

Our history -Our legacy

A Rhoads Ball Machine is handmade sculpture displaying balls rolling on rails through a series of diverging and converging tracks. These kinetic sculptures often produce sound as balls interact with mechanisms and resonating elements.

The sculptural style was pioneered by renowned artist George Rhoads in the early 1970's. The Rhoads sculptures continue to inspire awe in the hearts of people around the world.

Creative Machines is the authorized sole source for design, fabrication, modification and maintenance of Rhoads Ball Machine sculptures.

A Place Called Home

Ball Machines can be found in a myriad of places. From shopping malls to hospitals, these charming machines can enlighten any visitors day with their ingenious devices and energetic presence.

"I can't remember feeling joy for some time until the unexpected return of this wonderful artwork. I thought I was hearing things when coming up the escalator and when I saw it I burst into tears. Like seeing an old friend that you had lost contact with! Regards to George Rhoads for making this art and all of you for restoring it! THANK YOU! It always brightened up my day and I will sometimes go out of my way when traveling to see and hear it."



Ball Machine Benefits

Audience

Rhoads Machines draw crowds!
The sculptures delight people of all ages and backgrounds. People are pulled into the sculptures with their swooping tracks, ingenious devices, sound producing elements, and charming miniatures.

Customization

We work with clients to develop a theme that compliment their specific goals. Theming can be as simple as choosing a color palette or as complex as depicting a narrative with programmable electronics. We specialize in meaningful interactivity and cultivate new ways viewers can explore the sculptures.

Safety & Durability

We take all measures necessary to provide a wonderful experience, without worry of danger or injury. Our structures are engineered for their installation site. All moving parts are completely out of reach, and all electrical components are fully enclosed.

Reliability

These sculptures exhibit decades of compounded knowledge built into each sculpture. We invest in their longevity by incorporate the highest quality parts and materials. We take pride in their reliability and serviceability.









Pinpoint the Price!

LIMITED EDITION

Our Limited Editions measure 3' \times 5' \times 10". These can be wall mounted or stand upon a pedestal. Our current series of 50 pieces are offered in cool or warm tones.

typically between \$22,000 - 30,800 USD

MEDIUM

Medium sculptures often sit on a small base. These feel more three-dimensional than a Limited Edition and offer one or two complex devices or interactive components. 150 to 300 cubic feet.

typically between \$90,000 - \$190,000 USD

LARGE

Large sculptures feel grander in size and easily become the focal point in a space. Large machines contain a great variety of devices and complexity. 300 to 450 cubic feet.

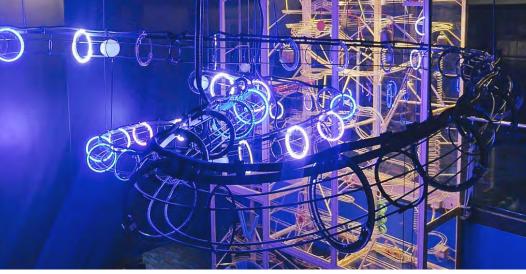
typically between \$190,000 to \$350,000 USD

