

Images extracted from the video documentation of the artwork.

## *A poetic laboratory in search of time*

**DATE** 2020

**MEDIUM** Electronics, motors, metronomes, sextant, fans, 3D printing, metal, leather, wood, feathers, fabric, glass, plastic

**AUTHOR & REALIZATION** Nicolas Guichard, Lab212

**SYNOPSIS** The machines of this lab reflect the stages of a poetic research. Each of them reinterpret an ancient technical tool linked to the human ambition to measure and control time.

**COMMISSIONED BY** Hermès

**WOOD WORK** Pierre Champenois

**METAL WORK** Erwan David

**FABRIC WORK** Caroline Commenoz

**HERMÈS TEAM** Grégoire Diehl, Manon Grinda, Léa Canfrère

**PHOTOS** BFA

**VIDEO** Pix'n'Grain

**VIDEO MUSIC** Simon Doury

21.02.2020

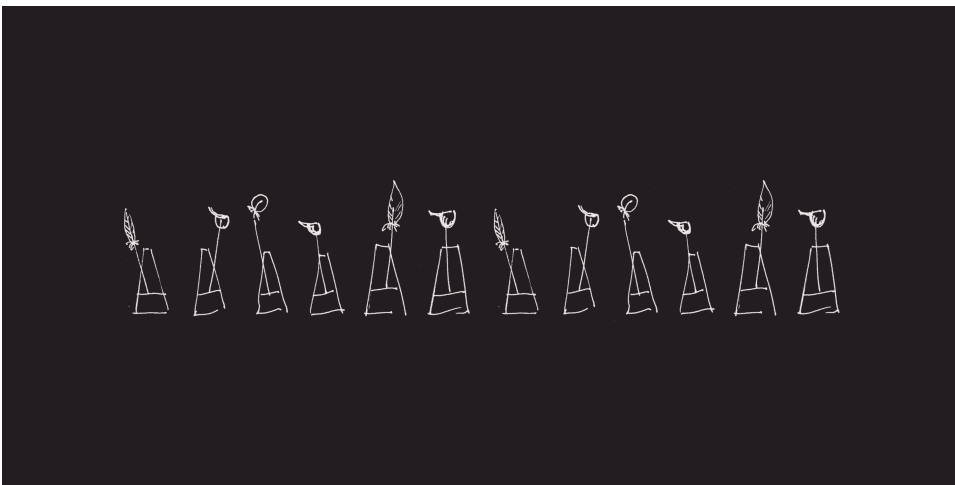
**REVIEW** *Art-filled evening for A-listers*  
Artnet News

18.02.2020

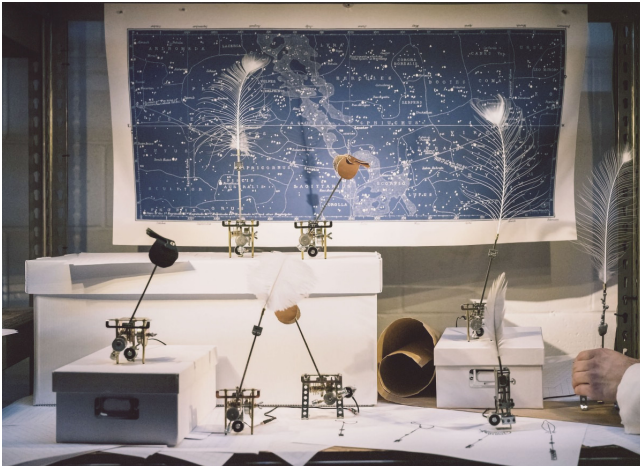
**REVIEW** *Hermès hosted a swinging fête*  
Vogue

13.02.2020

**EXHIBITION** *Heurêka, Innovation in the making*  
Hermès upcoming flagship store, New York, USA



Research sketches for the Metronome prototypes.



Métronomes machines with feathers, NY 2020.



Successive prototypes of the Astrolabe.



Wind tunnel machine with wood saddle sculpture, NY 2020.

The 16 machines of this lab reflect the stages of a poetic research. Each of them reinterprets an ancient technical tool linked to the human ambition to measure and control time.

The eight Metronome machines are inspired by the oscillating movement giving precise timing to musicians. The tangled ticks create an asynchronous rhythm, to remind the time that flees. A red button invites visitors to stop the movement, suspending this asynchronous rhythm for a moment.

The two Astrolabe machines reinterpret the function of an astral clock in an arrangement of off-center rods drawing a  $\infty$ -shaped movement, questioning the scale of time as we perceive it. On one of the astrolabe, a fan inflates a fabric, creating an astral sail with light variations.

The two Wind Tunnel machines are halfway between an hourglass and an aerodynamic test machine. A sphere seems to float in the middle of a swirl of white particles. The speed of the whirlpool is variable.

The Sextant machine metamorphoses the maritime navigation tool. Its function is reversed: from a passive reading and navigation tool, it becomes a mechanical projection tool. A beam of light comes out of the sighting scope and projects a moving light onto a concave disc.

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These machines were originally designed for a Hermès event in New York to evoke the innovation and creativity associated with a Hermès riding saddle. They were initially [displayed on workshop shelves, facing interactive swings.](#)