**Alexander Calder**

**1898-1976**

Photograph of Alexander Calder in Paris, 1930 Calder was an American sculptor and artist who made people think about the meaning of sculpture.. He invented a new kind of sculpture called “MOBILES” which are hung from the ceiling or from a base and move with air currents. Calder also made many other non-moving sculptures called “STABILES.”

Josephine Baker. Wire sculpture, 53x10x 9", 1926 Josephine Baker was an idol of the French music halls. This wire sculpture was Calder's first portrait sculpture. He made many of these during his years in Paris. These wire sculptures were not meant to be placed on a base but suspended from the ceiling..

Wire Sculpture Portraits, The portraits he made, some of which were of friends and famous people like Jimmy Durante and John D. Rockefeller were attention-getting novelties; they advertised his skill and gave him a reputation for his wit and attention to detail.

Rearing Stallion, Cow, Elephant (wire and wood 1928), Goldfish Bowl (wire 1929)

Untitled National Gallery East Wing, Washington D.C., 50 feet Here is an example of how he turned his mobiles into large hanging sculptures. Anyone visiting this Gallery could appreciate the size of his work.

Stegosaurus, painted steel plate, 1973 As you will see, many of Calder's stabiles are huge, and they were often painted in very bright colors, particularly red, orange, blue and yellow. Even in his large sculptures Calder liked to depict animals. This is his idea of a stegosaurus. What does it look like to you*?*

Flamingo, Chicago Look at the height of this sculpture in relation to the person, car and the buildings. How many floors high do you think it is?

Now it’s your turn to make a continuous line drawing in the style of Alexander Calder! All you will need is a piece of paper and something to draw with. See you in the video!.