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Press Release

Hauser & Wirth to inaugurate its new Palo Alto location with ‘Calder | O’Keeffe,’ the first exhibition to explore the friendship and artistic affinities between two American titans

Opening Date: 3 October 2026



New York... Marc Payot, Iwan Wirth and Manuela Wirth, Presidents of Hauser & Wirth, today announced that the gallery's newest California location will open in downtown Palo Alto on 3 October 2026, inaugurated by the first ever exhibition devoted to the mutual admiration and artistic kinship between Alexander Calder and Georgia O'Keeffe, two defining figures of American modernism.

To mark the opening and celebrate the local community, the gallery will host a festival of public activities on Saturday 3 October, including a series of events in the new Hauser & Wirth Bookshop. Conceived as a welcoming community hub, the Bookshop will be a site of ongoing public programs in the future, extending the gallery's longstanding commitment to publishing, learning and cultural dialogue.

Developed in close collaboration with the Calder Foundation, 'Calder | O'Keeffe' brings together exceptional works by both artists, complemented by archival materials documenting their decades-long friendship.

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Informed by research undertaken with the guidance of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the exhibition reflects Hauser & Wirth's foundational commitment to cultivating new perspectives on canonical artists, fostering original art historical scholarship, and catalyzing cultural dialogue among artists and the public: the inaugural Palo Alto exhibition 'Calder | O'Keeffe' harkens in spirit back to the gallery's very first public exhibition, 'Alexander Calder. Mobiles and Gouaches' / 'Joan Miró. Sculptures and Paintings,' presented in Zurich in 1992.

'Calder | O'Keeffe' is organized by Hauser & Wirth Curatorial Senior Director Alexis Lowry. The exhibition is Hauser & Wirth's second major presentation of Calder's work in California—the critically acclaimed exhibition 'Calder: Nonspace' was held at the gallery's downtown Los Angeles complex in 2018—and coincides with the upcoming presentation 'Calder. François Premier' opening at Hauser & Wirth Paris on 19 October 2026.

Exhibition Details

While Calder and O'Keeffe are celebrated for different contributions to twentieth-century art, as well as their enduring influence on contemporary artists, the resonances between their artistic practices have remained largely unexplored. Through carefully considered pairings of paintings, sculptures, jewelry and archival materials, 'Calder | O'Keeffe' invites visitors to contemplate congruities and contrasts in their respective revolutionary approaches to abstraction, movement and the dynamic forces that shape the natural world.

Although Calder and O'Keeffe worked in distinct artistic languages, each sought to give form to the unseen energies shaping our experience of the world around us. O'Keeffe distilled the landscapes and organic elements of the American Southwest into painted compositions of remarkable clarity and intensity, while Calder transformed gravity, air currents and immateriality into four-dimensional compositions. Viewed together, their works suggest a shared, defining preoccupation with expanding the poetics of space.

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The surviving evidence of Calder and O'Keeffe's relationship points to a friendship grounded in mutual respect and admiration. Photographs from late in their lives document their friendly familiarity, while postcards from Calder suggest a correspondence maintained over many years. Their connection is further embodied in a small number of deeply personal objects. In the late 1930s, Calder created a brass brooch for O'Keeffe formed from the initials of her surname. O'Keeffe wore the pin vertically, so that its K hung from the O, as if an abstract, organic shape rather than a readable monogram. The pin's rounded lines echo the forms in O'Keeffe's own work as well as the defining dynamism of Calder's. In the early 1940s, O'Keeffe also acquired a lyrical black Calder mobile that became a treasured presence in her Abiquiu, New Mexico home. 'Untitled' (1942) was a key component of O'Keeffe's carefully cultivated domestic environment and appears in many photographs of the artist, including a now famous portrait by photographer Dan Budnick.

O'Keeffe once remarked that she recognized her own 'pelvis bone holes' in Calder's forms—a striking moment of artistic recognition that speaks to the unexpected links between their practices. By offering a fresh perspective on Calder and O'Keeffe's little-known friendship, this exhibition takes its place alongside a series of presentations organized by Hauser & Wirth over the past 35 years, aimed at revealing new and previously unexplored pathways in the language of modernism and modern culture.

About the Palo Alto location

Hauser & Wirth's gallery in Palo Alto occupies a century-old post office building at 201–225 Hamilton Avenue in the heart of downtown, a short distance from Stanford University. Typical of early twentieth-century Bay Area architecture, the corner building features expansive street-level windows and 2,600 square feet of exhibition space, including a Bookshop. A program of exhibitions will be complemented by talks, events and educational initiatives.



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The new location will be led by Beatrice Shen, Senior Director, who has played a central role in Hauser & Wirth's West Coast presence, having helped oversee its Downtown Los Angeles Arts District location and leading the gallery's participation in San Francisco's FOG Design+Art fair.

The adaptation of the historic site by architect Luis Laplace, Principal of Laplace and a longstanding collaborator of the gallery, continues Hauser & Wirth's commitment to the adaptive conservation of architecturally significant buildings. This Northern California space joins the gallery's network of spaces that have been thoughtfully transformed for contemporary cultural use while preserving their original character, creating a new platform for artists and audiences within the Bay Area's dynamic cultural community.

Hauser & Wirth's relationship to the art and artists of California dates to its founding in 1992. Representing eleven California artists and estates, Hauser & Wirth is dedicated to sharing the extraordinary contributions of the state's cultural and creative innovations internationally.

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Calder and Georgia O'Keeffe at a dinner in Calder's honor, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 1976
Photograph by Abner Symons © 2026 Calder Foundation, New York / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Interior view of a section of O'Keeffe's living room in Abiquiu, Apr 1980,
Mobile by Alexander Calder, 'Untitled' (1942)

1984

Gelatin silver print, 22 1/4 x 14 5/8 in

© Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Photo: Myron Wood

Alexander Calder

The Flower

1944

Bronze

61 x 56 x 49 cm / 24 x 22 x 19 1/4 in

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Photo: Tom Powel Imaging

Georgia O'Keeffe

Pelvis with the Moon – New Mexico

1943

Oil on canvas

76.2 x 61 cm / 30 x 24 in

© Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

Exterior view, the site of Hauser & Wirth Palo Alto, 2026.

Photo: Jon McNeal Photography

Interior view, Hauser & Wirth bookshop Palo Alto, 2026

Photo: Roger Edwards Jr,