BASCHET BROTHERS

BERNARD BASCHET
b. Paris, 1917
FRANCOIS BASCHET
b. Paris, 1920

Cristal 1 octave
Stainless steel sheet 5/10, metal, glass rods

Cristal 4 octaves
Stainless steel, metal, glass rods

Sculpture Sonores:
Iron and stainless steel (percussion).
Mallets. Re-inforced cone speakers, cardboard

Bernard and Francois Baschet fall within a select group of artists including Harry Bertoia, Bill Fontana and Harry Partch, who have in some way combined sculpture and music. Early on, the brothers discovered a new way of folding steel and aluminium which meant amplification could be achieved by means of the conical winged shapes which became associated with their work recalling the pointed leaves of Japanese origami and the crests and triangles of Alex Calder. The Baschets’s breakthrough came with their exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1966, which led to a busy schedule including Expo ’70 in Tokyo. One of the brothers’ most well-known pieces is the Hemisfair Musical Fountain, which consists of an array of posts at the top of which are groups of conical sound diffusers, and above them circular of metal prongs which are played by jets of water aimed by observers.