

A Chronology of Calder in 1975

January 7–February 15

Hooks-Epstein Galleries, Houston, presents *Calder and Miró: Works on Paper 1957–1974*.

January 22–February 23

Calder: Crags and Critters is on view at Galerie Maeght, Paris. Mário Pedrosa writes “Un tournant chez Calder” for the catalogue: “[The critters] seem ever ready to transform, as though at any moment other limbs might still sprout out from the torso, which appears to be the boisterous site of procreation.” The exhibition travels to Galerie Maeght, Zurich, where it is on view from September to October.

Before April 2

Éléments démontables, a hanging mobile measuring nearly fifty feet tall, is installed at the Fourth Financial Center in Wichita, Kansas, a building designed by the architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. In Calder’s words: “People think monuments should come out of the ground, never out of the ceiling, but mobiles can be monumental too.”

April 11–18

Calder and his wife, Louisa, visit Israel to discuss a project with the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek. The colossal sculpture *Jerusalem Stabile* is completed in 1976.

Before May

After construction, testing, and maintenance, the Calder BMW Art Car is painted. This project—the first ever in BMW’s Art Car series—was commissioned in 1974 by French auctioneer and racecar driver Hervé Poulain.

May 10–July 13

Haus der Kunst, Munich, presents the retrospective *Calder*. Maurice Besset writes “Entstehung des Mobile” for the catalogue. The exhibition travels to the Kunsthhaus Zürich, and is on view from August to November.

May 15

The Calders, architect Marcel Breuer, and others who worked on the UNESCO Headquarters building in Paris during the late 1950s protest UNESCO’s expulsion of Israel from its membership the previous year in a *New York Times* ad: “We artists who are citizens of the world urge the General Conference to reverse itself and end all sanctions against Israel, and let the building we created [be] saved as a vision of hope, not as a symbol of tragedy.”

May 29–June 1

Flying Colors, the DC-8 jet commissioned in 1973 by Braniff International Airways, is exhibited at the thirty-first Paris Air Show; on May 31, the plane is flown over France with the Calders and their guests aboard. Calder hand-paints the plane’s engine covers.

Summer

Flying Dragon, a stabile spanning fifty-six feet, is fabricated at Calder’s foundry in Connecticut.

June 14–15

Calder attends the 24 Hours of Le Mans race, where his BMW Art Car is driven by Poulain, Jean Guichet, and Sam Posey. Due to a mechanical failure relating to the crankshaft, the car does not complete the race.

July

Calder agrees to design eight large-scale banners for the Centre Square complex in Philadelphia. He collaborates with the artist Sheila Hicks to execute the works.

August 22

Calder celebrates his birthday with a large party at Le Carroi, his hilltop property in Saché, France. Each reveler is given a small gouache.

October 14–November 15

Perls Galleries, New York, exhibits *Alexander Calder: Recent Mobiles and Circus Gouaches*.

November 14

Calder is awarded the United Nations Peace Medal, and Louisa receives the Woman of the Year Award from the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

November 17

Commissioned again by Braniff Airways, Calder designs *Flying Colors of the United States* for the flagship of the United States fleet. As with *Flying Colors*, Calder paints parts of the jet directly by hand. The plane is dedicated by First Lady Betty Ford at Dulles International Airport, outside Washington, DC. Calder flies back to John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, where he is presented with the Bicentennial Medal of New York City.

White Cascade, a hanging mobile measuring more than one hundred feet tall, is completed this year for the East Court of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The sculpture is dedicated in October 1976, one month before the artist's death on November 11.