MONUMENTAL

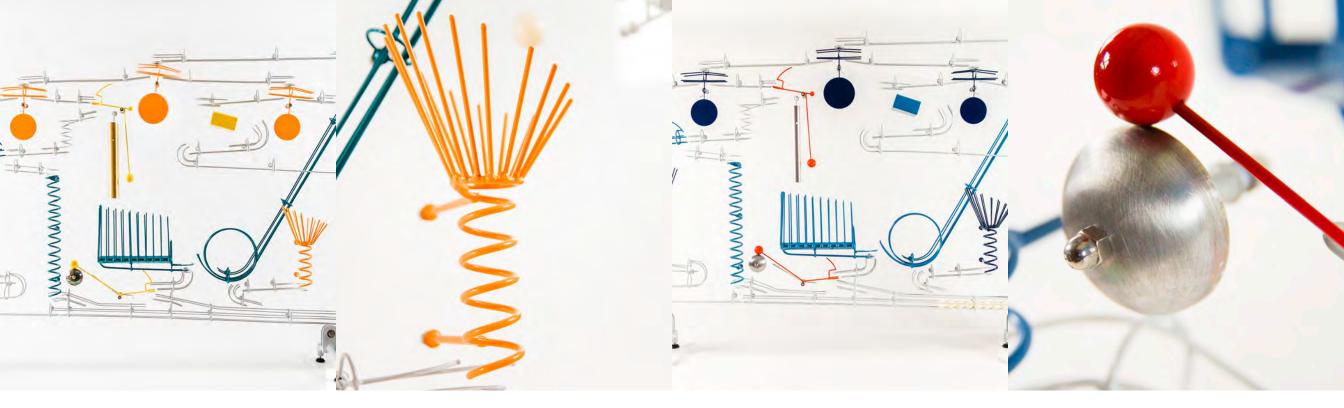
Our monumental sculptures have a paramount presence. They often feature elaborate overhead devices such as a giant moiré wheels or large spinning wheels. Larger than 450 cubic feet

typically between \$250,000 to \$700,000 USD











SUMMER & WINTER FANTASY

Limited Edition 5' L x 10"W x 3'H Available for Purchase The Limited Edition is a series of 100 ball machine sculptures. Each sculpture is numbered and features the signature of the artist, George Rhoads. The piece includes 3 randomizing pendulums, a steel bounce block, 2 hammer chime, a bounce & catch, and 2 bell hammers. The series is available in a warm or cool palette. Each sculpture measures 3' x 5' x 10" and can be wall mounted or built into an enclosure.





SYMPHONY OF THE SPHERES

Private Collection Naples, FL 9' L x 3' W x 6' H Medium Symphony of the Spheres is a whimsical sculpture that was created for a private collector in Naples, Florida. This sculpture features twenty devices arranged on three different tracks, covering the majority of the wall, creating a fun focal point in the living space. The rotating auger ball lifter was customized just specifically for this sculpture. A curvilinear frame and curved support structures track create an organic essence.





CATHEDRAL COASTER

American Memorial Hospital Reims, France 6.5' L x 2.5' w x 6.5' H Medium Cathedral Coaster is a medium sized rolling ball sculpture made specifically to delight young audiences at American Memorial Hospital in Reims, France. This ball machine celebrates the rich history of the region with a big and bright depiction of the famous Reims Cathedral integrated into the structure among many other whimsical elements such as representations of friendly animals. The sculpture has an array of fun devices such as hammer bells, loop-deloops, ball lifters, swinging-birds and spiral helixes.





DIN DON

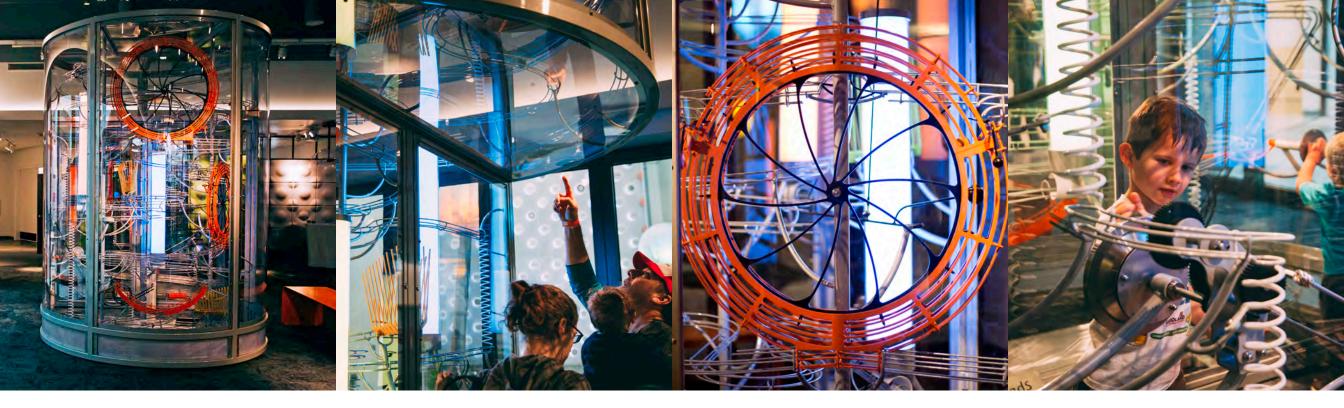
Umie Shopping Center Kobe, Japan 8' L x 8' W x 21' H Monumental Din Don was designed to be larger than life, reaching high up into the atrium at Umie in Kobe, Japan. It features billiard balls in the bottom section and hollow plastic balls that orbit overhead. It also features a constellation of moving shapes spinning at the top of the machine. People standing on the nearby balcony can experience unique views of the sculpture. The sculpture was installed near the main entrance to introduce guests, setting a tone of fun and playfulness.





