

**MAY 28 TO JULY 6, 1943**

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**MAUD  
PATRICK MORGAN**

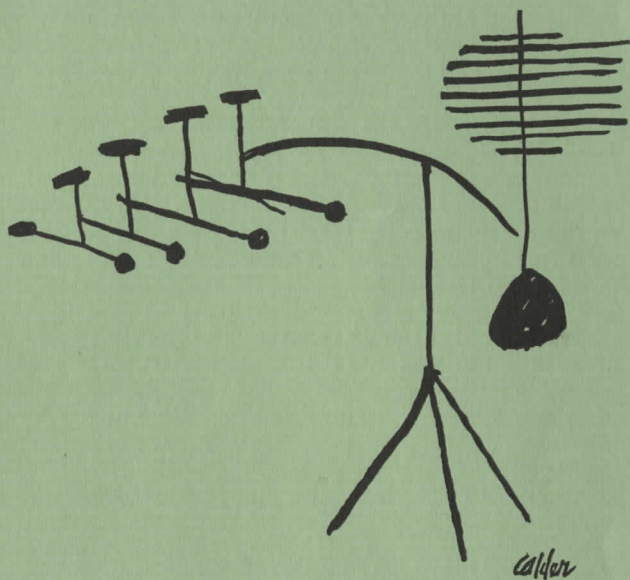
**ALEXANDER  
CALDER**

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**THE ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART  
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS**

**OPEN • DAILY 9 to 8 • SUNDAYS 2:30 to 5**



# 17 *Mobiles* by Calder

It is natural to ask for an explanation of these mobiles made by Alexander Calder, as natural as it is to ask about the wind and the swaying shapes of trees. An explanation will not be found in words but in listening,

watching, and feeling. The mobiles are man made yet they create themselves and obey in some unfathomable way impellent laws of balance, force, and tension as they slowly carve patterns in the space around them. It is this unpredictable yet ordered action, a sort of abstract dance, which intrigues the fancy and makes other explanations superfluous.

To tell how the mobiles came into being, however, the artist recounts the logical history of his own work:

“My first abstract things grew out of meeting Mondrian, Léger, Miró. At first I began to paint, but this lasted only a few weeks as I soon began to work with wire (with which I had long been conversant) and detached objects. At first the objects were static (“stables”), seeking to give a sense of cosmic relationship. Then I felt that these relations were possibly not the most important and I introduced flexibility, so that the relationships would be more general. From that I went to the use of motion for its contrapuntal value, as in good choreography.”

*The Addison Gallery gratefully acknowledges  
the generosity of the lenders to  
this exhibition.*