



ALEXANDER CALDER (1898-1976)

Personnages

A11546

Signed lower right, "Calder 67"

gouache and ink on paper

29 1/2 x 43 1/4 in. (35 1/2 x 49 1/4 x 1 7/8 in.)

74.93 x 109.86 cm (90.17 x 125.1 x 4.76 cm)

1967

41240

PROVENANCE:

Galerie Maeght, Paris
Private Collection, 1974

EXHIBITION:

Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France. Calder. 2 April–31 May 1969
This exhibition traveled to: Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark.
29 June–7 September 1969 and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. 4 October–16
November 1969
Galerie d'Art Moderne Marie-Suzanne Feigel, Basel, Alexander Calder: Mobiles,
Mobiles/Stabiles, Bronzes, Gouaches et Lithographies, 3 April–5 June 1971
West Palm Beach, Florida, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, *Figurative Masters of
the Americas*, January 4 – February 12, 2023

LITERATURE:

Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France, Calder, 2 April–31 May 1969, no.
256, pg. 82 in text, ill. 190
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark. Calder. 29 June–7
September 1969, originated from Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France,
no. 209, pg. 39 in text
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. Calder. 4 October–16 November 1969, originated
from Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France, no. 182, pg. 40 in text
Galerie d'Art Moderne Marie-Suzanne Feigel, Basel, Alexander Calder: Mobiles,
Mobiles/Stabiles, Bronzes, Gouaches et Lithographies, 3 April–5 June 1971, No. 9

Well known for his candor and pragmatic sensibility, Alexander Calder was as direct, ingenious, and straight to the point in life as he was in his art. "Personnages", for example, is unabashedly dynamic, a work that recalls his early love of the action of the circus as well as his insights into human nature. The character of "Personnages" suggests a spontaneous drawing-in-space, recalling his radical wire sculptures of the 1920s.

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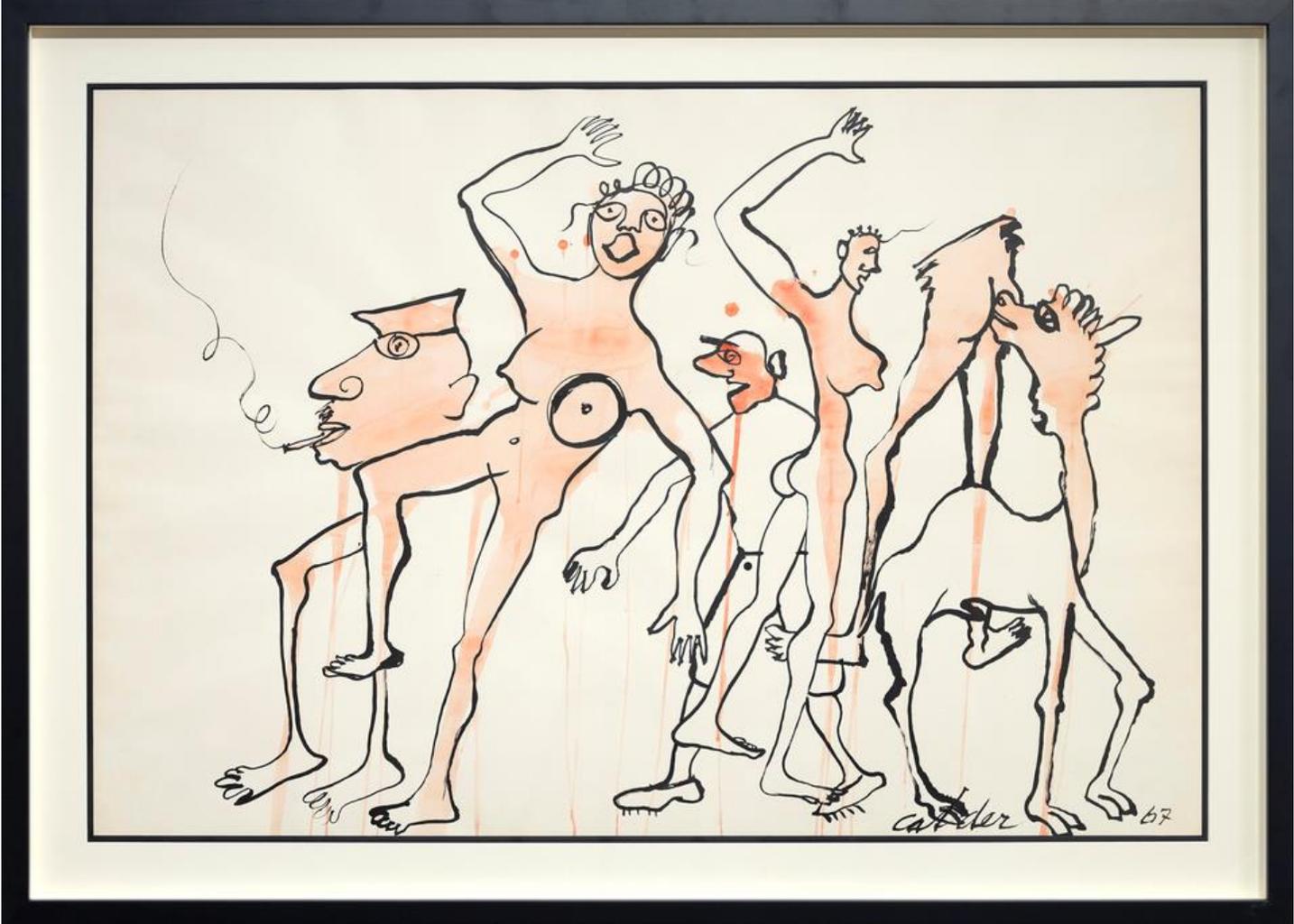
Alexander Calder was a prolific American artist who infused his artwork with a wit and whimsy inspired by his early fascination with the circus. His childhood hobby of crafting objects from found materials initially led to a degree in Engineering and Applied Kinetics. However, only four years later in 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 stabile are his most lasting contributions to the history of art.

