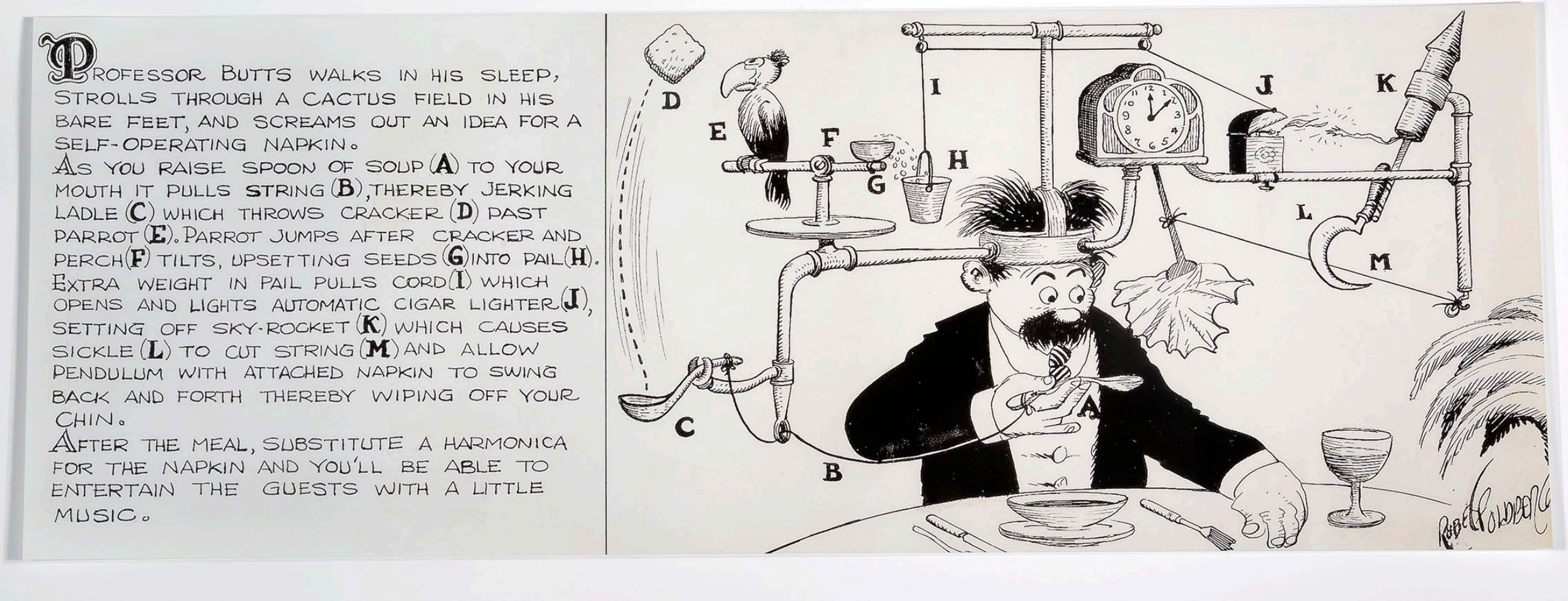
2019

10” x 10” x 24”

The feather dances against the bottom of the violin, moved around by a gear set within a controlled ring. The violin is soundless as the feather needlessly rotates beneath it. Ganson is a self-taught engineer who creates whimsical, often interactive, sculptures. His work has been displayed continuously at the MIT Museum since 1995.

Rube Goldberg, *Weekly Invention - Labor-Saving Auto Jack,* 1931
Photo-reproductions of original illustrations, 36" x 12"

Over-engineering is a common exploration of kinetic art and machines, and was regularly seen in the illustrations of Rube Goldberg. His clever machine illustrations are well known throughout the United States as performing a simple task, but in a conspicuously overcomplicated if not absurd fashion.



