

# GAGOSIAN

---



Extended through March 20, 2022

# CALDER

## Flying Dragon, 1975

October 19, 2021–January 2, 2022

Place Vendôme, Paris

Alexander Calder, *Flying Dragon*, 1975, sheet metal, bolts, and paint, 30 feet × 56 feet × 21 feet 6 inches (9.1 × 17.1 × 6.6 m)  
© 2021 Calder Foundation, New York / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Darren James Photography

---

September 15, 2021

Gagosian Paris is pleased to present **Alexander Calder's monumental sculpture *Flying Dragon* (1975)**, which will be on view in Place Vendôme beginning October 19. The installation marks the opening of Gagosian's new gallery at rue de Castiglione and is part of FIAC Hors les Murs, which presents artworks in emblematic public spaces throughout the city. The new gallery, which is steps away from Place Vendôme, will open with an exhibition dedicated to the history and importance of *Flying Dragon*.

Alexander Calder (1898–1976)—whose oeuvre encompasses sculpture, painting, drawing, printmaking, and jewelry, among other media—developed a masterful visual vocabulary that addresses the interplay of nature and abstraction, stillness and motion, monumentality and ephemerality. He is renowned for his invention of the “mobile,” a term coined by Marcel Duchamp for these objects whose suspended abstract elements move and balance in changing harmony. His stationary works were dubbed “stabiles” by Jean Arp. In the later decades of his life, Calder increasingly devoted himself to making outdoor sculpture on a grand scale.

*Flying Dragon* (1975)—which exemplifies Calder’s capacity to invest a powerful visual dynamism in his work regardless of scale—is **among the last of the monumental works he made**. While static, the striking sculpture transforms when viewed from different angles. Constructed from sheet metal, it is physically weighty but appears delicate due to its limited points of contact with the ground.

In 1975—just one year before his death—Calder was energetically engaged in multiple large-scale projects. These included a monumental sculpture for the city of Jerusalem (*Jerusalem Stabile*, completed and installed in 1976); *L’Araignée rouge*, a commission for the Paris business district La Défense (completed and installed in 1976); and the present monumental stabile, *Flying Dragon*.

**Blending the biomorphic with the architectonic, the highly ambitious *Flying Dragon* epitomizes Calder’s compositional genius.** Fusing elegant lines with simple forms and vibrant color, it is a distinctive and evocative form that activates the elegant space around it. Due to its immense size, it leaves viewers with the sensation of an otherworldly being imbued with legendary strength.

Calder produced two maquettes for *Flying Dragon*. The larger of the two is held in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago; the smaller one, black in color, will be on view as part of the **inaugural exhibition at Gagosian’s new space on rue de Castiglione**. The exhibition will underscore the unique visual language of *Flying Dragon*, presenting diverse archival materials alongside additional works from 1975. **Selected works by Calder will also be presented at the gallery’s rue de Ponthieu location.**

*Gagosian would like to thank the City of Paris for its support with the installation of *Flying Dragon* in Place Vendôme.*

---

## Press

### Karla Otto

Michel Hakimian  
michel.hakimian@karlaotto.com  
+33 1 42 61 34 36

Ottavia Palomba  
ottavia.palomba@karlaotto.com  
+33 1 42 61 34 36

### Gagosian

pressparis@gagosian.com  
+33 1 75 00 05 92