

Alexander Calder
(American, 1898–1976)
Snowflakes and Red Stop, 1964

Painted sheet metal, metal rods, and steel wire
The Leonard and Ruth Horwich Family Loan,
EL1995.14



Alexander Calder
(American, 1898–1976)
Blue Among Yellow and Red, 1963

Painted sheet metal and steel wire
The Leonard and Ruth Horwich Family Loan,
EL1995.12



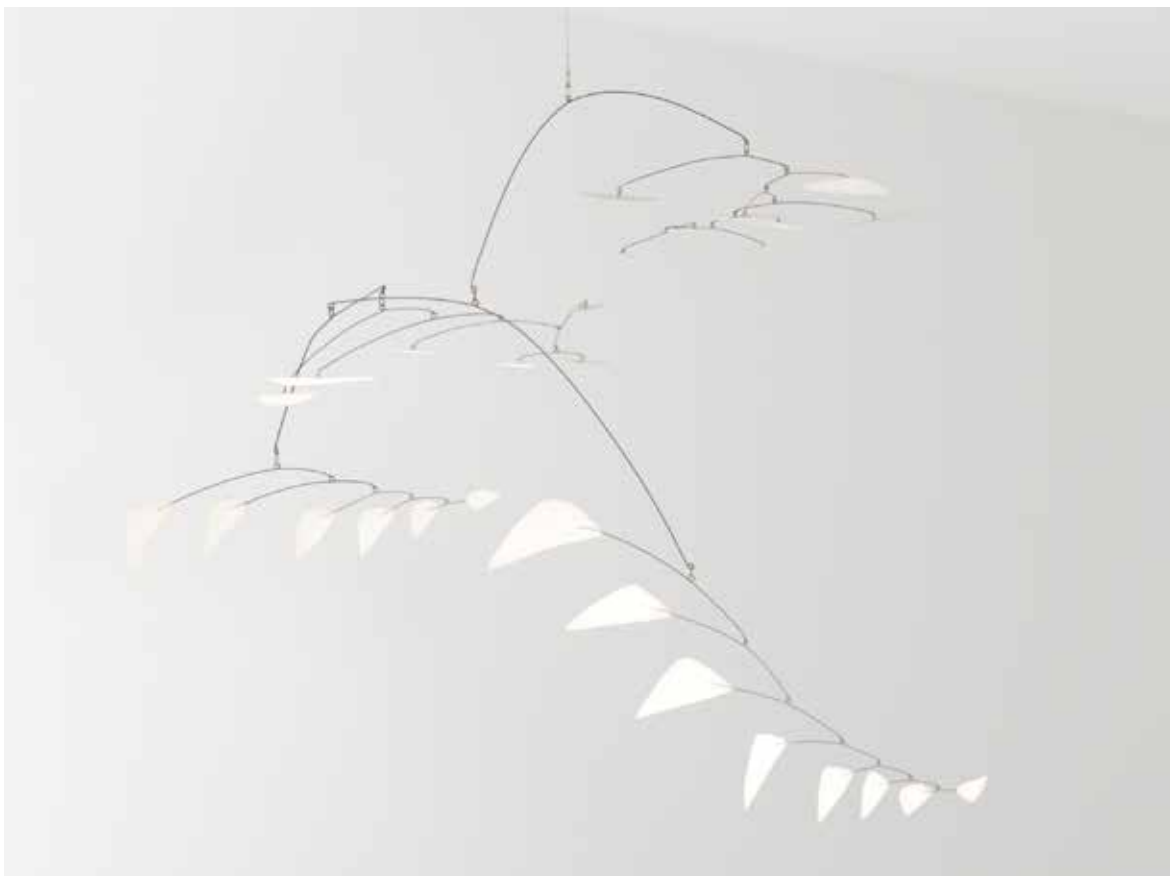
Alexander Calder

(American, 1898–1976)

The Ghost (maquette), 1964

Painted sheet metal, metal rods, and steel wire
The Leonard and Ruth Horwich Family Loan,
EL1995.13

The word *maquette* (scale model) in the title of this work suggests that Calder had a larger version of this composition in mind. He often made smaller versions of sculptures that would later be enlarged, especially late in his career when his success and notoriety led to large public commissions. A version of *The Ghost* that spans thirty-four feet was also created in 1964, demonstrating Calder's ability to work in both small and large scale.



Alexander Calder

(American, 1898–1976)

A Detached Person, 1944/68

Bronze

The Leonard and Ruth Horwich Family Loan,
EL1995.5

While many sculptors begin their careers using traditional materials such as bronze or plaster, Calder only turned to these mediums midcareer. The same shortage of sheet metal during World War II that prompted Calder to use salvaged and recycled materials in works such as *Little Face* also led him to create a little-known group of bronze works that were first cast in 1944. The traditional method of creating a plaster model, which is turned over to foundry workers who cast the actual sculpture, ran counter to Calder's "hands-on" sensibility, although his preferred imagery—animals and abstracted natural forms—prevailed.