Rube Goldberg, *Professor Butts' Idea for a Self-Operating Napkin,* 1931

Reproduction of original illustration, 36” x 13”

Jeff Kahn

Magic Metronome

Aluminum

36” x 8” x 36”

Kahn is a Pennsylvania artist who creates kinetic art on large and small scale. This work uses levers and balance to move. It illustrates important physics and geometry lessons and explores one of the less mechanical looking of the six simple machines.

Anne Lilly

Conductor

Video

0:40 min

Crafted from machined metal, Lilly combined the lever and the fulcrum with the wheel and the axle to create this elegant kinetic work. Lilly's works are never designed on a computer, she sketches them by hand and then goes through the many stages of experimentation.

Bob Potts

Ascension

Video

0:44 min

While Potts seeks inspiration from the natural world, his pieces are not pure imitations of nature. Instead, they are meant to evoke that gracefulness through a mechanical device.

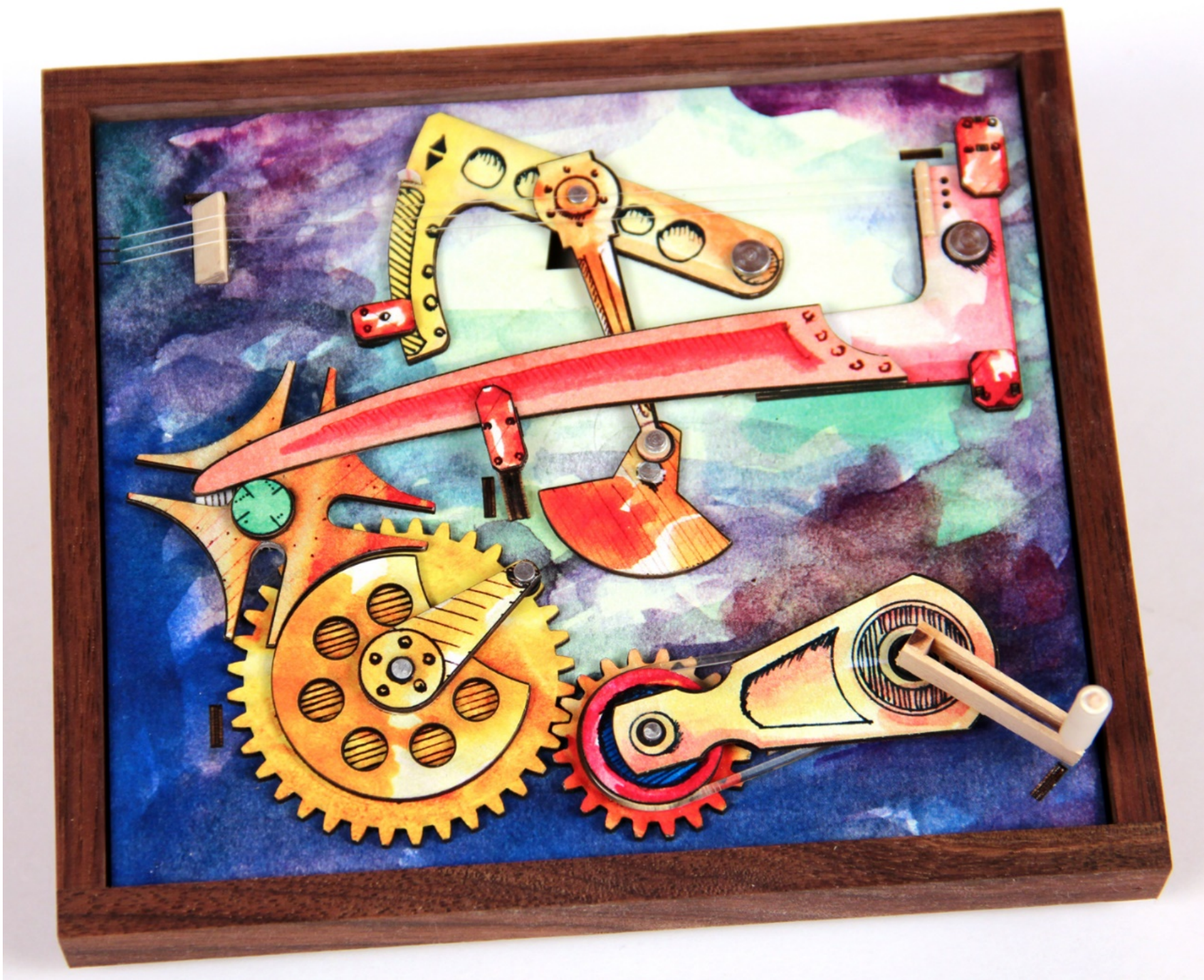
Brad Litwin

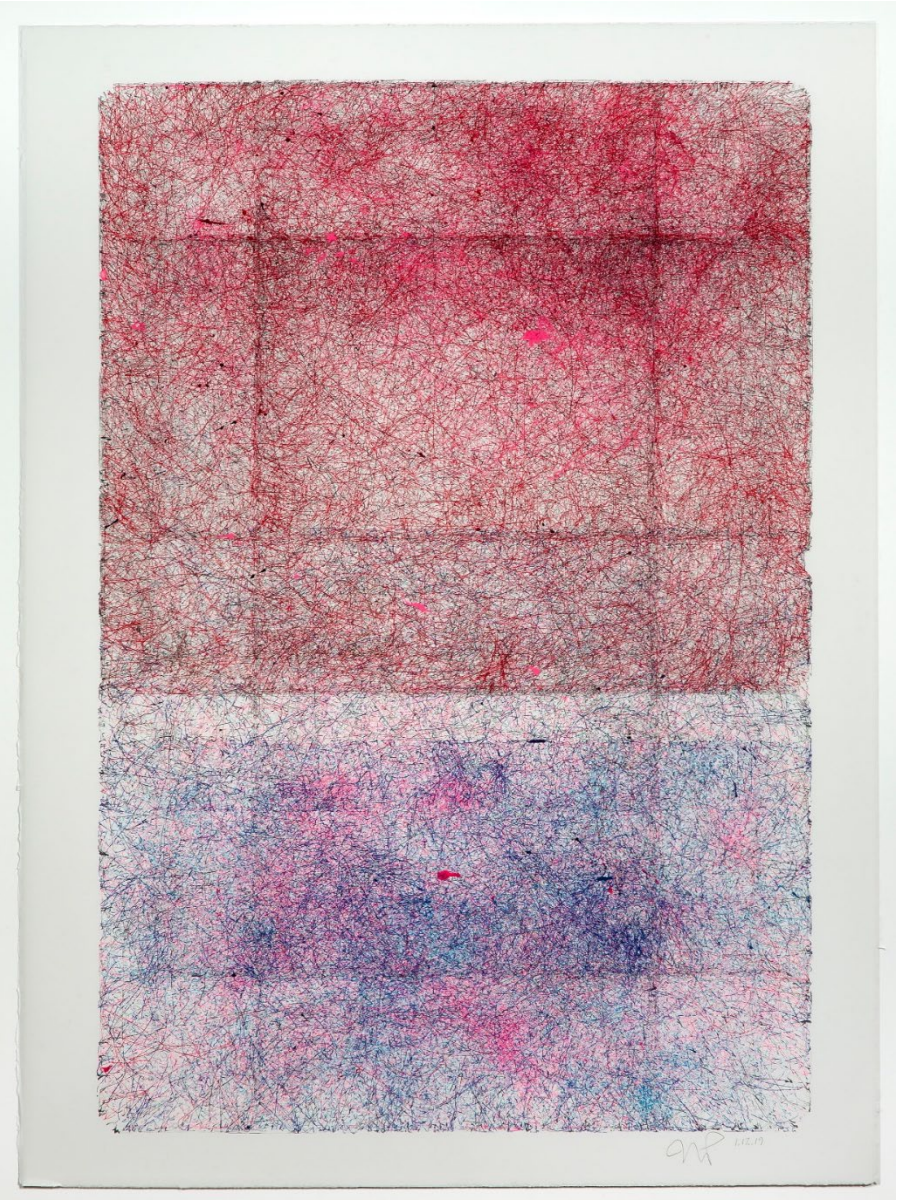
Greater Strum-u-lator

Wood, metal, plastic

17” x 19.5” x 4”

