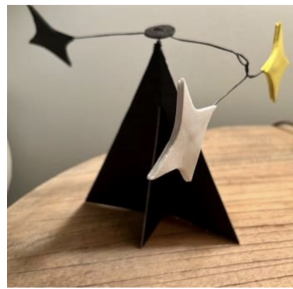




Art in Motion

By Betsy Delurgio

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"Above all, Art Should Be FUN" – Alexander Calder

Learning Objective:

Inspired by the works of Alexander Calder, students will create their own mobile on a stabile. The art element of time captures motion with foam and poster board.

Supplies:

- Heavy Weight Black, (red or blue ok) Poster Board
 - 1 piece 6"X12" (folded in half to make a 6"X6")
 - 1 piece 4"X8" (folded in half to make a 4"X 4")
- Foam Sheets: Black, White, Red, Yellow, Blue
(get with adhesive on back if can afford – if not, glue stick works)
- Black (preferred) or Silver Floral Wire (22 gauge & straight if possible – instead of spooled)
 - Example: Amazon.com - Decora 22 Gauge Black Floral Wire 16-inch,50/Pkg - \$7
 - 19 inches of wire per older student (9", 6" & 4" piece), and 15 inches for younger grades (Just need a 9" & 6" piece)
- Scissors, Ruler, pencil, glue stick
- Scotch tape/Black Tape



Bio of American Artist Alexander Calder

Born in Philadelphia, PA in 1898 - Died 1976
One of the most inventive artists of the 20th century

Calder is the inventor of the Mobile! (Yes, like the ones in a baby crib, but super awesome for all ages.) He changed the nature of sculpture with movement. He engaged motion –

ALEXANDER CALDER FACTS....

1. His father and grandfather were sculptors, his mother a professional portrait artist..
2. Even as a young child he had a studio space
3. He was a mechanical engineer.
4. Body of work over 22,000 pieces! 3 main types: mobile, stabile & wire sculpture.
5. Calder did not explain his work, and preferred to leave it open to interpretation.

Calder mostly used the colors black, white, and the primary colors: red, yellow, blue.

Vocabulary

- **Mobile** –A sculpture or decorative arrangement made of items hanging so that they can move freely and independently from each other
- **Stabile** – an abstract sculpture having fixed units, in the style of a mobile – simple forms
- **Monumental Sculpture**– enormous structures displayed in public places like museums, schools, airports, etc.
- **Abstract Art** – Art that does not always attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures.
- **3-dimensional shapes** are not flat. They take up space with how wide, high or long, and deep from front to back.
- **Kinetic** - the energy of an object in motion. The word “kinetic” comes from the Greek word for motion.
- **Fulcrum** – point on which a lever rests or is supported and on a pivot. (Like a see-saw)



Procedure:

STEP 1 – Make the Stable (Base Sculpture) for more help, pre fold

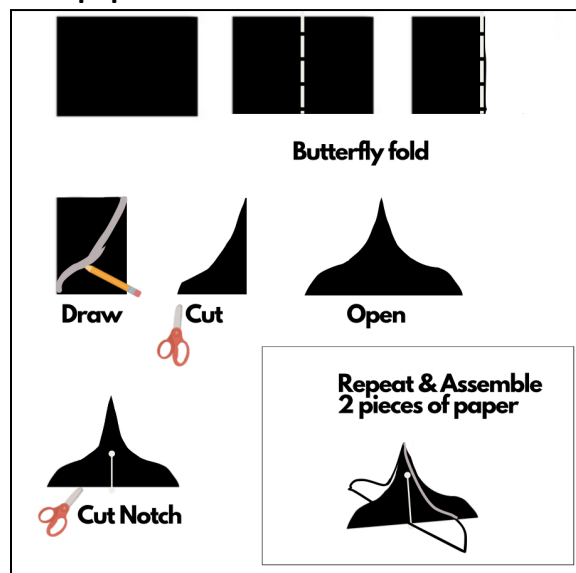
Make a 4-legged base using poster board and scissors and pencil:

- Black Poster Board: 1 piece 6"X 12" & 1 piece 4"X 8"
- Start with 6"X 12" piece & butterfly fold poster board in half into 6"X6" square – Place
- Using a pencil start at the top corner (fold side) create a point (see image), & freely move pencil down towards the bottom opposite side of paper (must form a peak at the very top).
- Cut at the pencil line – then stand up and assess – fine tune if necessary.
- Using scissors, cut out the notch and fine tune as you like.
- You now should have a 2-legged stand.

For more of a challenge: Add an extra design element

cut out a notch in bottom base of board - be sure to keep enough space (do not get too close) between the fold & 1st pencil line.

