“All my life, I have cultivated the sketch. I do it every day, sometimes in charcoal, sometimes in ink, sometimes in watercolor.

Sketching is important, because it delivers spontaneity and originality. Things travel from the mind, through the hand, onto the paper. These are the first steps in defining a project, how it could be done. At my firm, we also sketch throughout a project, in discussions with colleagues, collaborators, and clients. Sometimes I, personally, have hundreds or thousands of sketches by the end of a project.

Afterward, they become autonomous works. A sketch is not a building, and a building is not a sketch. It is another piece of art.

For an Alexander Calder show, Santiago Calatrava draws new conclusions

a matter of perspective

We did over 30 sketches for an exhibition of Alexander Calder’s smallest sculptures, now at the Dominique Lévy gallery in New York. Sketching out different ideas, we decided to place the delicate pieces on mirror-topped pedestals, introducing the possibility of viewing the work from a completely different yet complementary perspective—like looking up at a much larger Calder.

The reflections appear to be three-dimensional paintings, evocative of Joan Miró constellations. A strong link with other artists is what elevates Calder’s work. We hope the exhibition offers glimmers of this.”