



Rube Goldberg

Title

Perpetual Motion Machine

Medium

Pen and ink on paper

Date

1938-1950

Dimensions

15 5/8 × 14 3/8 in. (39.7 × 36.5 cm)

Accession number

82.16.286

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Credit Line

Gift of Jane Collette Wilcox, 1982

Web Description

In the early decades of the 20th century, Rube Goldberg, a former engineer-turned illustrator, created cartoons filled with complicated, convoluted contraptions designed to perform simple tasks. His Perpetual Motion Machine - An Invention is a prime example of the comic illustrations that earned Goldberg the title of "greatest engineering cartoonist." He also worked as a sports cartoonist for the San Francisco Chronicle and the New York Evening Mail. In 1939 Goldberg created political cartoons and comic strips for the New York Sun. In 1948 he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his work.