

MUSEUM PREPARES SWINGING DISPLAY

**Calder Mobiles and Stables
Set Up at Guggenheim
for 450-Work Show**

By GRACE GLUECK

The Guggenheim Museum is girding for an all-out spectacular—the largest exhibition to a living American artist.

Starting Friday, 350 works by Alexander Calder will fill entire museum—quivering mobiles, stand-still stables, drawings, wood carvings, bronze figures, tapestries, toys, jewelry and the wood-and-wire cast of the artist's famous miniature circus that beguiled the Paris art world of the nineteen-twenties.

A giant, white mobile called "The Ghost," especially designed for the show by Mr. Calder, will swing from the museum's center dome in the main rotunda. Thrusting up from the floor to meet it will be a huge, black stable (a stationary sculpture) known as "The Guillotine," one of the artist's largest works. It has been especially brought over from his studio in Sache, France.

The museum calls the show the most difficult and technically demanding it has ever installed. "Actually," Thomas M. Messer, the museum's director, says, "the Guggenheim's spiral ramp is the ideal way to tell the story of Calder's career. The story moves in time, the ramp moves in space. But there have been some tricky problems."

Went to Wright Group

For advice on, how to hang the 35-foot-high mobile, composed of lightweight metal rods and sheet-metal plates, for example, the museum went back to its architects, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. The steel-plate components of the 22-foot stable, not yet assembled, repose under a tarpaulin in the museum's driveway. On Monday they will be bolted together on the main floor by a team of professional riggers.

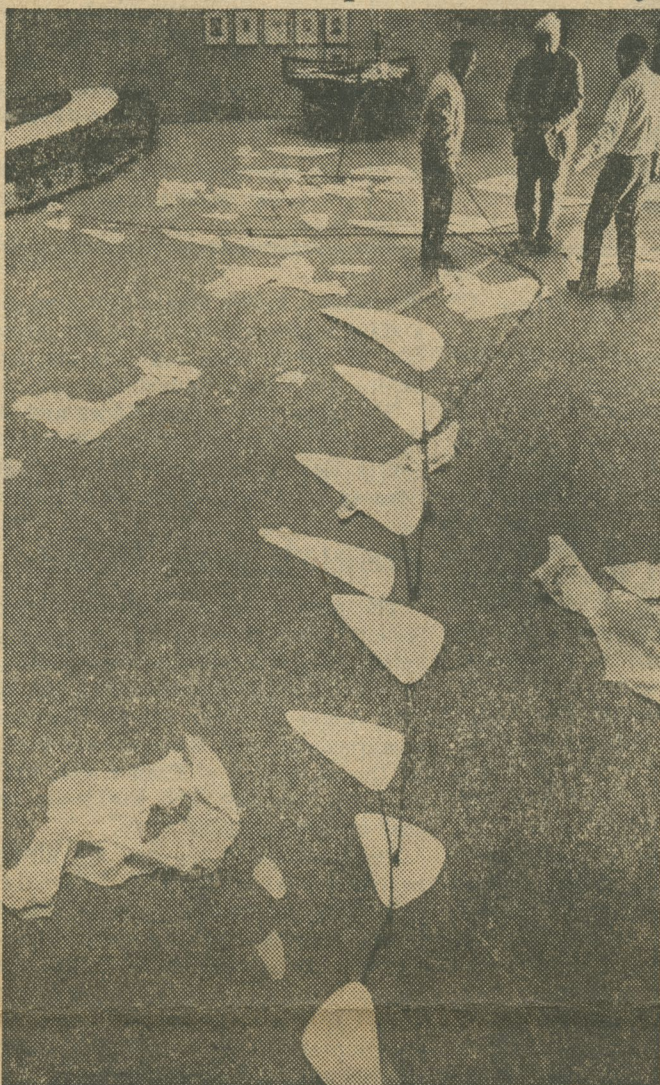
For displaying a number of smaller standing constructions, special platforms have been installed in the cylindrical bays that open off the museum's ramp. Larger mobiles are suspended from the flat ceilings of the bays and from the ceilings of the ramps that overhang them. Another type of mobile clings to the cylindrical walls.

Small Fans Waft Breezes

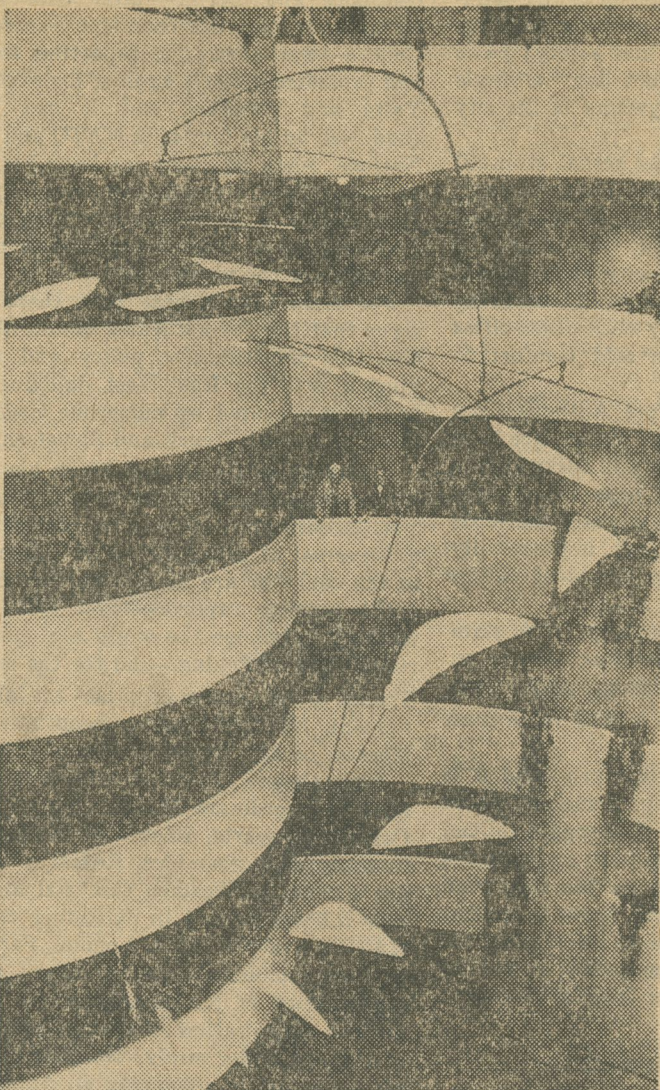
"We've tried to give the feeling of walking among the artist's work," Mr. Messer said on an inspection tour yesterday. He paused and cranked a small wood-and-wire contraption that moved somewhat rheumatically. "There are many works here that people can touch, gently."

One important problem, stirring the delicately balanced mobiles by air currents, was solved by fans, concealed in display platforms and sculpture bases. The gentle breezes set the mobiles pleasantly atwitter. Miniature fans also activate tiny "mobile-stables," some no more than an inch high, housed in specially built glass cases.

Calder Show to Open Next Friday



Alexander Calder, center, and assistants prepare mobile



The New York Times (by Edward Hausner)
Mobile, "The Ghost," in rotunda of Guggenheim Museum