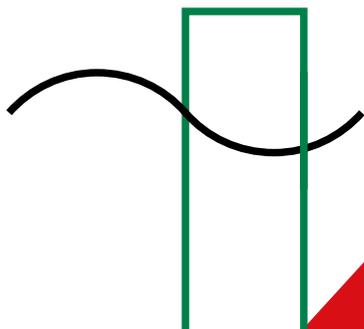


association

BASCHE

**SOUND**

STRUCTURES



[www.baschet.org](http://www.baschet.org)



The Baschet Sound Structures Association's mission is to **ensure the work of the Baschet brothers lives on.**

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Founded in 1982 by Bernard Baschet, the Association brings together teachers, artists, researchers, instrument makers and many other people interested in continuing the legacy of the two French brothers **throughout the world.**

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In close collaboration with the Baschet family, the Association continues the work started by Bernard and François Baschet in the 1950's: **to make sound art accessible to all.**

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There are three main poles of the Association's work:

- **EDUCATION:** active, social pedagogy in sound
- **CULTURE:** experimental sound creation
- **PRESERVATION:** of the Baschet brothers' legacy

## HISTORY

# The spirit of the Baschets' work

The Baschet brothers created striking **visual forms** which are determined by **sound**. Their work is also strongly inspired by the notion of the **social function of art, in particular the participation of the public**.

As pioneers, they did not hesitate to blend the visual arts, cinema, live performance, poetry, music, architecture, acoustics, social action, education and therapy: their motto was **"artists are also researchers"**.



**" My brother Bernard and myself are seeking to blend  
forms, sound and public participation "**  
François Baschet

## Bernard Baschet (1917-2015)

An meticulous worker, engineer, entrepreneur, philosopher and a research director of the pioneering "Musical Research Group" in the '60s, he was captivated by the potential of his brother's sound inventions and decided to devote himself to what would become their life's work.

## François Baschet (1920-2014)

Spontaneous and spirited, a cabaret artist, inventor, writer, sculptor, illustrator, acoustician and designer, he invented an inflatable guitar that accompanied him during his trip around the Pacific in 1952. This guitar and his collaboration with his brother sparked a new approach to music, visual arts and instrument-making.



### KEY FACTS:

- A **glass rod** used for the first time in a sound structure in 1955. This would lead to the development of the Cristal Baschet, and the foundation in 1956 **Lasry-Baschet Sound Structures** group,
- Several patents: **inflatable guitar**, sound amplifier and polytonal musical instruments,
- More than **500 unique pieces** created from 1952 to 2015,
- Around **twenty monument sculptures** between 1968 and 1988,
- A **hundred personal and collective exhibitions** from 1964,
- Creation of the "Instrumentarium Pédagogique Baschet" (**Baschet Educational Instrumentarium**) in 1980.

## EDUCATION

# The Baschet Educational Instrumentarium

Invented in the 1980's, the Baschet Educational Instrumentarium consists of 14 sound structures which make a "sound palette" of around 100 different tones.

Its purpose is to initiate children, adults and people with disabilities in collective musical discovery through games and experimentation, and without any previous musical knowledge.



**" We give children a palette of colours so that they can create freely.  
Why not do the same thing with sound? "**

**Bernard Baschet**

Based on the large, original Baschet sound structures, the Baschet Educational Instrumentarium creates a broad spectrum of sounds, including those not in the classical European repertoire, as well as some which resemble electroacoustic sounds.

Education in sound culture is stimulated through listening to sounds, to oneself and to others. The experience of sound is not only through listening, it is also through hands-on learning and musical improvisation.

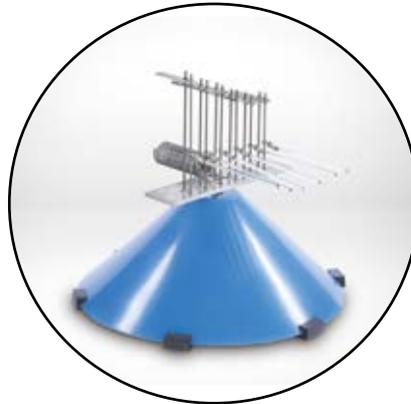
This Instrumentarium is also used in concert by musicians.



