



Berkshiremuseum

Things You Don't Want to Miss *While You Are in the Calder Toy Gallery*



Calder's Original Toys in the Display Cases

Alexander Calder's original prototypes of push and pull toys were made in the 1920's. The Gould Manufacturing Company in Oshkosh, WI produced them for the mass market. Though trained as an engineer, Calder began to focus on making art soon after graduating from college. In the meantime, he had to make a living. Even as a boy, Calder had always enjoyed tinkering with bits of wire to make imaginative toys with moving parts, so he created a series of playful wooden pull toys for children, eventually finding a company willing to manufacture them.



Pull Toys That Visitors Can Try!

The Berkshire Museum created replicas of the original toys, so that visitors could wheel them around the gallery.



The Fish

The fish is one of the many whimsical toy replicas that you can actually play with in the gallery. Eccentric wheels, with the axle placed off-center, create this toy's bobbing, wobbling motion.



The Frog

The frog appears to be swimming, thanks to a series of levers linked to the front and back legs of the toy's wheels, creating a crank mechanisms. This toy also features rotating wheels in the form of castors.