DREAM ABOUT SHIRASAGI

Himeji Station Himeji, Japan 7' L x 7' W x 10' H Large Dream About Shirasagi is a poetic ball machine sculpture based on the fictional story of an egret (shirasagi) circling the sky, appearing to children in dreams and leading them to Himeji Castle. The ball machine behaves like a dream as the ball travels in randomly in unpredictable ways. The large wooden organ pipes play low resonate tones reminiscent of traditional Japanese instruments. Viewers are able to walk around the sculpture exploring the paths, discovering new details.





SOUND MACHINE

MOXI, Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation Santa Barbara, CA 12' H x 12' Dia Large Living up to its name, *Sound Machine* features a variety of sound producing elements to attract visitors' attention. This unique sculpture is composed of two sections that visitors can walk through giving them a similar view to what they would see if they were inside any other ball machine. *Sound Machine* also allows visitors to interact directly with the sculpture by manipulating the track at the turn of a knob or spinning a handwheel. This deeply engaging experience makes *Sound Machine* truly spectacular.





42ND STREET BALLROOM

Port Authority
Bus Terminal
New York, NY
8' L x 8' W x 8' H
Large

With its unique and ingenious devices, 42nd Street Ballroom was truly a prize of its time. In 1983, the ball machine was installed in the Port Authority Bus Terminal, welcoming viewers with its curious sounds and striking visuals. 42nd Street Ballroom features over 15 devices that range in function from producing bell and chime sounds to ensuring random movement of balls. Through its time at the Port Authority, 42nd Street Ballroom has become a well known attraction to visitors of the terminal and a classic example of Rhoads' artwork.





JOURNEY THROUGH STANFORD

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Palo Alto, CA 8' L x 6' W x 6'H Large Incrediball Journey through Stanford Campus is a new ball machine sculpture located at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. The balls travel through this custom machine and give viewers the opportunity to experience Stanford Campus in an entirely new way. As visitors watch, the ball travels along the track, passing many of the artistic, academic, historical and memorable places on the campus, re-imagined as small ball machine devices and models.





