Alexander Calder (1898–1976)

Numbered One to Seven
1950

painted sheet metal and wire, 82 x 62 in.
Gift of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Foundation

Alexander Calder
1900–1976
A biography

Alexander Calder was born on July 22, 1898, in Lawton, Pennsylvania, into a family of artists. Both his father and grandfathers were well-established American sculptors, and his mother was a painter. The young Calder resided in his father's traveling circus, often painting and sculpting while traveling. He studied at the Art Students League, New York, where he studied drawing and painting from 1923–1926. Calder enrolled in the Art Students League, New York, where he studied drawing and painting from 1923–1926. Upon graduating, he worked as a sculptor in New York City before moving to Paris, where he began to develop his own style.

Calder's Circus
Calder's Circus, first performed in 1926, changed the course of Alexander Calder's artistic career. It was a response to the mechanized circus that was popular at the time. The circus featured small wire and wood figures that moved in response to the wind and the audience's movements. The circus was a turning point in Calder's career, and he began to experiment with new materials and techniques.

Calder's works were popular because they were a-political and not based on social issues. As the scale of his work grew, so did the attention it received. He began to work on a large scale, creating sculptures that were both monumental and portable. His works were exhibited in major museums and galleries around the world, and he was recognized as one of the most important and influential artists of the century.

Calder died on June 17, 1976, but his legacy lives on through his sculptures, which continue to inspire and influence artists today.
ALEXANDER CALDER (AMERICAN, 1898–1976)

NUMBERED ONE TO SEVEN
1950, PAINTED SHEET METAL AND WIRE

JOSLYN ART MUSEUM® OMAHA, NEBRASKA
Gift of the Joslyn Women’s Association, 1978.265