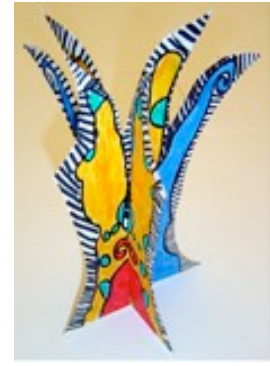


Stables Paper Sculpture



A “Stabile” is a paper sculpture inspired by the artist Alexander Calder, who was famous for creating large outdoor installations of metal sculptures meant to be viewed “in the round”. “In the Round” is an art vocabulary term which refers to a sculpture that the artist has intended for the viewer to see from any given angle. This can apply to sculptures such as the ones done by Calder, shown below, or even portrait busts, or even something as ordinary as a bowl or a cup. If you are using a bowl that was made out of clay, you expect it to be evenly attractive from any way you hold it. It would be disappointing to see gouges in the side, to feel an uneven thickness in the walls, or to not have it sit level because the base isn’t flat enough. Sculptures meant to be viewed “In the Round” must be prepared so that they look good from any angle.



1. You need 2 pieces of 12x12 white square paper.
2. Hold them together so all edges match. Keep the base flat, but draw a freehanded series of lines that come to pointed, swirled, curved, or choppy edges along the top. This should be large and reach the top of the page and extend to both ends on the bottom nearly.
3. Cut it out. You should now have 2 of the same odd shaped pieces of paper (both should have a flat bottom).
4. Decorate the front AND back of both pieces. Create lots of different designs and solidly color all sides and shapes with colored pencil. There should be very little white paper still showing and much of the area should be decorated with design, not just color.
5. To fit them together, you need to cut each of them on opposite ends. First, find the middle of the pieces so you know where to cut. On one, you will cut halfway down from the top. On the other, you will cut halfway up from the bottom. They should now be able to slide together and should support each other enough so the sculpture will stand on its own.