Litwin’s MechaniCards® are miniature (6” x 6” x 1”) hand-operated kinetic sculptures, designed and produced in limited edition. The artist was commissioned to create a larger-scale version in wood for Artmobile visitors to manipulate.





John Douglas Powers

Machine Made Drawing

Ink on Rives BFK

22” x 30”

Powers’ *Machine Made Drawings* explore the utility of simple and complex machines in making art. Wheels and axles can be used in everyday machines, but here they are also used in innovative ways to make art with the help of computer science. These works by their design invite visitors to contemplate the roles of artist and machine in the creative process.

John Douglas Powers
Machine-made Drawing Apparatus

Powers combines low tech components of ball point pens, cardboard tubes and duct tape with a computer-programmed ball to create his drawings.

Madelaine Shellaby

Murder of Crows

Metal

25” x 9” x 21”

Each of the crow silhouettes is attached to the carefully weighted rod (lever) hidden under the front panel. Air currents will cause the crows to more independently of each other. The title refers to the unique term used for a group of crows.

Elayna Toby Singer

Tracks

HO scale model train tracks, onyx, glass, brass, bone, wood, beads, leather, fishing swivels
38” x 13” x 13” (w/ cord)

Tracks, whimsically embodies the universal quest for equilibrium and stability that underpins much of Singer’s work. In contrast to other sculptures in this exhibit, *Tracks*, does not require direct human interaction in order to spark its movement.

Will Tinsman

Humming

wrought steel, class, stone, found objects, rice paper

2019

10" x 12" x 20 ½”

Created especially for Artmobile, *Humming* is largely comprised of found objects, a notable characteristic of Tinsman’s work. Here, needle nose pliers form the head of a mechanical hummingbird and utensil handles have become the plumage. At the center of the body are two small metal plates that can be wound with a key, giving life to the hummingbird's wings. The direct connection between turning the key and consequential movement of the plates on a wheel and axle uses familiar machines to for an enchanting effect.

Jennifer Townley

Lift

Wood, metal, electric motor, mechanical parts
2009
39” x 35” x 70”

Lift will be among a handful of large scale works that will be presented via video. Townley’s work explores the physics of pulleys and relies on electrical energy rather than human touch to activate.