Diagram: Two pieces of thick paper





REPEAT above with the second 4" X 8" piece of poster board (pre-folded for younger grades) **NOTE: *Not necessary to make a severe peak/point at the top of this board.***
-You should now have 2 cut outs in front of you - make sure they both stand up.

- Take the taller stand and fold it and place it flat.
- Take the shorter stand, fold and place it flat.
- Put the backs of the folds next to each other so the bases are equal level on the bottom and the fold sides are touching.
- Apply pencil mark 1/3 of the way up on the fold edge of the Taller stand
- put a mark to the smaller stand as well (keeping the bottom edges level)
 - Using scissors **IMPORTANT:**
 - On taller stand - Cut from bottom up to pencil mark
 - On shorter stand - Cut from top down to pencil mark
- Assemble taller stand to the shorter stand at the cut lines- slide together.
- Now connected as a 4-legged base – use scotch tape or black tape to secure.

Congrats! You made a base/sculpture - Set aside.

STEP 2 – Make the Mobile

Wire, foam shapes, glue stick, scissors

- Use scissors, cut wire 9 inches long, cut another wire 6 inches long (set aside)
- Use Foam Sheets Create 3 abstract or geometric shapes - Fold the foam sheets in half for each shape to make 2 identical of the same shape (you will be gluing them together on each side of the wire).
- Use a pencil to draw (or trace) if necessary – 2 square inches each.
 - Make them fun – they can be circles, triangles, star, moon, flower or any simple shape you want - they can be all the same color or all different(primary colors).
- With 9-inch wire and use a glue stick to adhere one shape (glue the 2 pieces together with wire in the middle) to one end. Set aside to dry.
- With 6-inch wire and use a glue stick, adhere 2 additional shapes to each end - one shape (2 pieces) to one end and then the same at the other end of this wire.
- Set aside to dry.

Sample shapes:





STEP 3 - Create Foam Disc

Functional piece to allow mobile to spin on top the stabile

NOTE For younger students: Recommend Docents create foam disc and slide on to 9-inch wire ahead of class / may need to for older students as well depending on allotted time.

1. Use the black foam sheet
2. Trace a circle using End of the glue stick, or the glue stick cap, a nickel, quarter, or water bottle cap
3. Cut out
4. Fold in half like a taco
5. Use end of the longer 9-inch wire, pierce directly through the middle of the taco, and slide to middle of wire

STEP 4 - Connect the Wire Mobile

1. At the end of the longer wire (9-inch) with no shape on it – use your pencil and wrap the end around it to create a loop- bend/adjust to look like the below picture (fishhook). Set aside.
2. For the shorter 6-inch wire:
3. FIND THE FULCRUM/Balance on Pivot Point Use your finger to find where wire is balanced evenly in weight even though shapes may be different on each side.
4. NOTE: this takes patience – take your time
5. Use your pencil to form a loop in this exact spot between the two shapes
6. Attach the loop on the 6-inch wire to the loop on the 9-inch wire.
7. Close the top of the loop (of 9" wire) and it is connected.

NOTE For younger students: Recommend Docents create foam disc and slide on to 9-inch wire ahead of class / may need to for older students as well depending on allotted time.

For more help:

Cut and use the same kind of shapes to attach to your wire. precut for younger grades.

STEP 5 – Place Mobile on the Peak of the Stabile

Using your finger – find the spot on the top wire of the mobile that balances both sides perfectly (the fulcrum). Place the mobile on the peak of the base in this spot. (If necessary, may need to slightly trim (or use pencil tip to carefully indent) top of base to make sure mobile stays on top.)

Warning!! Do not cut edges where legs touch the desk or the peak.

For More of A Challenge: (optional): *Create a Way for the Mobile to Spin*

Using a 3.5- or 4-inch piece of wire - make a cone shaped coil. Using a sharpened pencil tip- keep ¼” of the wire sticking straight up towards the top - wrap the wire around the pencil tip until it is wider and wider coil as it goes down the pencil. Please See Picture:



- Place Wire coil on top of the peak of the base/sculpture.
- Then use a scrap piece of black foam sheet
- Cut out a circle ½ inch diameter (very small).
- Make a Cut on the radius of the circle.
- Form a tiny cone & poke wire of the large 9-inch wire through the cone
- Secure the cone to the location of the fulcrum.
- Place mobile back on top of peak so foam cone sits on top of wire spiral
- It should stay secure and spin with air currents.



Reflection:

Notice your DeskTop Mobile moves around and changes compositional form.

