METALWORK ASSIGNMENT #6

I hope you all remember watching the Alexander Calder video, some of you may have seen it more than once. Alexander Calder , aside from being my art hero, is a very well known artist. His work is all over the world. He is mostly known for his mobiles and stabiles. The stabiles are the large metal sculptures mostly found outside. They are often painted in primary colours ( red, yellow,blue) and black and white. But not always, the closest one to us is in Seattle and is orange. Search out images of his work online, search “calder stabiles” Alexander Calder, being the clever man that he was, did a lot of drawing before he started making a stabile. He tried out various designs and variations. He tried different colour schemes etc. When he was confident he had a good design , he made a model. He often used cardboard. He would make his model , also known as a “maquette” and then he could show the model to potential clients and see if they wanted him to create a big one out of metal. I would like you to design a stabile. Typically Calder’s stabile work was “abstact”, meaning it did not represent anything in the real world, just shapes and colours. Start with a bunch of drawings ( minimum of 6 please) then choose your best drawing/design. Refine this drawing and work on it a bit until you think you are ready to build your model. Find some cardboard, the kind that cereal boxes are made of is perfect. You might need to scrounge around a bit but any thin flat material you can cut , will work. Build model and colour it if you can. If you don’t have colour that is fine. Your model will need to be made of at least two parts , so that it can stand on its own.