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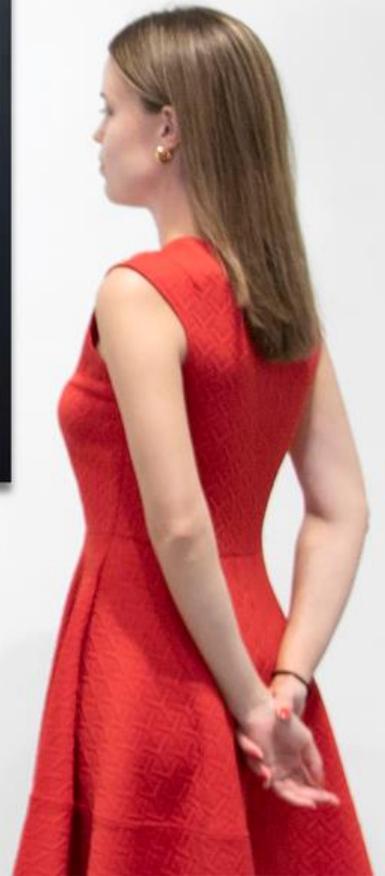
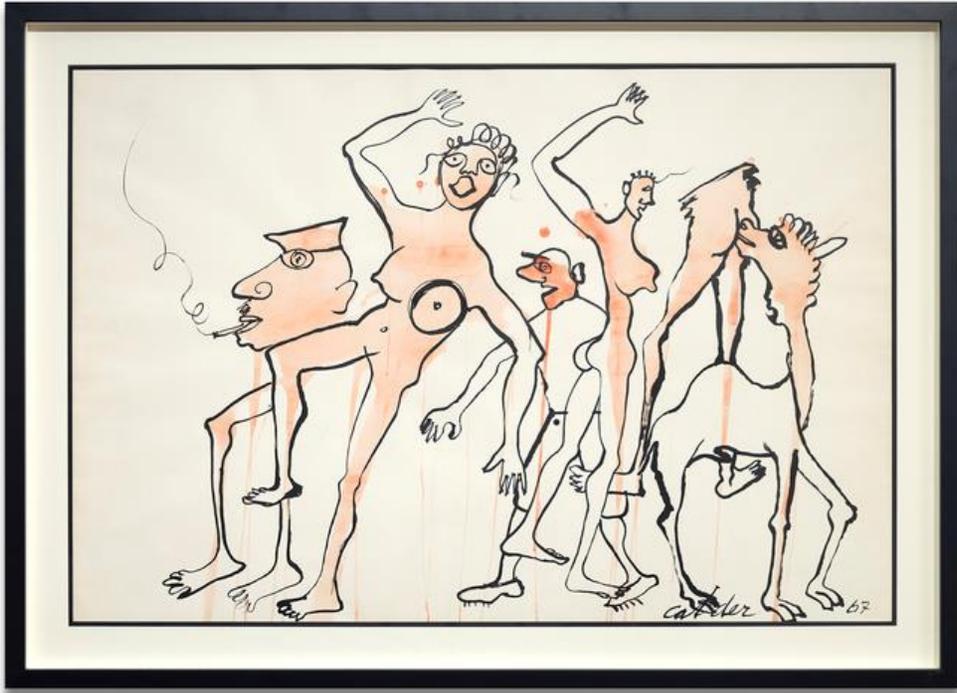












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