



FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

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MEIJER GARDENS RECEIVES SECOND CALDER SCULPTURE ON LONG-TERM LOAN

Calder's "A Two-Face Guy" on long-term loan from the Calder Foundation following the success of Meijer Gardens' 2009 Exhibition

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — January 20, 2009 — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of world's most comprehensive sculpture and botanic experiences, today announces it has received Alexander Calder's *A Two-Faced Guy* on long-term loan from the Calder Foundation in New York. It is the second major piece of Calder's artwork loaned to Meijer Gardens in recent years.

"We are extremely grateful to receive this generous loan from the Calder Foundation," said David Hooker, president and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. "It was a result of our close relationship with the Calder Foundation and the great success of our recent exhibition of Calder's work."

A Two-Faced Guy was displayed in the summer 2009 exhibition "Alexander Calder: 1960 - The Fortieth Anniversary of *La Grande Vitesse*." It is currently being installed in one of the most high-profile areas of the Sculpture Park. Located directly across from the scenic waterfall, the sculpture can be seen by tram riders as well as those walking the path.

This is the second long-term loan of Calder's work in recent years. The first was *Two Discs*, which came to Meijer Gardens from the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. It was installed in October 2007. Meijer Gardens was also chosen to temporarily showcase Auguste Rodin's *The Thinker* on loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts in the summer of 2007.

"Receiving *A Two-Faced Guy* is an honor and speaks of the quality of our collection," said Joseph Becherer, chief curator and vice president. "We will proudly showcase it as a symbol of our dedication to public art in Grand Rapids and the legacy of Alexander Calder."

Alexander Calder has a strong connection with the city of Grand Rapids. His colossal stabile *La Grande Vitesse* was the first publicly funded work of art by the National Endowment of the Arts.

About Alexander Calder

Alexander Calder (1898 – 1976) was born in Lawnton, Pennsylvania, the son and grandson of sculptors. Calder received a degree in mechanical engineering before deciding to become an artist. In 1931, he made his first "mobiles," or kinetic sculptures. By the mid-1930s, his work became more biomorphic reflecting the organic Surrealism movement. From the mid 1950s forward, Calder focused on monumental sculptures that defined architectural spaces. He eventually found a steel fabricator in France who could create stables large enough to walk under. Although based in abstraction, Calder's objects incorporate references to the natural world, interacting directly with their environments as the breeze moves them and light introduces shadowy images. By the 1960s, he was recognized internationally as among the most profound artists of his generation.

About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

One of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. Meijer Gardens was recently named one of the world's 30 "Must-See Museums" by Patricia Schultz, author of *1,000 Places to See Before you Die*. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian

gardens with bronze sculptures by Degas and Rodin; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer. The internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park features a permanent collection including works by Rodin, Oldenburg, Moore, Bourgeois, and Plensa among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero, Borofsky and Calder. For more additional information, please visit www.MeijerGardens.org

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