

1. The Circus by Ron Fuller (1984)

There are many acts performing in this circus. The strong lady is lifting weights and the lion tamer is being careful not to get his head bitten off whilst the tightrope dancer moves along her wire above them all.

2. The Peacock by Keith Newstead (1990)

The Peacock displays its beautiful feathers. The exquisite head movement really brings the bird to life.

3. The Large Green Jungle by Peter Markey (1982)

Peter Markey is an artist who likes to use household or decorating paint for his work, he says the effect is just as good as using special artist paints which were very expensive for him when he started out as an artist. Peter also likes to use the shape of the wood, for example in this piece you will see that the hunter does not have a carved face - Peter relies on the paint to bring the character to life.

4. The Big Wave Machine by Peter Markey (1983)

This is one of the first pieces Peter Markey made for Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. Peter's father was a fisherman, and Peter spent many hours of his childhood watching out to sea to glimpse his father's boat coming safely home.

5. The Dead Sea by Keith Newstead (1992)

This piece was made by Keith Newstead to the winning automata design from a TV competition, the winning entry was drawn by a boy of only 12 years old. The skeleton fish are a great addition to the Dead Sea where nothing can live.

6. Mermaid and Wave Machine by Peter Markey (1989)

This wave machine was designed by Peter Markey for an exhibition called The Ride of Life. This is why the couple are on a sofa. The 'Ride' was to have been installed in a shopping centre in England and would have featured the work of 20 artists. In the end it was never completed.

7. Matchstick Nibbler by Paul Spooner (2006)

Originally designed by Paul Spooner in 1982, the man nibbles away at his tasty snack of matches (sometimes known as 'lucifers') as he eats, two devil-like horns appear from the top of his head by means of the bellows action. When the cranking stops the horns slowly recede back into his head.

8. Hopping Jackal by Paul Spooner (1991)

This is one of Australia's Topsy Turvy Creatures - he is jumping over the 'Ashes' which cricketing fans will recognise as the honoured prize

that the English try and win from the Australians (and sometimes succeed).

9. Lion Tamer by Ron Fuller (1992)

Ron Fuller loved the style of the old Victorian circuses which used to tour around England. They usually had lots of animals, the most popular was the Lion Tamer, the painting on the side of this piece is taken from an old circus poster which featured the famous 'Abbyssinian Lions'.

10. The Falmouth Jungle by Peter Markey (1981)

This Jungle is a classic piece from the original window display of Cabaret Mechanical Theatre in Falmouth, Cornwall.

11. Beastie by Michael Howard (1989)

This piece was a model for a much larger set of six 'Beasties' which were to be part of the never completed 'Ride of Life'. The giant beasties were going to scare visitors, but their bright colours make them less menacing.

12. Fish by Matt Smith (1988)

This piece is a wonderful example of the rack and pinion mechanism, which means that the fish can turn through four different angles whilst the handle keeps turning in the same direction - you can see the rack move across and back.

13. Before Goldilocks by Peter Markey (1987)

This is a scene from the popular fairy story about the little girl 'Goldilocks' who visited the bear's house soon after they had gone out to leave their porridge to cool.

14. Artist by Peter Markey (1992)

This is often thought to be a portrait of the artist, however it is not as Peter Markey has ginger (red) hair and no beard!

15. Fish Tank in the Sky by Keith Newstead (1993)

Keith and family have always kept cats, and although it is sad when they pass away, Keith likes to think of them as having a good time in their next life, with an endless supply of fish.

16. Red Dragon by Peter Markey (1995)

This piece demonstrates the clever use of cams which make the dragons head open and close, and the flames from his mouth move from side to side. The tail goes up and down.

17. Tap Dancing Man by Peter Markey (1983)

Peter Markey created this piece to celebrate the opening of the first Cabaret Mechanical Theatre in Falmouth Cornwall, England in 1983.

18. Interplanetary Gears by Patrick Bond (2007)

A flying saucer orbits the globe. The gears are made from parts of a bicycle. The globe is made from welded steel beaten into shape.

19. Banana Boat by Kazu Harada (2006)

The monkey rows along in his banana boat. Kazu developed this piece while working in Cornwall with automata maker Matt Smith. Kazu (from Japan) decided to use the colours of the Cornish flag for the oars.

20. The Power of Love by Kazu Harada (2007)

This muscle man demonstrates the power of love by lifting hearts instead of weights. The simple action is achieved by an offset cam.

