Kinetic Art History

Giovanni Battista Bracelli.
Knife Grinders. 1624.
Representations of machine people occur from the 17th century onward.

Prelude
Changes in art in the 20th century

John Singer Sargent
*The Sitwell Family*, 1900

Rirkrit Tiravanija & Superflex
*Social Pudding*, 2003
Impressionism

A reaction against the canned academic styles, painting from real life, outside, not staged scenes.

Auguste Renoir
Le Moulin de la Galette
1876.

Vincent Van Gogh
The Night Café
1888

Gabon Mahongwe mask
Wood and pigments

Cubism

Pablo Picasso
Les Demoiselles d’Avignon
1907
Oil on canvas 96 x 92”
Futurism

Umberto Boccioni
The City Rises
1910
Oil on canvas

Giacomo Balla
Dynamism of a Dog on a Leash
1912
Oil on Canvas

Etienne Jules Marey
And Charles Fremont
Hitting Directly
1894
Gelatin silver print

Marcel Duchamp
The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even
(the Large Glass)
Original 1915-1923; replica by Marcel Duchamp and
Ulf Linde, 1961
Oil, lead, lead wire, foil, dust, and varnish on glass,
9'3" x 6'7/8"
Moderna Museet, Stockholm
After his initial researches, begun in 1912, Duchamp
worked on the Large Glass itself for nine years, from
shortly after his arrival in America in 1915 until he
abandoned it, unfinished, in 1923. It is probably the
largest single project in modern art and may also be
the most important.
DAVID SMITH
Cubi XIX
Steel
1964

David Smith
Tanktotem II
1952-1953
Steel and Bronze

Jackson Pollock
Lavender Mist Number I
1950
Oil, Enamel, and Aluminum paint on canvas
86 9/16” x 119”

Robert Rauschenberg
Odalisk
1955-58
Oil, watercolor, pencil, fabric, paper, photographs, metal, glass, electric light fixtures, dried grass, steel wool, necktie, on wood structure with four wheels, plus pillow and stuffed rooster.
Pop Art

Andy Warhol
200 Campbell's Soup Cans
1962
Oil on canvas
72 x 100”

Claes Oldenburg
Soft Toilet
1966: Vinyl, Plexiglas, and kapok
55” high x 28” wide x 33” deep.

Claes Oldenberg
Two Cheeseburgers with everything (Dual Hamburgers)
1962. Burlap soaked in plaster, painted with enamel
7 x 14 ¾” x 8 1/4”

Conceptual Art

Joseph Kosuth
One and Three Hammers (English Version)
1965
Hammer, photograph of a hammer, photostat of the definition of hammer
24 x 53 3/8”
Robert Irwin

Untitled. 1965-67
Sprayed acrylic lacquer on shaped aluminum
60 inches diameter

Donald Judd

Untitled (Yellow)
1974
Anodized Aluminum
Jacques de Vaucanson’s mechanical duck. Created in 1738, the duck was built to tour and perform to raise funds so that Vaucanson could work on creating artificial mechanical life. The copper duck quaked, bathed, drank water, ate grain, digested it, and produced droppings. Last seen at a Milan opera house in 1844, the duck current whereabouts, if indeed it still exists, remain a mystery.

These devices were great attraction in the 18th century, spectators came to see a perfect reproduction of life. It is interesting to note that although the spectators knew that these were mechanical devices, the mechanics were carefully hidden.

Vaucanson’s Automata 1738. The drummer, flute player, and duck.

The Capturing and abstraction of the body in motion

Etienne-Jules Marey. A scientist who did motion studies of human and animal subjects. His work was adopted by Taylor for studying the movements of workers to improve efficiency. Taylorism, as loved by workers as the Jacquard loom.

Marey’s Camera gun. the First motion picture camera. Below is the trace made by a bird while it is flying.
Marcel Duchamp
Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 4. 1917

Etienne Jules Marey and Charles Fremont
Hitting Directly
1894
Gelatin silver print

Naum Gabo
Kinetic Sculpture (standing wave). 1920. Metal rod with electric motor, 24.25 x 9.5 x 7.5".
Marcel Duchamp
Rotary Glass Plate
(Precision Optics). 1920
Motorized construction:
painted glass and metal, 3’11”
1/2” high x 3’4” wide x 6’1/2”
deep
Alexander Calder
Red Petals
Mobile made of metal

Rebecca Horn
Les Amants
1991
Two glass funnels, black ink, champagne, and motor, dimensions variable
Roxy Paine

Scumak is a computer-programmed machine that produces small, amorphous sculptures by extruding polyethylene at various speeds and frequencies. It is a depiction of a future in which machines would be able to mass-produce "unique" artworks, conveniently replacing artists.


TOP LEFT preliminary sketch
TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM, installation views
Angela Bulloch
Betaville
1994.

Sabrina Raaf
Translator II: Grower
2004-2006