

A brief history of sculpture from static to dynamic to interactive to autonomous

Traditionally, sculpture has been static,
though figures often seemed about to move
or frozen in mid-movement.

Burghers of Calais, August Rodin (1889)



Piazza (Figures in a square), Alberto Giacometti (1948)

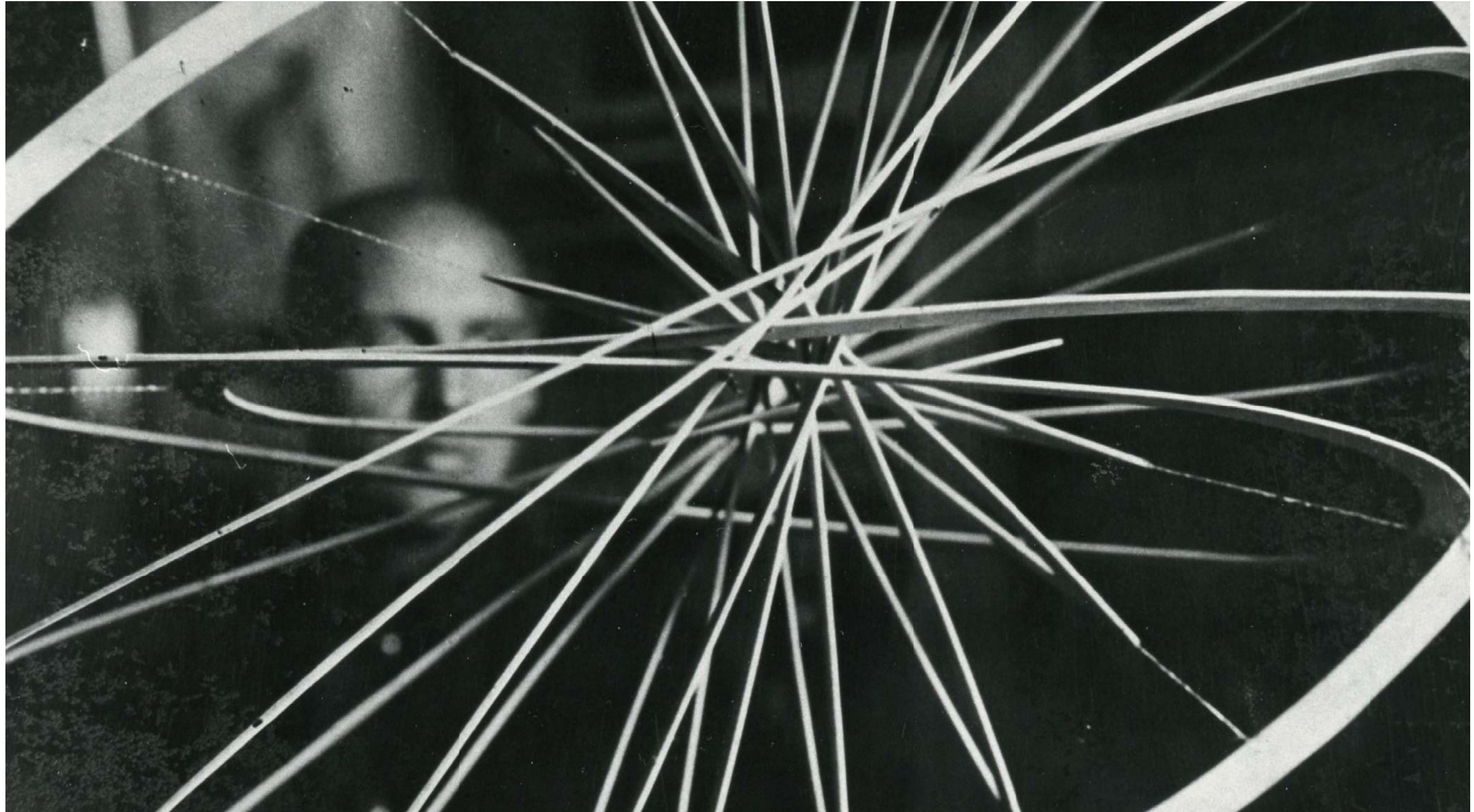


Dynamic sculpture appears in the early 20th century,
perhaps as a response to the machine age.

