

Calder, Alexander (1898-1976)

Lawton, Pennsylvania

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Born to two artist parents who encouraged him to create while they traveled the country.
- Received an engineering degree in 1919 and did not begin to create art until 1923 when he moved to New York and enrolled in the Art Students League.
- Influenced and impressed by Piet Mondrian's work.

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- First exhibition entitled *Cirque Calder* exhibited in 1926 and inspired by the circus, a tiny circus manipulated by Calder made of found materials including wire, leather, cloth and other found materials.
- In fall of 1931 created a new type of art – the mobile, a kinetic sculpture that both moves and motivates while moving on air currents
- Has said that his works do not always represent anything in particular.
- Much of his work is kinetic; it moves or has the potential for movement.
- Abstract forms in metal and wire, special attention paid to positive and negative space and the contrasts between the two, contrast in volume and color also important.
- Monumental outdoors sculptures all over the world.

KIA WORK-*The D and the Delta*, painted iron, 1962

- A classic mobile with irregular shapes
- Named for the two largest shapes that look like a D and the Greek letter Delta (Δ)

