



Media Information  
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## The first BMW Art Car by Alexander Calder, 1975

“When everything is perfect, there is no fulfilment.” Alexander Calder

The BMW 3.0 CSL, with which Alexander Calder laid the foundation stone for the Art Car Collection in 1975, was also one of his final works of art before his death. As a sculptor who normally devised his own shapes, Calder managed to free himself from the formal structure of racing cars and, by painting them, aspired to give them his own distinctive mark. As in the case of his sculptures and mobiles, he used intensive colours and gracefully sweeping surfaces which he distributed generously over the wings, bonnet and roof.

Born in Philadelphia in 1898, Alexander Calder started his career as an engineer, only then to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps as a sculptor. Feeling drawn equally towards art and technology, he developed his own completely unique form of sculpture, his constructions being enormous but nonetheless light and floating in appearance. He became famous for his abstract mobiles which were hailed by critics as the most innovative American sculptures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He died in New York in 1976 at the age of 78.

### Alexander Calder – The BMW 3.0 CSL

- six-cylinder inline engine
- 4 valves per cylinder
- twin overhead camshafts
- displacement: 3210 cm<sup>3</sup>
- power output: 480 bhp
- top speed: 291 km/h

In 1975 this Art Car designed by Alexander Calder was driven in the 24-hour race at Le Mans by the American Sam Posey as well as Jean Guichet and Hervé Poulain from France. It was the first and last time the car was used in racing. After seven hours the car had to give up due to a defective prop shaft. The car has been on display since then.

High-quality pictures of BMW Art Cars can be downloaded from the “Photo” section at [www.press.bmwgroup.com](http://www.press.bmwgroup.com) (search string “Art Car”).

Documentary footage material of the BMW Art Cars can be accessed at <https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/pressclub/p/pcgl/tvFootageDetail.html?docNo=PF0003039>

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