



ALEXANDER CALDER (1898-1976)

The Palm Tree

#A08381

Signed lower right, "Calder 47"

oil on canvas

39 1/2 x 29 3/4 in. (40 3/4 x 31 1/4 x 1 3/4 in.)

1947

31445

PROVENANCE:

Perls Galleries, New York, New York

Private Collection, Miami, Florida in 1974 (acquired from the above)

Alexander Calder's "The Palm Tree" (1947) has an understated beauty and brings to life Calder's mastery of the oil paint medium. The present work is registered in the archives of the Calder Foundation, New York, under application number #A08381. This painting was acquired by the current owner directly from Perls Galleries in New York in 1974. Perls was one of the primary dealers of Calder's work. The painting has never been to auction and has remained in the same private collection since 1974.

Alexander Calder was a prolific American artist who infused his artwork with a wit and whimsy inspired by his early fascination with the circus. His childhood hobby of crafting objects from found materials initially led to a degree in Engineering and Applied Kinetics. However, only four years later in 1923, Calder enrolled in the Art Students League in New York, and began his first freelance art job in 1925. In doing so, Calder followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who were classically-trained and practicing artists.

Calder's Circus (Whitney Museum of American Art), the small-scale model of a circus involving wire, wood, cloth, and leather string, among other materials, is an early example of this interest and represents one of Calder's first wire "drawings". While many artists made contour line drawings on paper, Calder used wire to draw three-dimensional people, creatures, and things into space. Eventually, these three-dimensional figurative drawings evolved into more abstract forms, which would become known as "mobiles".

In 1932, Calder exhibited his first moving sculpture in an exhibition organized by Marcel Duchamp, who coined the term "mobile". These kinetic sculptures are composed of wire counter-balanced with thin metal fins that are set in motion by random air currents to create natural movement. In addition to these sculptures, he created "stables", or static sculptures, which are now installed in major museum collections around the world. His creation and elaboration of the mobile and stable are his most lasting contributions to the history of art.

The information and material herein represents Gallery's best efforts and understanding of the current history and scholarship with respect to the provenance of the Work(s) of Art described and is not part of any warranty.



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