Bicycle Wheel, Marcel Duchamp (1913)



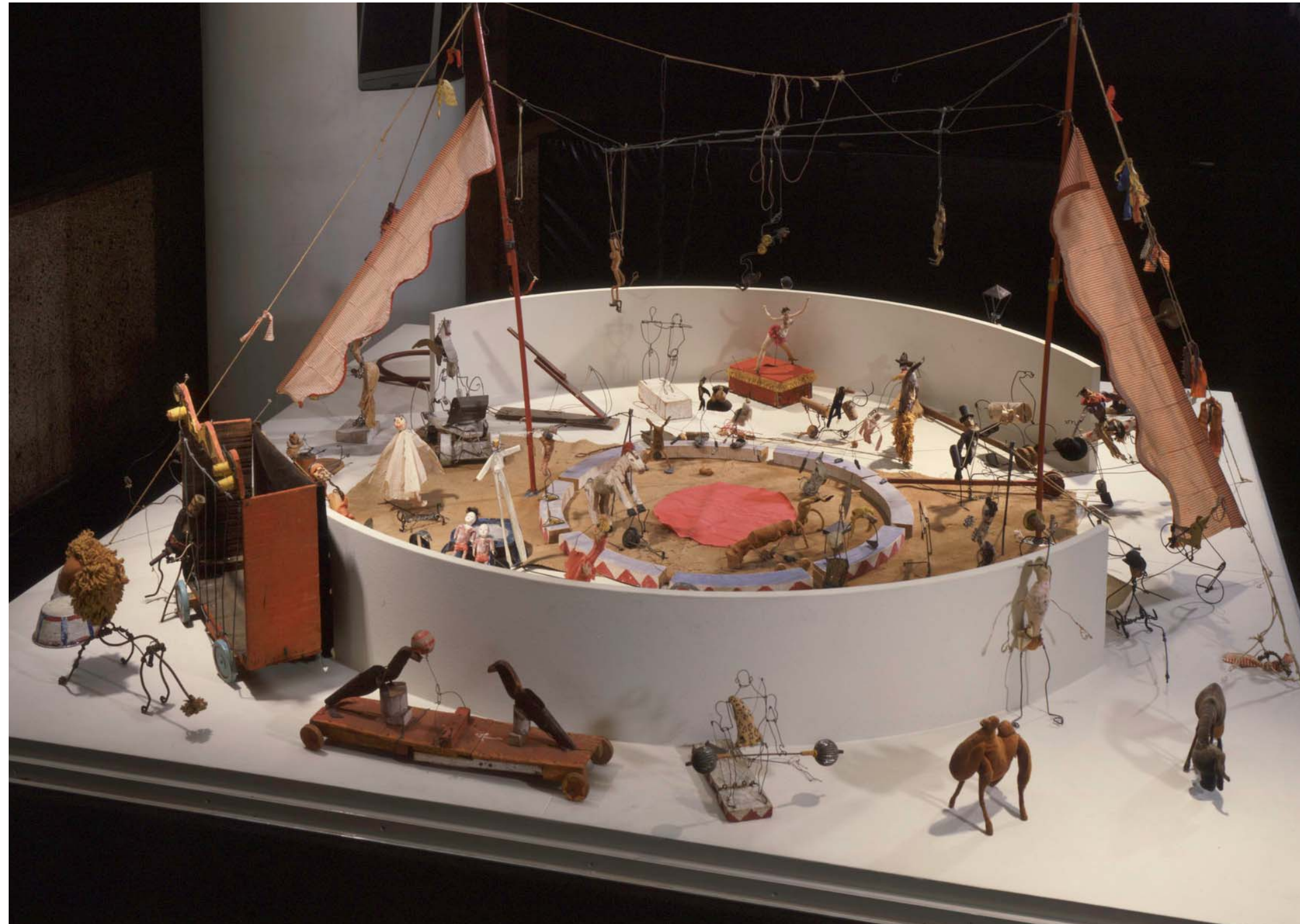
Ellipse (Oval Hanging Construction), Alexander Rodchenko (1921)