Alexander Calder
(American, 1898–1976)
Untitled, c. 1944

Steel and wire

Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago,
gift of Mary and Earle Ludgin Collection,
1983.108



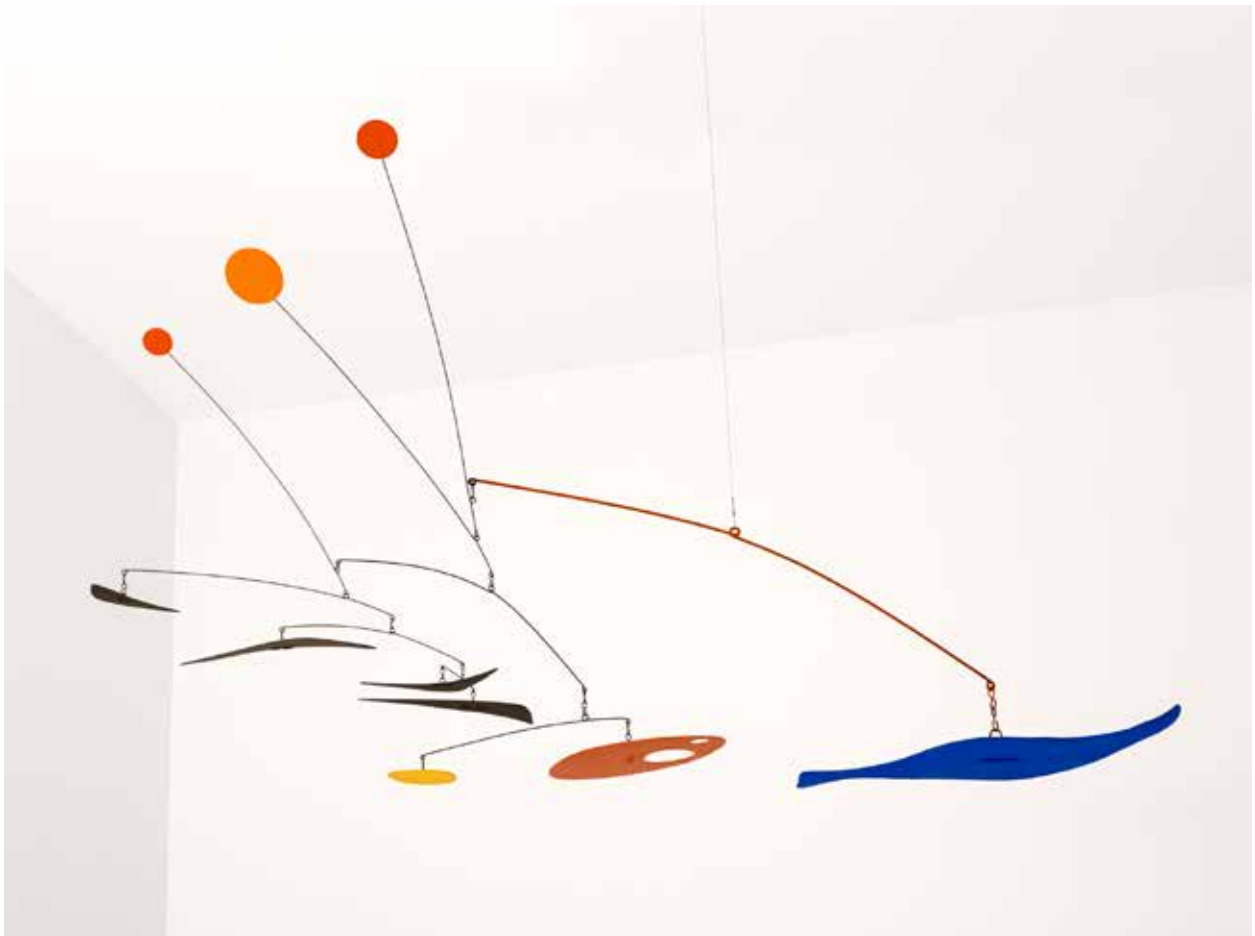
Alexander Calder

(American, 1898–1976)

Four Boomerangs, c. 1949

Painted sheet metal and steel wire

Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago,
gift of Ruth Horwich, 1991.92



Alexander Calder

(American, 1898–1976)

Cascade, 1963

Painted metal

Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago,
bequest of Ruth S. Nath, 1998.7

While it was artist Marcel Duchamp (French, 1887–1968) who dubbed Calder’s floating wire-and-sheet-metal creations “mobiles,” another of his Parisian compatriots, the abstract artist Jean Arp (German-French, 1887–1966) invented the term “stable” to describe his static sculptures. This work falls in between those two descriptions, as it has a fixed base but a moving top, and is perhaps less colorfully called by Calder scholars a “standing mobile.”



Alexander Calder

(American, 1898–1976)

Chat-Mobile (Cat Mobile), 1966

Painted sheet metal and steel wire

The Leonard and Ruth Horwich Family Loan,
EL1995.10

Calder was always fascinated by animals—his first published book was *Animal Sketching* (1926). In it, he observed, “there is always a feeling of perpetual motion about animals”—a statement that provides insight into his longstanding and varied use of animal forms. Pertinent to this piece, he also wrote: “Cats, incidentally, make splendid models.”