NEWTON'S DAYDREAM

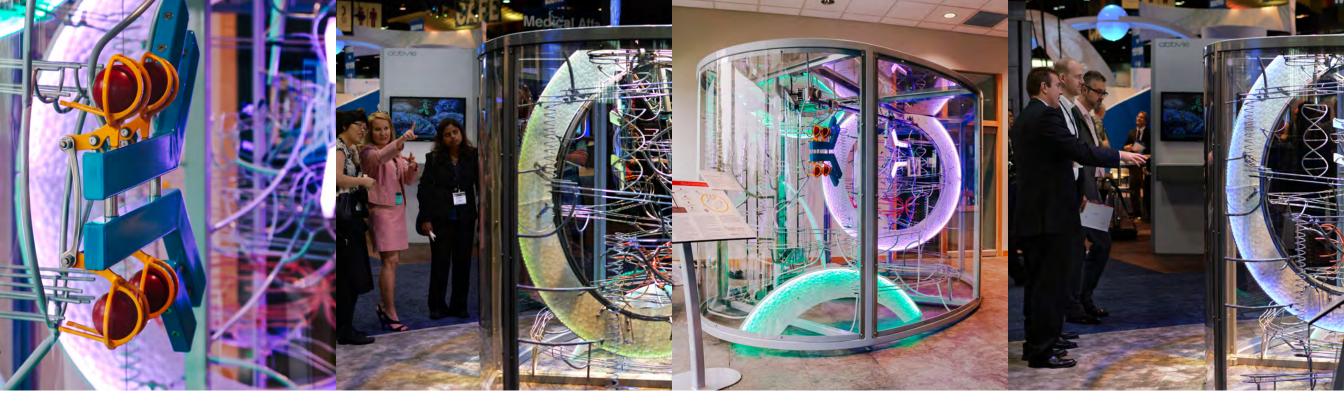
Clark Planetarium Salt Lake City, UT 30' L x 36' W x 36' H Monumental Newton's Daydream is a monumental sculpture that spans two stories in the Clark Planetarium's main lobby acting as a focal point for all visitors. 300 feet of track swirl across the ceiling around seven illuminated planet-like spheres. An integrated new lighting feature creates a "comet" lighting effect in which rings of LED lights wrap around the track. As the ball moves the rings will light up matching the ball's motion and creating a dynamic glow of moving light across the ceiling.





LE REVE DE NEWTON

PASS Museum Frameries, Belgium 8' L x 2' W x 10' H Large Le Reve de Newton is a visual exploration of the concept of energy. This compelling ball machine sculpture sits at the entrance of the museum's latest exhibition, Energy, the New Dreams and welcomes visitors into the space. The exhibition creates the opportunity to explore the world of energy asking people to investigate the science hidden within our everyday lives and dream of new ways to consume, experience and share energy. The balls, track, and devices in Le Reve de Newton are dynamic examples of how energy is conserved, transferred, and transformed.





ADCETRIS

Seattle Genetics Bothell, WA 12' L x 8' W x 6' H Large Adcetris is a unique ball machine that primarily focuses on the visual narration of a sequential story. Compared to other ball machines that contain a more loose narrative, Adcetris is meant to display a specific process showing how a certain type of medication works inside the human body. This ball machine was an attention-getting way to attract doctors to the company's booth to learn about the journey of the ADC through the bloodstream, its binding with a cell-surface receptor, and how it enters the cell to attack the cancer.

FAQs

How long does it take to build a Rhoads Ball Machine?

It can take 4 months to 13 months to design, build and install a sculpture. This depends on the size, complexity, electronics, and installation site.

How much noise does a Rhoads Ball Machine produce?

The sculptures have traditionally made noise as a means of attracting and communicating a tone. George Rhoads developed the machines as audio-producing sculptures. We do, however, create sculptures for silent spaces by eliminating sound-producing elements and using rubber balls.

Can a Rhoads Ball Machines be interactive?

Yes! We make a variety of interactive devices that allow viewers to trigger mechanisms and chain reactions.

How many Rhoads Ball Machines have been made?

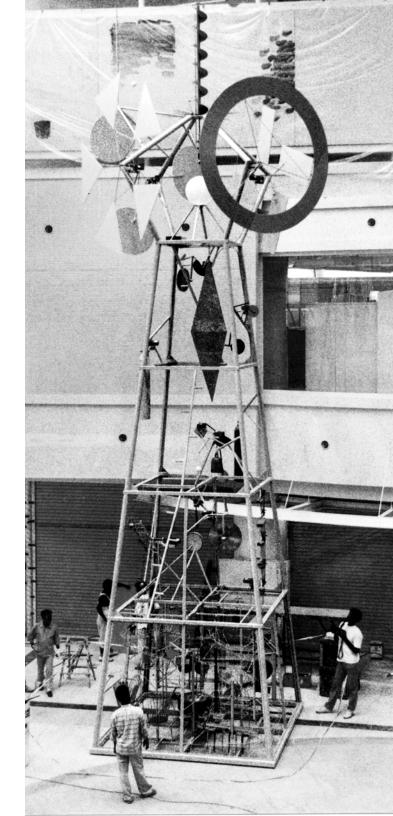
There are now over 260 Ball Machines around the world!