# What is the Baschet Educational Instrumentarium?



**The Three Crosses**



**The Cristal**



**The Double Spring**



**The Strings**



**The Whistler**



**The Arc**



# EDUCATION



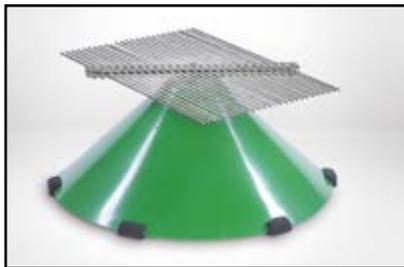
**The Stairs**



**The Star**



**The Curved Rods**



**The Grill**



**The Straight Rods**



**The Spring**



**The Disk**



**The Candlestick**

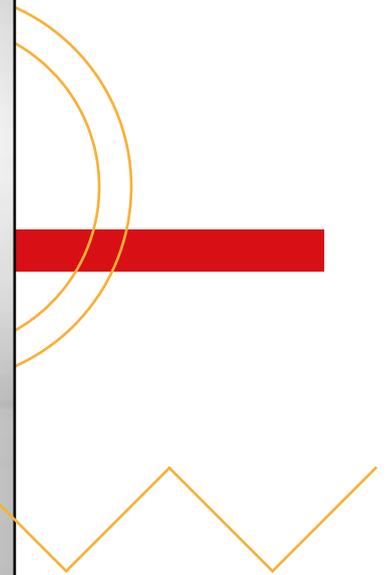
## CULTURE

# The Cristal Baschet

A type of musical instrument designed by the Baschet brothers in the 1950's, the Cristal Baschet is played with wet fingers on glass rods.

Its continuous, enchanting sounds have inspired many artists and composers.

The current Cristal Baschet models produce a variety of sounds and can also be used in percussion. They can be fitted with numerous resonators including "moustaches" and different types of diffusers: cones and metal sheets.



The Baschet Sound Structures Association possesses an exclusive licence to produce the Cristal Baschet.

# The Cristal Baschet

## Artists who have used the Cristal Baschet:

- ✓ Damon Albarn (Gorillaz)
- ✓ Florence Baschet
- ✓ François Bayle
- ✓ Nicolas Becker
- ✓ Thomas Bloch
- ✓ Catherine Brisset
- ✓ Matthieu Chedid (M)
- ✓ Jarvis Cocker (Pulp)
- ✓ Lindsay Cooper
- ✓ David Coulter (The Pogues)
- ✓ Xiaojie Cristau
- ✓ Daft Punk
- ✓ Michel Deneuve
- ✓ Manu Dibango
- ✓ Loïk Dury
- ✓ Luc Ferrari
- ✓ Beatriz Ferreyra
- ✓ Fred Frith
- ✓ Arthur H
- ✓ Karinn Helbert
- ✓ Jean-Michel Jarre
- ✓ Lokua Kanza
- ✓ Jacques et Yvonne Lasry
- ✓ Phil Minton
- ✓ Lenka Morávková
- ✓ Yael Naïm
- ✓ Vanessa Paradis
- ✓ Radiohead
- ✓ Michel Redolfi
- ✓ Guy Reibel
- ✓ Ryuichi Sakamoto
- ✓ Philippe Sarde
- ✓ Ravi Shankar
- ✓ Stuart Staples
- ✓ Roger Steptoe
- ✓ Cathy Tardieu
- ✓ Tom Waits
- ✓ Toru Takemitsu



## Films in which the Cristal Baschet has been used:

### **March of the Penguins**

Director : Luc Jacquet, Composer : Émilie Simon (documentary, 2004)

### **Solaris**

Director : Steven Soderbergh, Composer : Cliff Martinez (science-fiction, 2002)

### **Traffic**

Director : Steven Soderbergh, Composer : Cliff Martinez (police drama, 2000)

### **Testament of Orpheus**

Director : Jean Cocteau (fantasy, 1960)

# Other Baschet Sound Structures

The quest for new sounds led the Baschet brothers to combine new materials of the time, usually through folding metal sheets into geometric shapes.

Their sculptures range from small folded sheet metal of a few centimeters up to structures several meters high with loud, impressive and complex sounds.

Their exhibitions were shown in prestigious museums throughout the world - the United States, Japan, Germany - as well as in small villages in France, always with the aim of making art accessible to all.



## **The Rotating Whistler (“Le Sifflant Tournant”)**

Created in 1962, the Rotating Whistler produces the sharpest and longest sounds of all the Baschet Sound Structures. Turning the keyboard produces an unusual sound effect which does not need an amplifier cone.

## **The Polytonal Percussion (“La Percussion Polytimbre”)**

Created in 1967, this Polytonal Percussion includes large, straight rods that create deep, resonant sounds. The keyboard is organized with different percussive devices and cones diffuse the sound.