Rotary Glass Plates (Precision Optics), Marcel Duchamp (1920)



Calder's Circus, Alexander Calder (1928)



Double Arc and Sphere, Alexander Calder (1932)



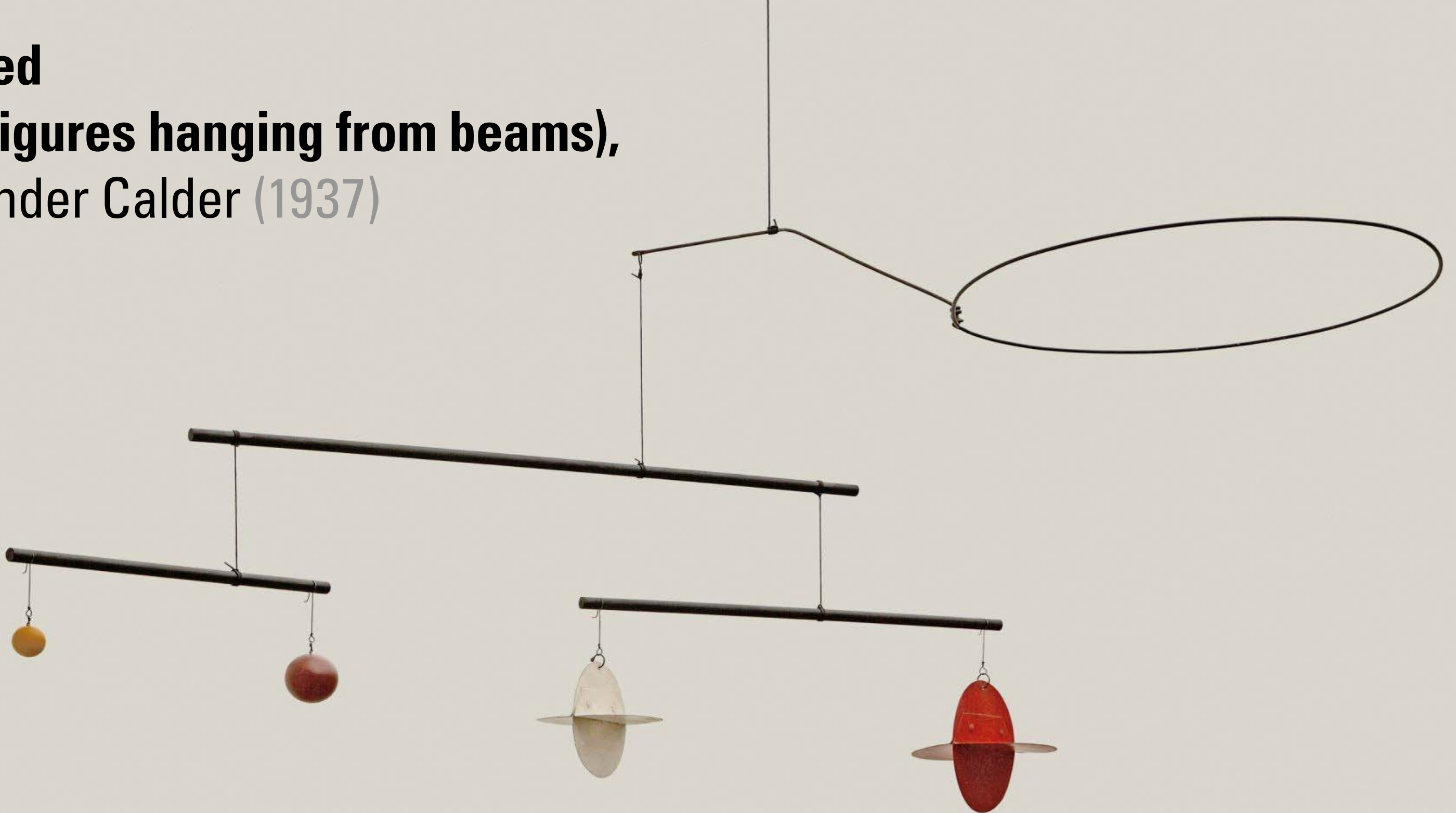
Machine Motorisée, Alexander Calder (1933)