What is the level of George Rhoads' involvement with production?

George Rhoads has retired from producing sculptures. Though we still communicate with him regarding upcoming projects, he is no longer involved in the day to day development of the sculptures. We continue to utilize his hand-drawn illustrations and catalog of devices to design and build new sculptures.

Is every Rhoads Ball Machine unique?

Yes! With exception of the Limited Editions, every single sculpture is unique. Many devices have been developed through the years and have been duplicated, but each sculptures, as a whole, is one of a kind.



Warranty

Warranty

Creative Machines warrants to the art owner that the sculpture will be free of defects in design, workmanship, and materials for the period of one year. CM will repair the sculpture and/or replace defective parts at its own expense within a reasonable period of time.

Warranty Compliance Requirements

The following acts are considered voids of the previously described one-year warranty:

- 1. Modifications by owner to the sculpture after installation.
- 2. Performance of maintenance that does not comply with the standard maintenance procedures as outlined in the manual, without first consulting CM.
- 3. Performance of maintenance work, other than general cleaning, as outlined in the manual, by an individual or entity that was not trained by CM.
- 4. Damage due to vandalism or acts of God.

Creative Machines encourages the owner to provide a maintenance person at the time of installation to be trained to troubleshoot malfunctions, perform adjustments, clean tracks and devices, and, when necessary, to replace parts. If the owner cannot provide a staff member, a local maintenance person can be trained to trouble shoot and fix the minor problems. CM can provide an experienced technician upon request to service the sculpture or train staff members. CM bills the cost of travel, labor, and replacement parts.

Limitations of Liability

Creative Machines shall not be responsible for repair or replacement due to ordinary wear, failure to follow maintenance manual instructions, graffiti, or negligence by employees, agents or invitees of the owner. Creative Machines will not reimburse owner for money spent to fix the sculpture unless consulted first. This includes money spent on parts or hiring technical help without recommendations or approval.

Because of the unique hand-crafted nature of the sculptures, occasional malfunctions are a normal occurrence. The following items are not considered a failure of the sculpture and are not covered under warranty:

- 1. Balls occasionally falling from tracks. 2-5 balls per week is typical for period of 70 hours.
- 2. Balls that temporarily stop on the tracks, but eventually move on.
- 3. Accumulation of dust or dirt on the sculpture
- 4. Occasional jamming of a moving device within the sculpture. Minor malfunctions may occur once a month.

Beyond Warranty

Beyond the initial one year warranty, CM charges a fee for replacement parts. Items such as balls, motors, bearings, and even entire devices can be order directly from CM. After the one year warranty period, or after the occurrence of damage due to vandalism or acts of God, CM will supply replacement parts at market price, plus 15% overhead fee, plus shipping. We encourage the client to replace standard parts using the provided product descriptions and details.

Lifetime Customer Care Service

Creative Machines has a strong interest in the longevity of Ball Machine Sculptures. CM provides free technical help during the life of every sculpture, providing free assistance and troubleshooting via phone or email.

Please keep in mind that all Ball Machine Sculptures require regular maintenance by the owner for optimal performance. Please adhere to all maintenance procedures.

Creative Machines strongly encourages the Client to provide an appointed staff member, to serve in the conservation of the piece through the life of the sculpture. Ideally, this person would be present during the installation of the sculpture and would perform the specified cleaning of tracks, devices, and balls. This staff member would serve as a direct contact when/if necessary to troubleshoot malfunctions and perform adjustments. In the case that the Client cannot provide a staff member, CM recommends locating a local maintenance person whom can service the sculpture when necessary.

Extended Premium Service

Extended maintenance service is available upon request. Creative Machines can schedule maintenance services by a highly trained technician. This ensures that cleaning, adjustments, and repairs are made properly. CM bills for the cost of travel, labor, and replacement parts. The schedule for travel is based on availability. The scope of work is based on the state of the sculpture and must be defined prior to travel.

