

Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

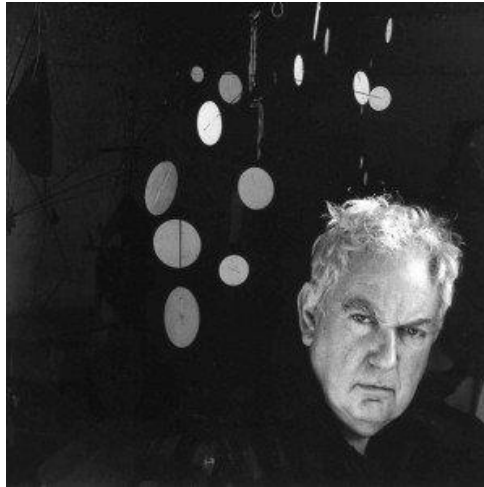
Spotlight on CAM's Collection

Alexander Calder

About the Artist:

“To an engineer, good enough means perfect. With an artist, there's no such thing as perfect.”

Alexander Calder (1898 – 1976) was an American sculptor who is best known for his innovative mobiles (kinetic sculptures powered by motors or air currents) and his monumental public sculptures. Calder's mobiles are sometimes several feet long and were carefully balanced constructions of metal plates, wires and rods. As a child, Calder enjoyed making these things from old dishes and pieces of wire. He also loved to make contraptions from his collections of scrap and recycled items. Although primarily known for his sculpture, Calder also created paintings and prints, miniatures, theater set design, jewelry design, tapestries and rugs, and political posters.



ART AT HOME – Standing Mobile

What You Will Need:

- Styrofoam block
- Craft wire or pipe cleaners
- Construction paper, tin foil, stickers, etc.
- Glue or tape
- Scissors

Have fun experimenting with the shape of your wire and how you place your decorative pieces on it! You can make adjustments to your design as you go.

- Step 1 – Cut your craft wire to the lengths you want.
- Step 2 – Stick the wire into the block. Bend the wires into wiggly shapes, different angles, or leave them straight.
- Step 3 – Cut your paper and tin foil into different fun shapes. Glue and tape these shapes onto the wire.
- Step 4 – Continue to add or take away wires and shapes until you are happy with the final product.
- Step 5 – Help clean up your work area.

Tips:

- Make sure your wire is pushed deep enough into the Styrofoam so that it stays upright.
- You can cut your paper into all kinds of shapes – you can have a theme with the shapes (flowers, flags, geometric shapes, etc.) or mix it up!

Questions to ask one another:

- What does your sculpture look like to you? What title will you give your work?
- Place your mobile near an open window or on a secure surface outside. Does your artwork move in the wind? How does that change how your work looks to you?
- What was your favorite art of making your mobile?

Follow Up Project Idea:

- Hang your Styrofoam block on the ceiling to create a hanging mobile! Make sure to reinforce your wire and shapes so that they don't come loose when they are upside down.