Norman Tuck

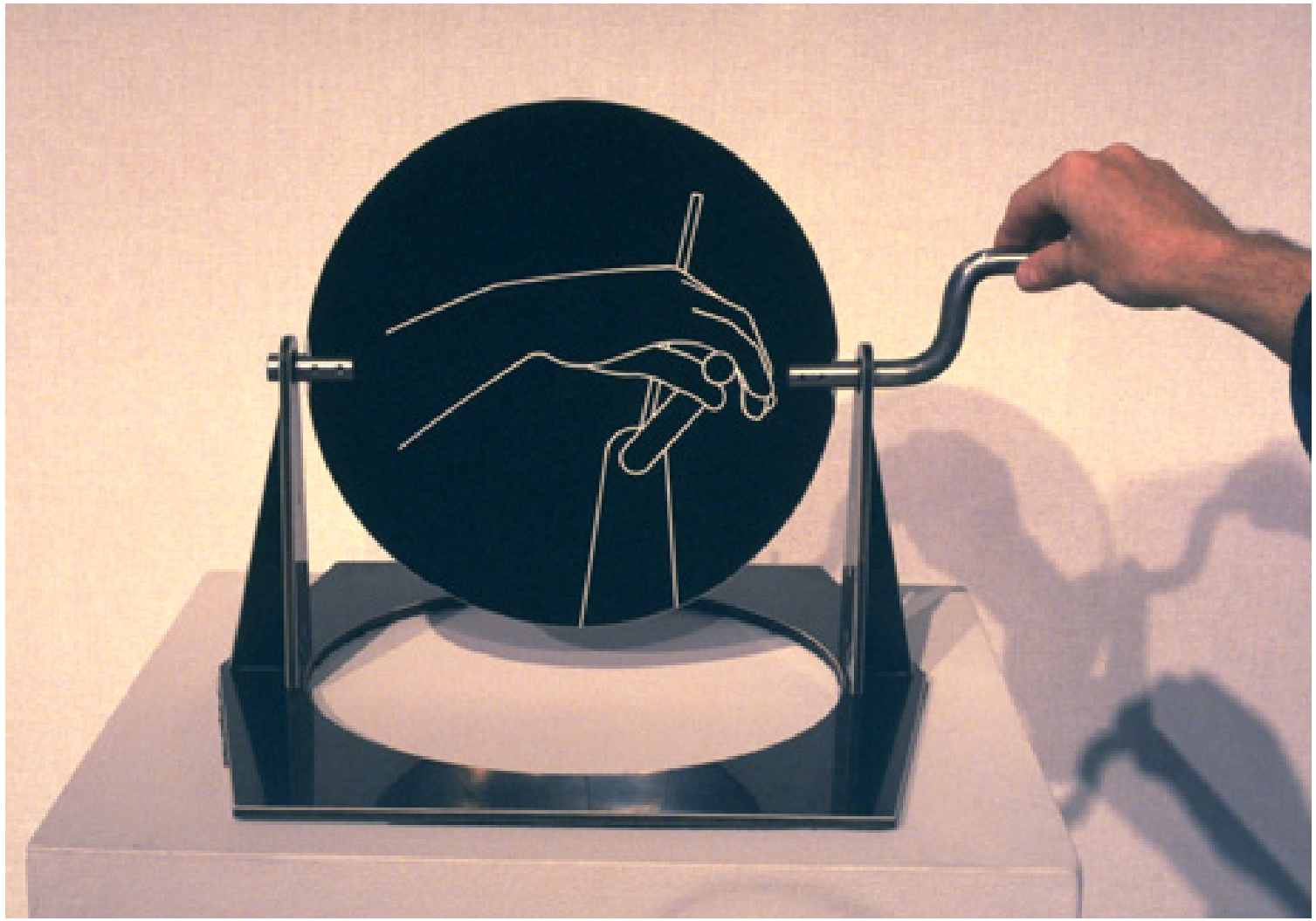
Flipper

Engraved phenolic, stainless steel

1977

24” x 24” x 24”

Flipper is designed as a simple wheel and axle which visitors can activate. The rotating image mimics the actions of the viewer, making “a little visual joke” Tuck’s work, built to demonstrate the physics of motion, has been widely displayed in art and science museums throughout Europe and the world.



Katie Wynne

Centipediatrics

motorized tie rack, sequins, metallic basket filler, costume satin, wood

2010-11

20" x 7" x 43“

Originally part of a larger installation, *Centipediatrics* offers commentary on the way people, Americans in particular, tend to overuse and overvalue machines. Wynne’s additions do not change the movement of the tie rack, but they do remove the function of it, replacing it with a constant parade of glittering colors and textures.

Dukno Yoon

Suspended Wings

Argentium silver,
stainless steel, feathers
2019
7" x 5" x 5”

A full-finger double ring, *Suspended Wings* uses a fulcrum and lever to transfer the work done by the wearer. As the wearer extends and then closes the adorned finger, the wings on either side of the piece are raised and lowered.