



Charles Dellschau

By Thomas McEvilley, Roger Cardinal, James Brett, Thomas D. Crouch, Barbara Safarova, Randall Morris, Tracy Baker-White

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In the fall of 1899, Charles A.A. Dellschau (1830–1923), a retired butcher from Houston, embarked on a project that would occupy him for more than 20 years. What began as an illustrated manuscript recounting his experiences in the California Gold Rush became an obsessive project resulting in 12 large, hand-bound books with more than 2,500 drawings related to airships and the development of flight. Dellschau's designs resemble traditional hot air balloons augmented with fantastic visual details, collage and text. The hand-drawn "Aeros" were interspersed with collaged pages called "Press Blooms," featuring thousands of newspaper clippings related to the political events and technological advances of the period.

After the artist's death in 1923, the books were stored in the attic of the family home in Houston. In the aftermath of a fire in the 1960s, they were dumped on the sidewalk and salvaged by a junk dealer. Eight made their way into the collections of the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Witte Museum and the Menil Collection; the remainder were sold to a private collector. Dellschau's works have since been collected by numerous other museums including the American Folk Art Museum, the High Museum, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Like the eccentric outpourings of Adolf Wölfli, Henry Darger and Achilles Rizzoli, these private works were not created for the art world, but to satisfy a driving internal creative force. Dreamer, optimist and visionary, Charles Dellschau is one of the earliest documented outsider artists known in America. This first monograph on Dellschau includes an essay by art critic Thomas McEvilley, an essay by critic Roger Cardinal of the University of Kent, a text by James Brett of the Museum of Everything in London, an essay by Tom Crouch of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Air and Space, an essay by Barbara Safarova and a biographical overview by artist and independent curator Tracy Baker-White.

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Editorial Review

Review

Circus hued, intricately drafted, these airborne objects are those that arrive in dreams, wheels and pulleys whirring musically, a great dynamo of effort that is belied by the gracefulness of flight. With its title-- Long Cross Cut on Water on Land and up to the Clouds-- evoking both the engineer and the poet, the above imagining of an airship and its uniformed crew (there's even a chef, it seems) signals the grandness of Dellschau's vision. (Albert Mobilo *Bookforum*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Reyna:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which you should start with. This Charles Dellschau is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Daniel Moore:

As a student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's heart or real their passion. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and also can't see colorful images on there. Yeah, it is to get complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Charles Dellschau can make you experience more interested to read.

Larry Morris:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got pupils? We believe that that concern was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. So you know that little person similar to reading or as examining become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important along with book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update concerning something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is Charles Dellschau.

Jennifer Bell:

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