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Moldan, Tessa. "Art Basel Lowdown: Shows to See." Ocula. June 6, 2019

To coincide with Art Basel 2019, which opens to the public from 13 to 16 June, galleries and institutions across the city are presenting a range of stellar exhibitions. From Rebecca Horn at Museum Tinguely to Geumhyung Jeong at Kunsthalle Basel, here is a selection of what to see.



Rebecca Horn, White Body Fan (1972). Courtesy Rebecca Horn Collection.

Rebecca Horn: Body Fantasies Museum Tinguely, Paul Sacher-Anlage 2, 4002 5 June–22 September 2019

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Presented in collaboration with the Centre Pompidou-Metz, Body Fantasies is the first extensive exhibition of work by Rebecca Horn in Switzerland for more than 30 years. In line with the legacy of kinetic artist Jean Tinguely, this exhibition spans four key themes—Flapping Wings, Circulating, Inscribing, and Touching—that consolidate the key developments of Horn's practice over nearly five decades. Born in 1944 in Michelstadt in Germany, Horn contracted a lung condition in 1968 that marked a significant turn to the bodily in her practice. Restricted from using certain sculptural materials as a result of this condition, softer elements found their way into her practice, resembling bandages or prostheses. In the performance piece White Body Fan (1972), for example, Horn reimagined early aviation fantasies by attaching white fabric, semi-circular wings to her body that flutter open with a raising of the arms.

The first group of works in this exhibition are derived from the performance, while later works take a mechanic turn, with movement remaining key. Since the 1980s, Horn's practice has primarily comprised kinetic machines and large-scale installations that are mechanically activated and contrast with the softer materials of her early works. In El Rio de la Luna (1992), for example, the exhibition space is consumed by sprawling lead pipes through which mercury is pumped into 'heart chambers'.