Untitled (The McCausland Mobile), Alexander Calder (1937)



Untitled
(Five figures hanging from beams),
Alexander Calder (1937)



Untitled (Meta-mechanical Sculpture), Jean Tinguely (1954)



Ballet des Pauvres, Jean Tinguely (1961)



Three Quintains (Hello Girls), Alexander Calder (1964)



42nd Street Ballroom, George Rhoads (1983)



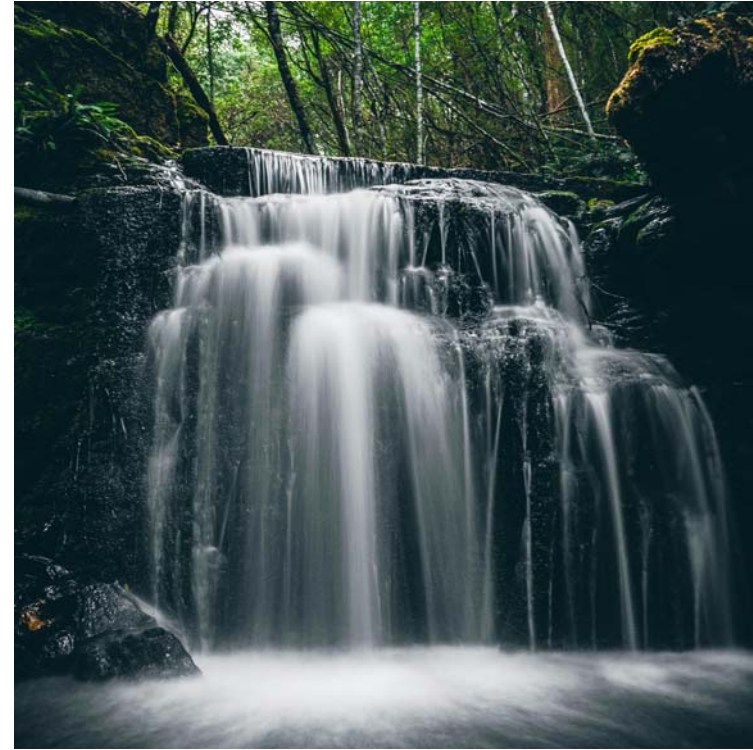
Moving Chandeliers (with lights), Jean Tinguely (circa 1983–1990)



Dynamic nature



Trees swaying



Water falling



Flowers opening



Shadows moving

Dynamic human artifacts



Fountain



Pennant



Flag



Wind dancer

Dynamic mechanical artifacts



Clock



Player piano



Maillardet's Automaton



Slot machine

Dynamic light and sound artifacts



Neon sign



Light tunnel



Wind chime



Sound sculpture

interactive

Optical automatic door, Horace Raymond + Sheldon Roby (1931)



Wilcox's Pier Restaurant in West Haven, Connecticut

Mat actuator automatic door, Dee Horton + Lew Hewitt (1954)



Power Flower, Masamichi Udagawa + Sigi Moeslinger (2002)



<https://www.antennadesign.com/work/environment/power-flower>

autonomous

Colloquy of Mobiles, Gordon Pask (1968)