## **The Voice Leaf (“La Tôle à Voix”)**

Created in 1965 to mimic the Indian tempura, the metal sheets serve as resonators which transform the human voice when vibrated.



## **PRESERVATION**

# **From sculptures to monuments**

The Baschet brothers also created several public monuments such as clocks, fountains, bell towers and chimes - some ephemeral, some still in existence.

One of the first fountains created was made for the World's Fair in San Antonio, Texas in 1968. They made others in the early 1970's, including in Cologne, New York, Mexico City, London and Barcelona.

Subsequently, they worked on bell towers and clocks. The Baschet "signal sonore" (or school bell) of a school has just been restored in Saint-Michel-sur-Orge - the town where Bernard Baschet's studio has been since 1970 - was recently restored by the Association.



# Baschet Timeline: inventions, performances, exhibitions, films...

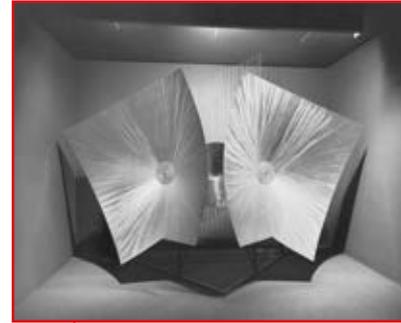
First Baschet instrument:  
the inflatable guitar



First exhibition: Paris Design  
Museum  
(Musée des arts décoratifs)



First exhibition abroad: Museum of  
Modern Art, New York



1952

1955

1957

1959

1963

1965

1966

1968



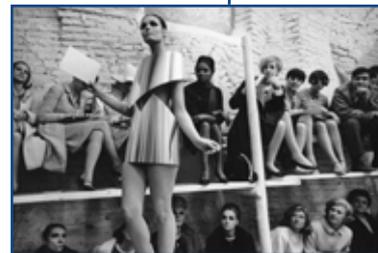
First Cristal Baschet

First film soundtrack:  
"Testament of Orpheus"

First outdoor mo-  
nument sculpture  
for the World's Fair  
in Texas, USA



First Lasry-Baschet concert



Creation of metal dresses for the film  
"Who are you, Polly Maggoo?"  
by William Klein

Creation of the Baschet Educational Instrumentarium Association

International Exposition,  
Osaka, Japan



Exhibition at  
the Palais de Tokyo (Paris)



1970

1982

2000

2015

2017



International retrospective at the  
Barbican Centre, London



Exhibition at the Paris Music  
Museum (Cité de la musique)

Centenary of the birth of Bernard  
Baschet at UNESCO. Exhibition  
in collaboration with the Week  
of Sound Association.