Q. Was there a part of the building of your piece that was challenging or unexpected?

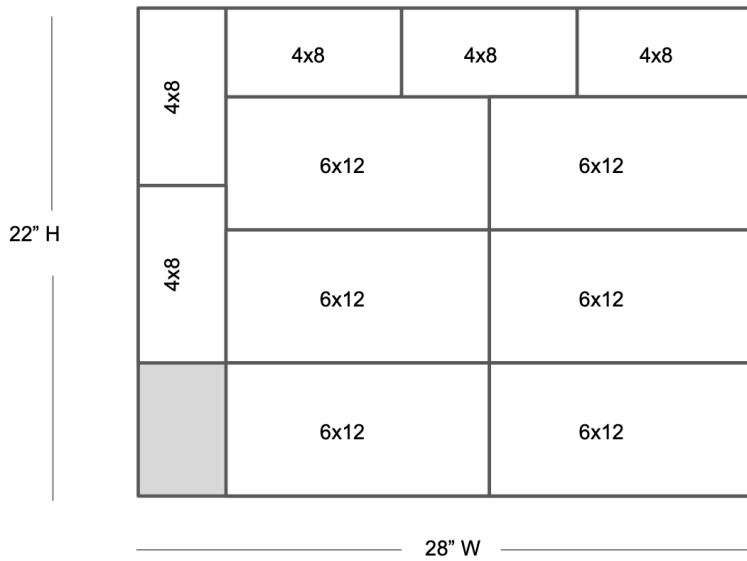
Q. How does the element of color interact with each other as the mobile moves?

Q. Did other student artists create different shapes than you?



PREP Notes

Poster board cutting note for docents: Each 22"x 28" heavyweight poster board can create 6 – 6"x12" rectangles and 5 – 4"x8" rectangles:



Visit a Calder Artwork



Flamingo, Federal Plaza in front of the Kluczynski Federal Building in Chicago, Illinois, 53-foot-tall stabile



Shiva - Kansas City, 18 feet high – 22 feet long.



Three Quintains (Hello Girls) County Museum of Art (LACMA)



AAYF Artist Bio:

Betsy Delurgio grew up mostly in Arizona, attended college at University of Southern California, and had a career in marketing and sales. For fun, she would frequent art museums and eclectic exhibits, experiment with painting, and sell hand painted greeting card prints in local shops. Later as a stay at home mom, Betsy held volunteer positions as an art docent for Adventures in Art (AIA) at Riviera Elementary School and Richardson Middle School. She chaired the AIA program at Richardson Middle School, South High School Art Show, and has represented artists for the AIA project selection committee. This year, a project of her making was chosen by two school districts. Lately she enjoys painting, jewelry making, and occasionally makes plywood props. Betsy lives with her husband and two daughters in the Hollywood Riviera.

Art At Your Fingertips is a Palos Verdes Art Center school-based outreach program that brings visual arts education to elementary school classrooms from transitional kindergarten through fifth grade.

Established in 1976, this program reaches 6,000 students annually on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Run completely by parent volunteers, AAYF's paramount objective is to make every child feel comfortable using art as a means of expression. We thank PTA, PTO, and Booster Club for their support.

pvartcenter.org





ALEXANDER CALDER:

Learn more about Alexander Calder, his techniques, and his place in the art world with these resources from the Palos Verdes Library District

Browse in the **Adult Nonfiction** section under the call number **730.924 Calder** for titles like:

The essential Alexander Calder

730.924 CALDER GREENFELD

Pocket sized, but full of photos and information about Calder's works and techniques

Find these titles in the **Young Readers** section to enhance your knowledge of Calder!

Sandy's circus : a story about Alexander Calder

J Nonfiction 730.92 STONE

As a boy, Sandy was always fiddling with odds and ends, making objects for friends. When he got older he started creating wire sculptures. Sandy made a lion. Next came a lion cage. Before he knew it, he had an entire circus...

The Calder game

Juvenile Mystery BAILLIET

In this mystery by Blue Bailliet, seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him

Eye for Art: Focusing on Great Artists and Their Work.

<https://tinyurl.com/yckrfmcx>

This book, created by the National Gallery of Art is accessible for everyone in eBook format! Just follow the link to access the book. Chapter 7, *Playing with Space*, will tell you more about Calder... and other artists who created sculpture in innovative ways

Find more about Alexander Calder in these online resources

Meet Alexander Calder. The man that made modern art move!

Check out the world famous Tate Museum's Kids page about Calder, and watch a video inspired by his circus. - check it out here: <https://tinyurl.com/yah3jwnx>

Alexander Calder performs his "Circus" | Whitney Museum of American Art

Watch Calder put together the circus and make the parts move in this five minute video from the Whitney Museum of American art - check it out here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6jwnu8lzyO>



PVLD.ORG

