

Stern Pissarro Gallery

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ALEXANDER CALDER
(1898 - 1976)

The Acrobats

Ink on paper

57.1 x 77.5 cm (22 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches)

Signed and dated lower left, *Calder 1932*

Dedicated lower centre, *a little black laughter to Ivy from Medusa + Sandy*

Provenance

Ivy Troutman, New York, gift of the artist

Private collection, Wappingers Falls, New York

Sotheby's, New York, 1993

Private collection, USA, acquired at the above sale

Alexander Calder's fascination with the circus shaped his art from an early stage. In 1925, while studying in New York, he was assigned to sketch circus scenes for the National Police Gazette, an experience that allowed him to closely observe the Ringling Bros. troupe and even visit their winter quarters. These firsthand encounters sparked a lifelong interest in circus themes, which would significantly influence his development in the late 1920s and early 1930s and ultimately permeate his work across multiple media. In *The Acrobats*, he captures the dynamic energy of performance through a single, fluid line and a lively composition.

This particular work was a personal gift from Calder to the American actress Ivy Troutman, known for her prominent Broadway roles in the early twentieth century. Troutman's art collection reflected her discerning taste; among her Calder pieces were a small mobile displayed in her living room and this large circus work on paper, which hung in her hallway.

This original artwork by [Alexander Calder](#) is available for immediate purchase.