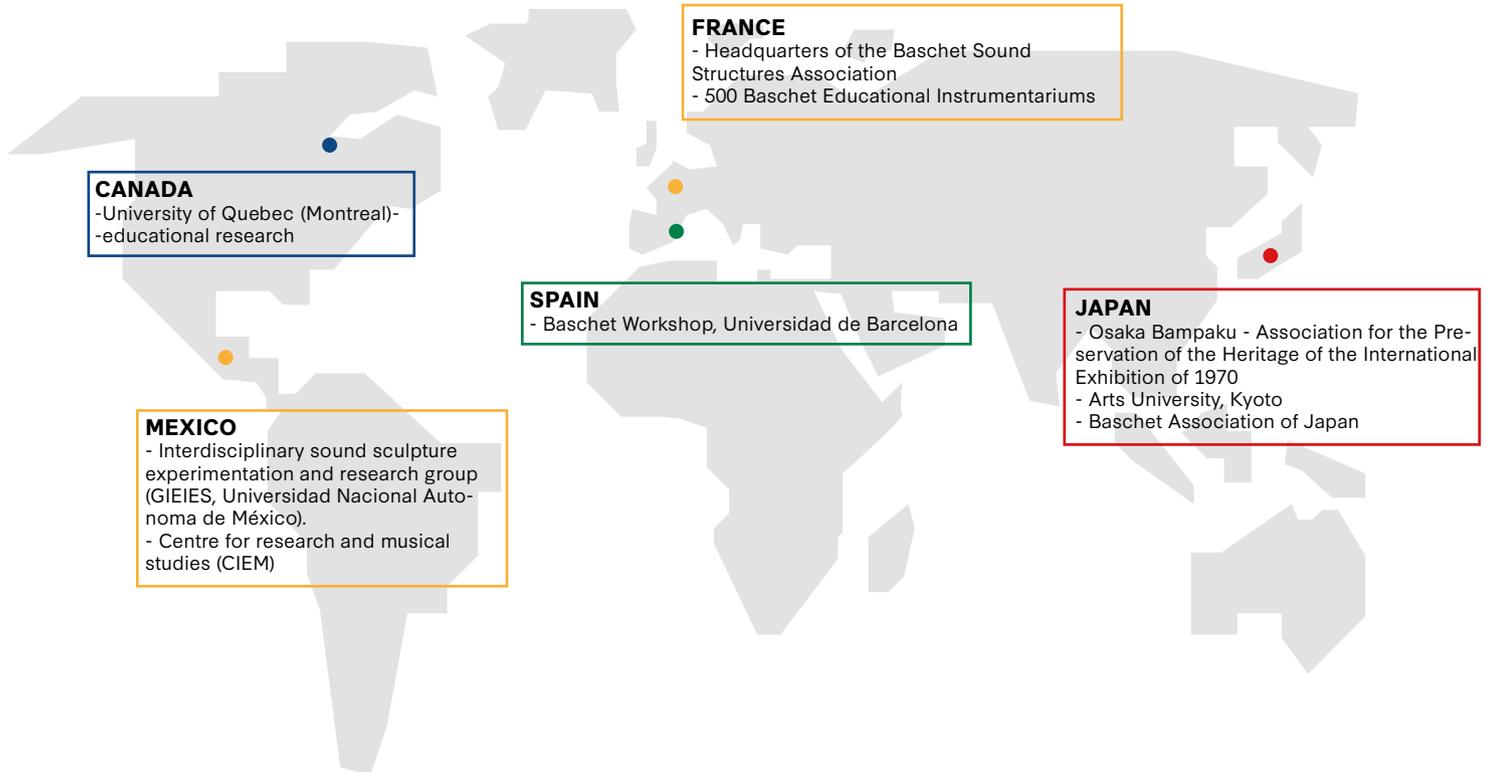
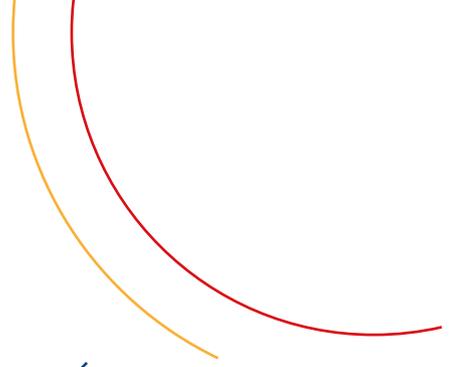
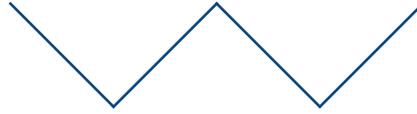
# Baschet around the world

## Countries with a Baschet Educational Instrumentarium:

- France
- Belgium
- Germany
- Austria
- Italy
- Spain
- Portugal
- United Kingdom
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Canada
- Mexico
- Japan

## Countries with Baschet pieces in a public art collection:

- France
- USA
- Canada
- Mexico
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Belgium
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Japan



The Baschet Sound Structures Association offers:

- ✓ artistic residences for composers, musicians, visual artists, dancers, instrument makers ...
  - ✓ scientific residences for researchers
  - ✓ Baschet Educational Instrumentarium training for educators
  - ✓ production and maintenance of Baschet Educational Instrumentariums
  - ✓ production and maintenance of Cristals Baschet, Voice Leaf, Rotating Whistlers, Polytonal Percussion
  - ✓ information about the Baschet story, the importance of the work in the history of art and scientific research ...
- in short, all our enthusiasm and knowledge about this legendary work!***



— direction@baschet.org  
— presidency@baschet.org  
— communication@baschet.org

The Baschet Sound Structures Association is a non-profit organisation, registered under the number 342 484 797 and domiciled at 17 rue des Fusillés de la Résistance, 91240, Saint-Michel-sur-Orge, FRANCE

The Association would like to thank the Baschet family, the Centre Culturel Baschet and the town of Saint-Michel-sur-Orge for their support.

