

**Press Release: Made in Guatemala**

The Gallery of **Everything**, London, W1

6th April to 18th May 2025

The Gallery of **Everything** presents a series of rare maguey fibre tapestries, fabricated by Central American craftspeople in association with the artist **Alexander Calder** (1898–1976).

**Alexander Calder** was an inventive and prolific maker whose career spanned his adult life. **Calder** harboured a lifetime fascination for folk art and Indigenous manufacture. On a visit to Latin America in the 1940s, **Calder** and his wife Louisa encountered the tapestries of the region. A series of wall hangings at the home of New York collector and philanthropist, Catalina Kitty Meyer, inspired the artist anew.

**Calder** had previously collaborated with Meyer on an art auction to benefit victims of the 1973 Nicaraguan earthquake. **Calder** and Meyer then conceived a project to adapt his designs into soft sculptural hammocks and tapestries.

EAT (Experiments in Art and Technology), the non-profit formed in 1966 by Robert Rauschenberg and others, put together a proposal to cover the costs of production. The primary aim was to ensure that village workers were paid a commensurate wage in the aftermath of the disaster.

**Calder** selected images from his voluminous archive of gouaches, drawings and tapestry sketches and monitored the prototypes with realistic expectations. *Let them be*, he said to Meyer, *my circles aren't perfect - and I don't want them to be*.

No one was prepared for the astonishing beauty and complexity that ensued. In particular, the Guatemalan artisans exploded **Calder's** signature loops and swirls into fabulous surfaces of hand-dyed, curled and braided fibres. The rugs were alive, almost more *Calderesque* than the originals on which they were based.

**Calder's** network of gallerists, collectors, curators and allies supported the project, offering pieces to clients and encouraging donations to universities under the *Art for Education* program. A 1975 gala at the New York Cultural Center under director Mario Amaya led to exhibitions at the

Chrysler Museum and at venues across the United States. Editions of the tapestries found homes in museum, university, and private collections worldwide.

For details and sales, please contact the gallery [ge@gallevery.com](mailto:ge@gallevery.com).



AN **ALEXANDER CALDER** TAPESTRY  
*Pyramids [76/100], 1975*  
maguay fibre, fabricated in Guatemala  
182 x 244 cm, 71 3/4 x 96 1/4 in

*Collections (Selections):*

The Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago)  
The Calder Foundation (New York)  
Centre Pompidou (Paris)  
Fondation Beyeler (Riehen)  
The Guggenheim Museum (New York)  
The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, D.C.)  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles)  
The Menil Collection (Houston)

# THE GALLERY OF EVERYTHING



The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York)  
Museo Reina Sofía (Madrid)  
Musée National d'Art Moderne (Paris)  
The Museum of Modern Art (New York)  
National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.)  
Peggy Guggenheim Collection (Venice)  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco)  
Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, D.C.)  
Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam)  
Tate Modern (London)  
The Whitney Museum of American Art (New York)