

Calder

A retrospective Exhibition
presented by the City of Torino and Toro Assicurazioni
for its 150th anniversary
Palazzo a Vela - Torino, Italy - June/September 1983

PRESSE RELEASE

The UNIVERSE of CALDER in TURIN

The exhibition of Alexander Calder (1898-1976) scheduled for June 1983 at the Palazzo a Vela and in its surrounding park will be the biggest retrospective in Europe of the famous American sculptor since his death. The City of Turin will play host to this exhibition which is sponsored by Toro Assicurazioni on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

Calder is renowned as the poetic inventor of an art born out of the industrial civilization. And Turin, therefore, offers the most ideal setting for the modernness and joyful, natural simplicity of his artistic expression.

Calder imposed the fourth dimension on sculpture, time as motion in space, thus producing continually changing forms at the slightest breath of air. His large and small mobiles and his monumental stabiles are famous the world over. Italy, always dear to him, was the first country in the world to have had a large-scale mobile, Teodelapio, constructed in 1962 for Spoleto and donated to that city by the artist. The Turin exhibition will be the largest ever organized since that held at the Whitney Museum in 1976 when the artist was still alive. There will be about four hundred works displayed, from his earliest works of the '20s up to his last works. Some twenty large stabiles will be placed in the park and in its artificial lake, which under special night illumination will offer a fantastic spectacle just a short distance from the Po River. Inside the Palazzo a Vela the show will unfold chronologically with Calder's entire universe of forms: mechanized sculptures and mobiles, paintings, drawings, tapestries, jewelry, toys and utensils; followed by bronzes, wood sculptures and large and small sculpture in gaily colored metal, thus offering the most varied panorama of the artist's inventiveness, fantasy and geniality.

Renzo Piano, the famous architect of Beaubourg now working on the DeMesnil Museum in Houston, Texas, will install the exhibition. Calder's heirs and his estate, together with museums, galleries and private collectors are collaborating on the laborious preparations of the exhibition. They have all promised to lend highly prestigious and representative works, many of which, belonging to the artist, are

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still unknown to the public.

On the day of the inauguration of the exhibition the Teatro Regio (Turin Opera House) will present a performance of Work in Progress, produced in May 1968 at the Rome Opera House with Music by the modern Italian composers Aldo Clementi, Niccolò Castiglioni and Bruno Maderna. The "ballet" is a magical synthesis of Calder's art. In nineteen minutes it condenses his extraordinary and surprising inventions demonstrating his incessant playfulness. The Director of the exhibition is Giovanni Carandente who for more than twenty years was a close friend of Calder's and who is recognized as one of the experts on the artist.

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