21. Grooving at the Upholsterers by Lucy Casson (2007)

Lucy Casson's figures in 'Grooving at the Upholsterer's' are a charming troop dressed in fabric off cuts. The framework is made from an old piece of furniture and the metal is from a variety of colourful tins.

22. Wiggling Figure by Paul Spooner (1984)

Paul Spooner's early piece has a very finely carved and painted face, and the ingenious mechanism in the torso creates a lifelike movement.

23. Skiing Dog by Keith Newstead (1994)

This dog is looking very cool in his shades as he makes his way down the slopes. There is a lot of movement generated from one simple crank slider mechanism.

24. Spaghetti Eater by Paul Spooner (1989)

The original and the best, and the only way to eat spaghetti - tomato sauce comes from one tap, parmesan cheese from the other. The swallowing action is achieved by use of the irregular cam in the mechanism.

25. Camel Simulator by Paul Spooner (1992)

This piece features Paul Spooner's favourite character, the Jackal-headed Egyptian God, Anubis. It is sometimes called 'the Cowboy Undertaker' – the unreliable embalmer who has to make a quick getaway. The text reads:-

"Sadly, undertaking is perceived by ordinary folk as an unwholesome and nasty business. Even in Ancient Egypt it was necessary to entice young employees into the trade by the promise of extra privileges. Compared with the donkeys and asses then in general use, this handsome camel was the latest in high-class transportation."

26. Head off Anubis by Paul Spooner (1987)

Anubis, God of the dead in Ancient Egypt is unmasked by Paul Spooner in Head Off Anubis. He too is mummified beneath his impressive jackal mask. The ratchet mechanism is used to great effect in the snappy return motion.

27. Poisoned Milk by Paul Spooner (1994)

The cat laps at the milk and after a few turns of the handle suddenly collapses, he soon recovers and gets to his feet only to repeat the same mistake time after time.

The milk is actually being pushed up from underneath, which in turn makes the tongue appear to lap.

28. Geisha by Pierre Mayer (2006)

The Geisha performs a magic trick where the ball moves mysteriously from under a cup to her shoulder.

29. Sand Toy by Ron Fuller (2005)

Ron Fullers traditional Sand Toy features a man dancing. The mechanism is powered by sand which is viewable from the back of the exhibit.

30. Drinking Tea by Lucy Casson (1986)

This woman is relaxing and drinking her cup of tea. This one of the first pieces of automata made by Lucy Casson using recycled tin.

31. Brassy Dragon by Keith Newstead (2007)

The Brassy Dragon flies through the skies. The central bends in the crankshaft of the piece gives a wonderful flying movement.

32. The Piano Player by Peter Markey (1998)

The Piano Player happily plays away at his keyboard. The clearly visible cam shaft running through his body operates his fast moving fingers.

33. The Barecats by Paul Spooner (1985)

An anagram of 'Cabaret' the Barecat's started out as a drawing by Paul Spooner. The little cat kicks his legs whilst the big cat winds the handle and pretends to be disinterested. The little cat then points at the sky, the big cat looks where the little cat points swivelling his eyes and tilting his head. Who is controlling who?

34. Tippoo's Tiger by Paul Spooner (1985)

Tippoo's Tiger is a famous antique automaton at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. This is Paul Spooner's version. The Tiger has eaten Tippoo, and all that remains is his umbrella.

35. The Equestrienne by Ron Fuller (1986)

This piece was made by Ron Fuller who has been very inspired by the Circus as a subject. The colourful horse rider makes impressive leaps, and balances on horseback.

36. Kissing Couple by Peter Markey (1995)

This piece shows the clever use of cams which make the two heads move together and then apart with one rotation of the handle.

37. The Spanish Skipping Frame by Paul Spooner (1992)

Paul Spooner's sad character skips over a rope. This piece uses a spring as a pulley which keeps him jumping over and over.

38. How to Be Foreign by Paul Spooner (1986)

This piece shows a man eating spaghetti sitting at a checked table cloth. It is designed for the Englishman who wants to be more continental.

39. The Royal Wave by John Lumbus (2006)

The Queen of England is waving to her royal subjects. The mechanism has a ratchet so that she moves her head to see everyone.

40. Gambolling Dog by Matt Smith (1994)

This little dog sometimes affectionately called 'Frolicking in Gay Abandon' is one of a series of Dog pieces which Matt designed in the early days of CMT.