



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## Oral history interview with Alexander Calder

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Alexander Calder
<b>Date:</b>	1971 October 26
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.calder71
<b>Creator:</b>	Calder, Alexander, 1898-1976 (Interviewee) Cummings, Paul (Interviewer)
<b>Extent:</b>	27 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Digital Content: Oral history interview with Alexander Calder, 1971 October 26, Transcript</a> <a href="#">Audio: Oral history interview with Alexander Calder, 1971 October 26, Digital Sound Recording (Excerpt)</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

These interviews are part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and others.

### Available Formats

Transcript available on line.

### Restrictions

Transcript available on the Archives of American Art website.

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## Biographical / Historical

Alexander Calder (1898-1976) was a sculptor from New York, New York.

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## Scope and Contents

Interview of Alexander Calder conducted 1971 October 26, by Paul Cummings, for the Archives of American Art.

## Scope and Contents

Calder speaks of his studies in engineering at the Stevens Institute; his instructors at the Art Students League including George Luks, Boardman Robinson, and John Sloan; working in Paris; performances of his CIRCUS; artists in Paris in the late 1920s; his materials; his use of color and water; motorized sculpture; commissions; and his interest in works by Constantin Brancusi, Jean Arp, and Alberto Giacometti.

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## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound tape reel. Reformatted in 2010 as 1 digital wav file. Duration is 1 hr., 3 min.

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## General

This transcript has been corrected and edited at the Calder Foundation by Alexander S.C. Rower.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York -- Interviews  
Sculpture -- Technique

### Types of Materials:

Interviews

### Names:

Luks, George Benjamin, 1867-1933  
Robinson, Boardman, 1876-1952  
Sloan, John, 1871-1951