## The Baschet Sound Structures Association is supported by:



## In partnership with:

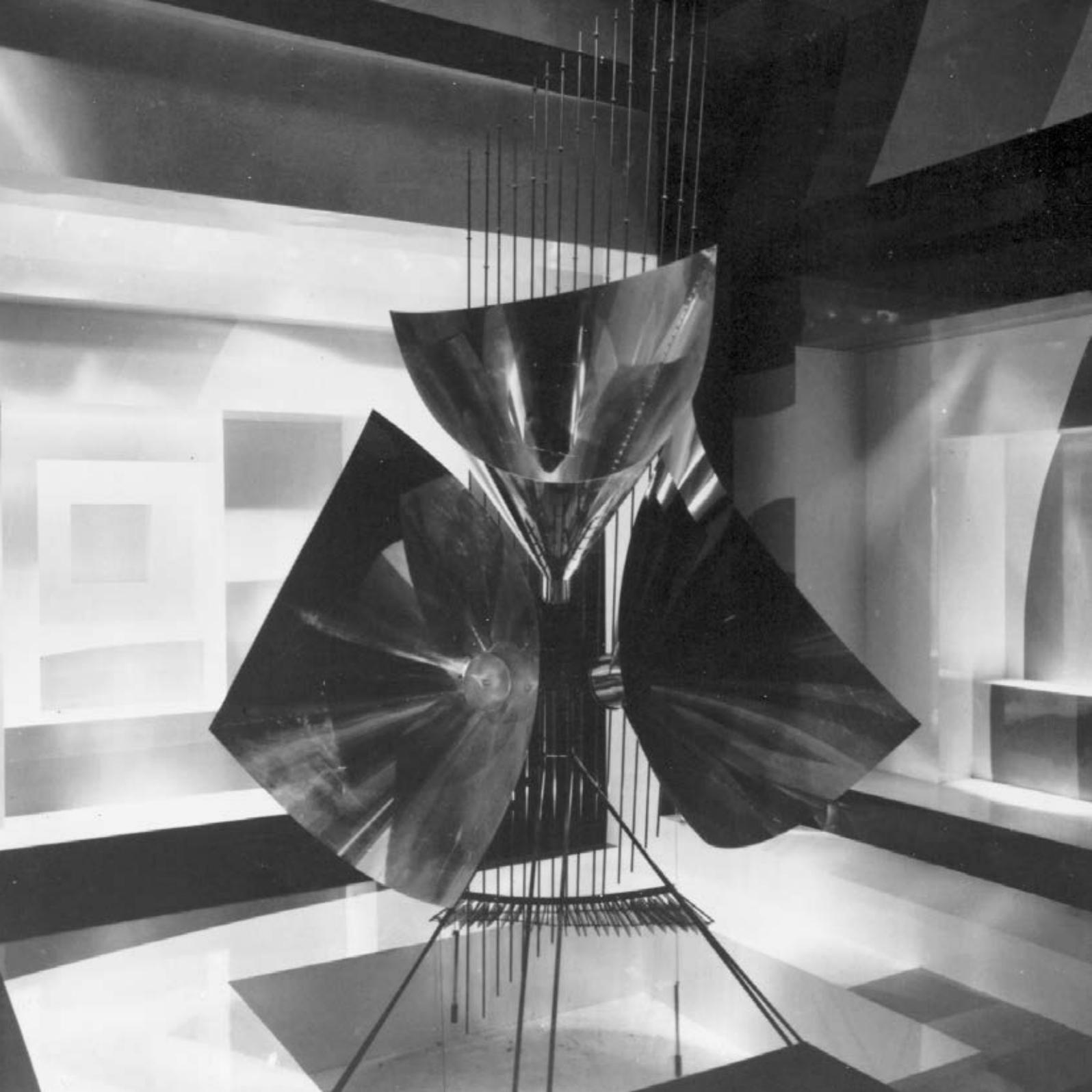


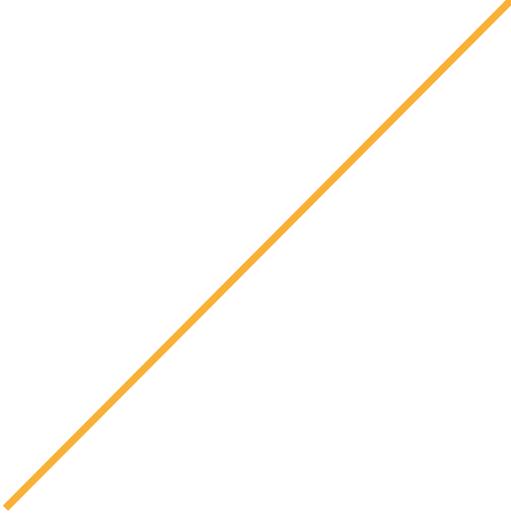
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**For more information: [www.baschet.org](http://www.baschet.org)**

