

The Kelly-Calder Connection
**ABSTRACT
ALLIES**



Black Blue (1959), Ellsworth Kelly



Black Beast (1940), Alexander Calder

NO BROMANCE HAS been more artistically fruitful than that of Alexander Calder and Ellsworth Kelly. For more than 20 years, the American artists were close friends; though Calder was 25 years Kelly's senior, the two men influenced each other's art for decades. "Their work has the most incredible dialogue," says Swiss dealer Dominique Lévy. "It is a connection about space, abstraction, and the sublime."

That connection is the focus of *Calder/Kelly*, a new exhibition at New York's Lévy Gorvy gallery (levygorvy.com) that juxtaposes Calder's sculptures with Kelly's large-scale paintings. Both men were known to venture into the territory of the other: Kelly's hard-edge paintings mirror the abstract shapes for which Calder was best known, while Calder's folded sheets of metal feature nods to Kelly's own minimalist style. The show, which opens November 9, will include almost 50 works from the artists and personal correspondence that gives more insight into their longtime friendship. A.M.H.S