

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

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From reader reviews:

Barbara Butler:

The book Charles Dellschau make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make studying a book Charles Dellschau for being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open and read a guide Charles Dellschau. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this book?

Dustin Singh:

Why? Because this Charles Dellschau is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Carlos Pollard:

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