

Alexander Calder

1898-1976

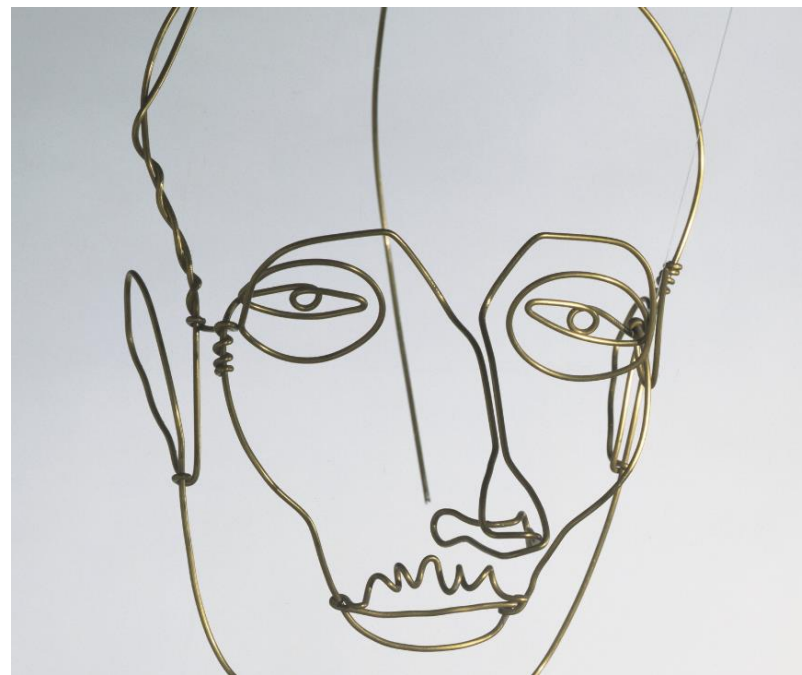
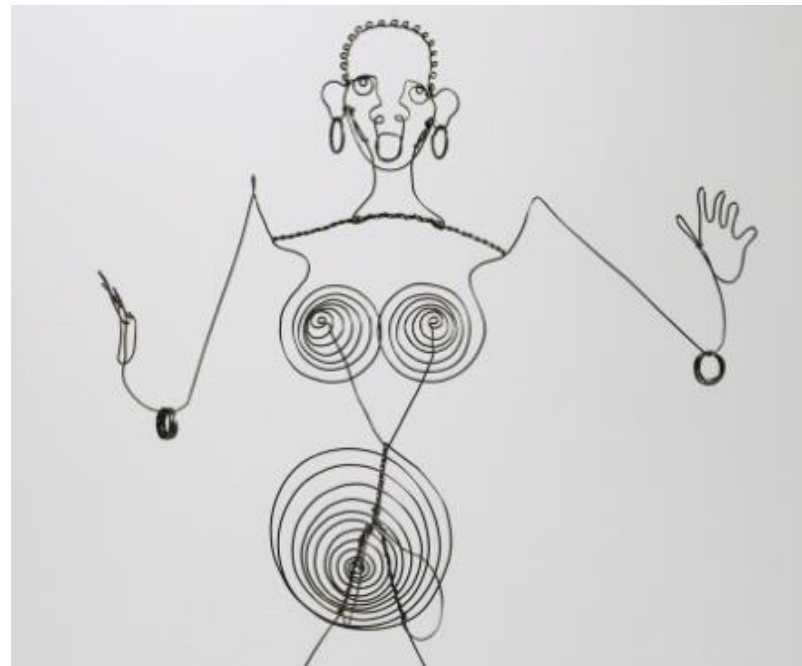
- Kinetic Art – generally 3D pieces which move in some way, naturally via wind, etc. or mechanically
- Abstraction-Création - a loose art group formed in 1931 by Auguste Herbin and Georges Vantongerloo, closely connected to British modernist group of the time, and focused on severe styles like constructivism, neo-plasticism, and concrete art.
- Sculpture





- Educated as an engineer
- While working as a fireman on a ship, he witnessed a full moon and sunrise on either side of the deck, which made a lasting impression which he would reference throughout his career
- Shortly after, he started working as an artist full-time
- Moved to New York in 1923
- When doing work for a circus, Calder became inspired to create his first assemblative performance art- Cirque Calder, which was performed on and off for much of his career
- Further inspired by explorations with Cirque Calder and wire, he began making wire sculpture portraits of friends and public figures

