

STERN PISSARRO GALLERY

IMPRESSIONIST - MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART - SINCE 1964



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 right, *Calder 1932*

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

This work is registered in the archives of the Calder Foundation, New York, under application number A10784.

Calder's engagement with the circus was formative. In 1925 the National Police Gazette commissioned him to draw the Ringling Bros., allowing Calder to closely study rehearsals, performances, and their winter quarters. The experience catalysed a sustained interest in circus themes that informed his breakthrough years and echoed throughout his mobiles, sculptures, and works on paper.

In *The Acrobats*, Calder compresses the energy of performance into a single, fluid line and a rhythmic composition. This particular work was a personal gift from Calder to the American actress Ivy Troutman, known for her prominent Broadway roles. Troutman's art collection reflected her discerning taste and she owned several pieces by the artist, including a small mobile displayed in her living room and this large circus drawing, which hung in her hallway.

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