Autonomous devices



Honeywell round thermostat



Roomba vacuum



Waymo vehicle

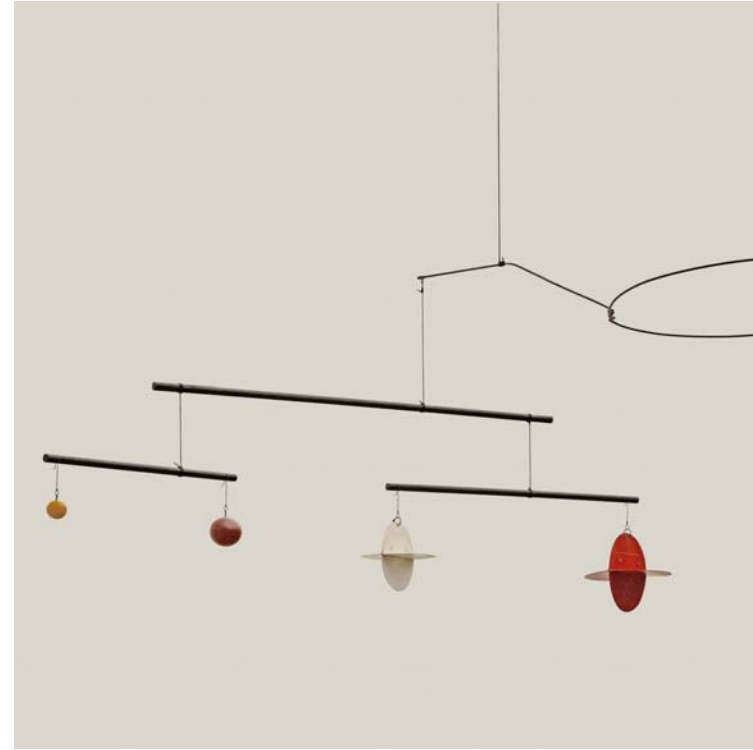


Boston Dynamics Atlas

In summary



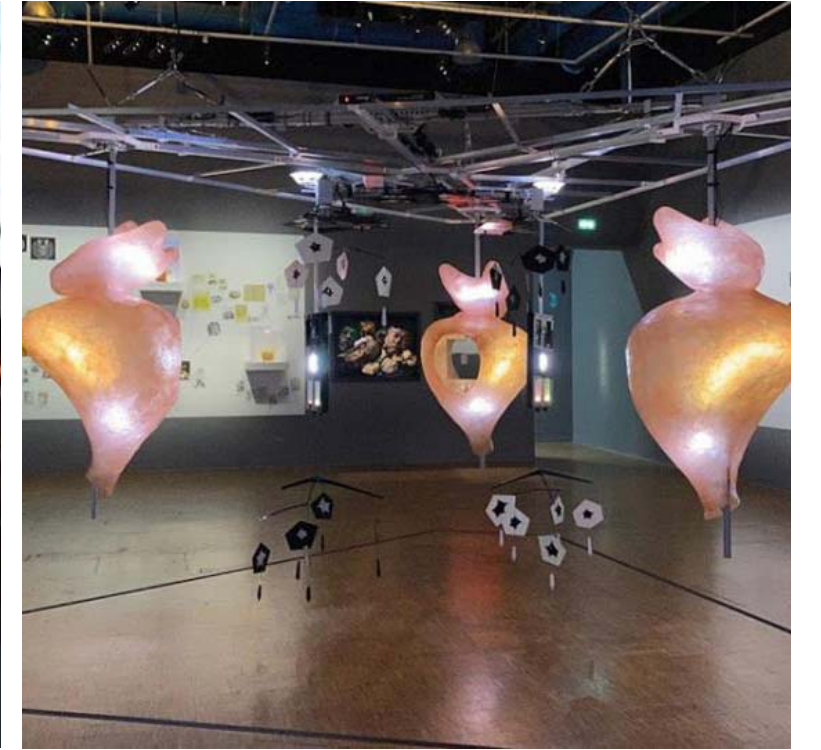
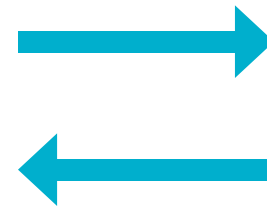
Static



Dynamic



Interactive



Autonomous