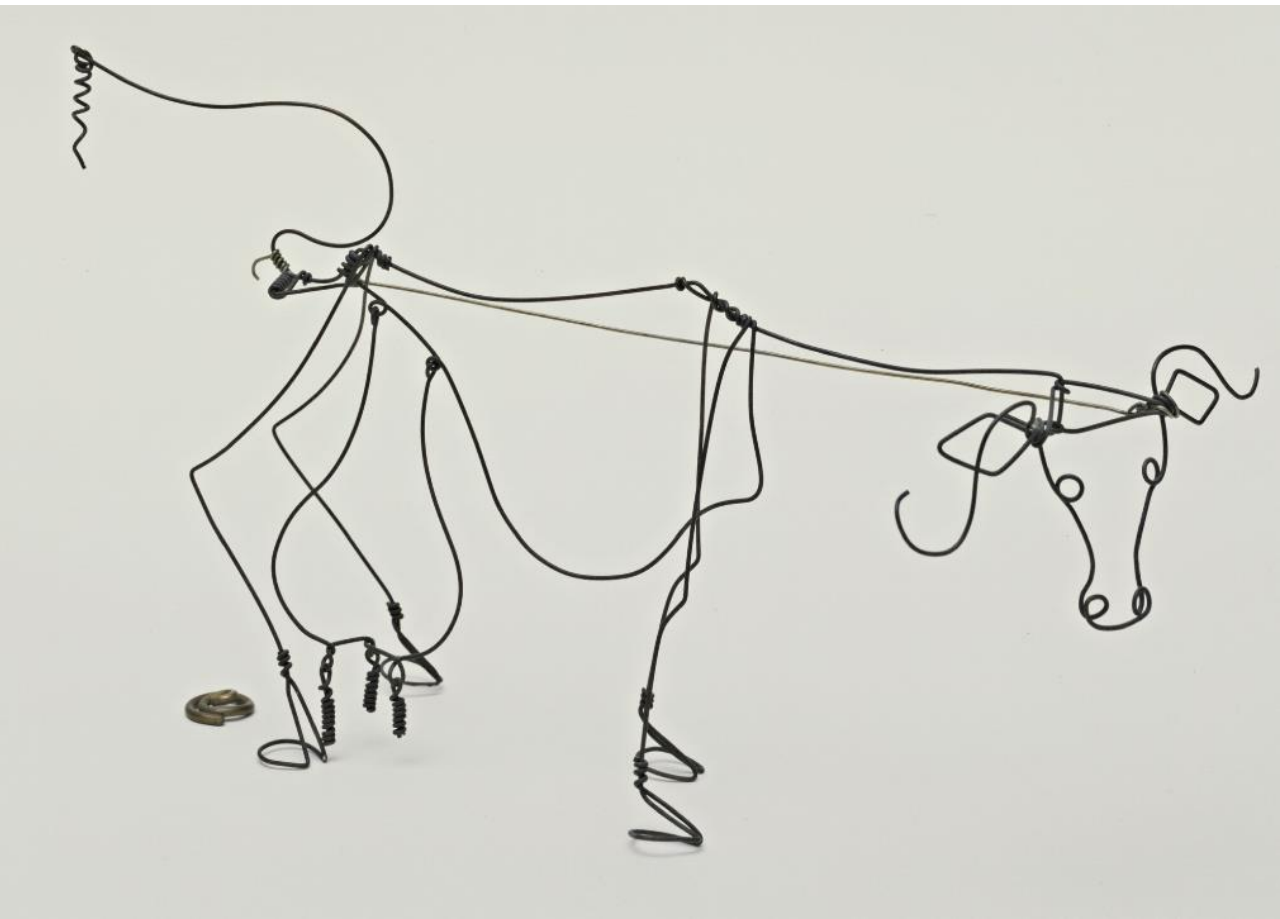




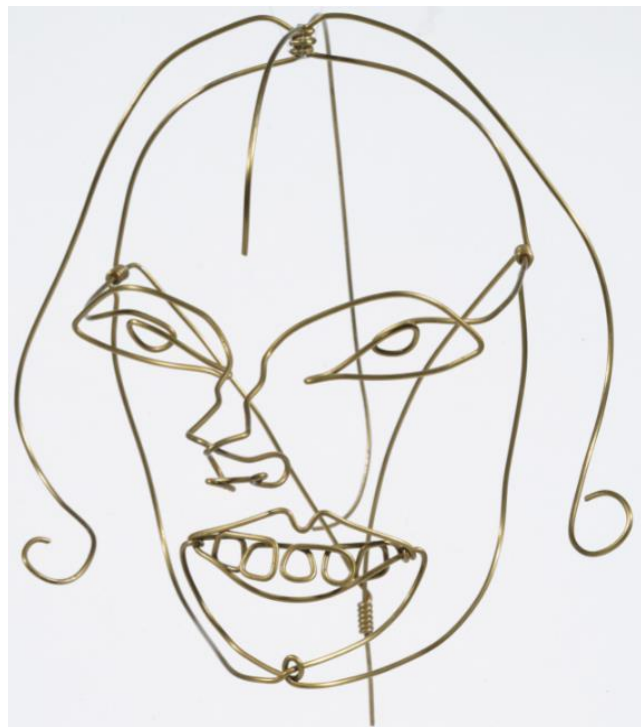
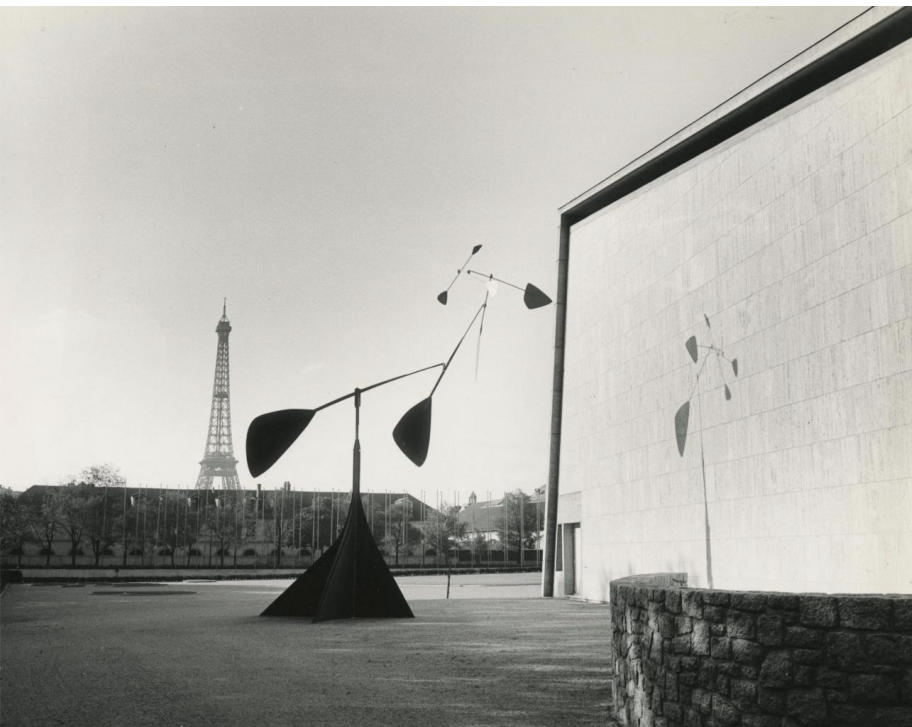
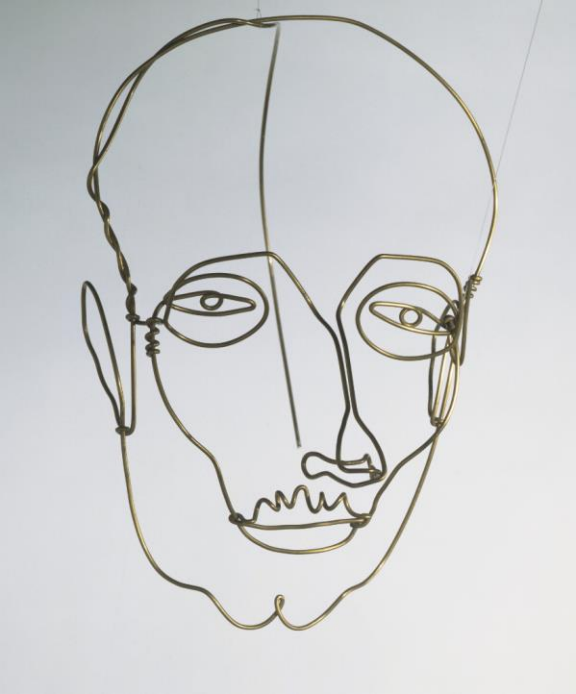
- Mechanized works were called "mobiles"
- Stationary or naturally moving works were dubbed "stabiles"
- Starting by testing kinetic models in his garden, Calder went on to create large-scale installations of kinetic wire art
- Usually constructed with metal and wire, during the war he used wood instead due to metal shortages
- In 1937, Calder was commissioned to make *Lobster Trap and Fish Tail* for the Museum of Modern Art in New York
- In 1949 he created his largest ever mobile for the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Third International Exhibition of Sculpture, titled *International Mobile*







- Calder simplifies figures into a near caricature-like style, embracing the abstract and minimalist in his wire work
- Much of his more famous pieces are large-scale installations commissioned by big buyers
- During the metal shortages during the war, Calder used scrap pieces from old art to build and fashion new works of metal, wood, and metal wire.
- Each artwork was handmade and all of Calder's mobiles and stabiles could move. Cirque Calder, one of his most famous works, was put into motion by Calder himself, for the entire 2 hours it ran for.



References

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Mona Hatoum

1952-present



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