



Alexander Calder - Radical Inventor

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- More than 100 works and comparative illustrations will guide the reader through this innovative and unique path

Alexander Calder (1898-1976) was a radical inventor: an artist who discarded convention and disrupted hierarchies, overturning the traditional basis of culture while revolutionising the way people perceive and interact with art. Calder's 'new line' was not simply an evolution of forms and styles. From the start, it was quite clear to all who witnessed him at work that – in his way of drawing attention and gaining notoriety – he was doing something radically new. This catalogue shows how Calder's work emerged from expectations of change in American popular culture. Calder, who was initially attracted by the structure and functions of the circus, looked for alternative models to triumph over respectability, public decorum, and the ambitions of industry. The catalogue, with twelve essays from major contributors, will examine how Calder, among the first college-trained artists, found techniques and inspiration in many disciplines and their development: technology, engineering, architecture, physics, and astronomy, among others. All these contributed to the development of his wire sculptures, mobiles, and stabiles. More than 100 works and comparative illustrations will guide the reader through this innovative and unique path.

Anne Grace is the curator of *Radical Inventor: A Retrospective of Alexander Calder* and Curator of Exhibitions and Education at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. In her former role as Curator of Modern Art at the MMFA, she co-organised numerous exhibitions, most recently *From Van Gogh to Kandinsky: Impressionism to Expressionism 1900-1914* (2014). **Elizabeth Hutton Turner** is Professor of Modern Art at the University of Virginia, former Senior Curator of the Phillips Collection, and a renowned scholar of Calder's work. She was also a consultant for the Calder Museum Project in Philadelphia and project director, author, and editor for several exhibition catalogues of Calder's work. **W. Bernard Carlson** is a professor in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society and in the History Department at the University of Virginia. **Linda Dalrymple Henderson** is David Bruton, Jr. Centennial Professor in Art History, Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Regents' Outstanding Teaching Professor, Department of Art and Art History, University of Texas at Austin. **Pascal Jacob** is a circus arts historian and teacher, and the artistic director of Cirque Phénix and the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain. **Abigail Mack** is an independent conservator and advisor to the Calder Foundation. **Vanja Malloy** is Curator of American Art at the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College. **Eleonora Nagy** is Conservator of Three-Dimensional Works of Art at the Whitney Museum of American Art. **Arnauld Pierre** is Professor of Art History at the Université de Paris (Sorbonne IV). He is the author of the monograph *Calder. Mouvement et réalité* (2009). **Claire Raymond** is lecturer for the program in Art History at the University of Virginia. **Emily C. Reed** is a Ph.D. candidate in History of Art and Architecture at the University of Virginia. **Alex J. Taylor** is a historian of modern art and visual culture.