

# Family Guide

# ALEXANDER CALDER

(American, 1898–1976)



**SFMOMA**

*Big Crinkly*, 1969

Painted steel

Collection SFMOMA, gift of Rita B. Schreiber  
in loving memory of her husband,  
Taft Schreiber

# Look

Look closely at this sculpture. Walk around it and view it from all sides.



“Just as one can compose colors or forms,  
so one can compose motions.”

Alexander Calder, *Big Crinkly*, 1969

## Fun Fact!

Calder is most famous for creating sculptures that move with the air around them. The top of *Big Crinkly* moves in the wind.

Is this sculpture moving now?

If so, is it moving quickly or slowly?

Using your body, can you imitate the movement of this sculpture?



# Explore

What colors did Calder use in this work?

What shapes do you see? Draw them in the space below.

Do these shapes remind you of anything?

Why do you think the artist called this work *Big Crinkly*?

If you could retitle the sculpture, what would you call it and why?



# Create

Calder created many continuous line drawings—images made with one single, unbroken line. He once said: “I seemed to have a knack for [drawing] with a single line.”

In the space below, try drawing a picture using a single line. Once your pencil touches the page and you begin drawing, do not lift it from the paper until the whole picture is finished.

This technique can take practice, so start with something simple and then try other increasingly difficult images; or practice making several drawings of the same subject.

