CONTRAPTION

REDISCOVERING CALIFORNIA JEWISH ARTISTS
Contraption: Rediscovering California Jewish Artists is a group show that presents the work of sixteen California-identified artists of Jewish descent—both historical and living—whose work refers to the machine either literally or metaphorically. Some of the artists are rarely seen now. Among the living artists, there will be large-scale mechanical installations by Bernie Lubell and Sheri Simons, as well as ceramics, drawings, sculpture and paintings by Ned Kahn, Bella Feldman, Howard Fried, and Annabeth Rosen. This original exhibition was co-curated by Chief Curator Renny Pritikin and Mark Dean Johnson, Professor of Art at SFSU.

https://www.thecjm.org/current_exhibitions
SHERI SIMONS
(b. 1954)
Born in Detroit, MI, moved to California in 1985

Based in Chico in Northern California for the past two decades, Sheri Simons’ sculptural practice includes large format, sometimes kinetic, works of art in wood. Her current installation is inspired by the phonograph—a machine developed during the 1850s by Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville—that created a graphic representation of the human voice. In 2008, scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory used a computer to convert the 1860 phonograph notations on paper back into sound to hear twenty seconds of the inventor’s rendition of Au Clair de la Lune, the oldest recording of the human voice.