

First Flight

Mixed Feelings About Flying



Icarus

In [Greek mythology](#), **Icarus** ([/'ikərəs/](#); [Ancient Greek](#): Ἰκαρος [\[iːkaros\]](#)) is the son of the [master craftsman Daedalus](#), the creator of the [Labyrinth](#). Icarus and his father attempt to escape from [Crete](#) by means of wings that his father constructed from feathers and wax. Icarus' father warns him first of complacency and then of [hubris](#), asking that he fly neither too low nor too high, so the sea's dampness would not clog his wings nor the sun's heat melt them. Icarus ignored his father's instructions not to fly too close to the sun; when the wax in his wings melted he tumbled out of the sky and fell into the sea where he drowned, sparking the idiom *"don't fly too close to the sun"*.

Icarus



Jacob Peter Gowy

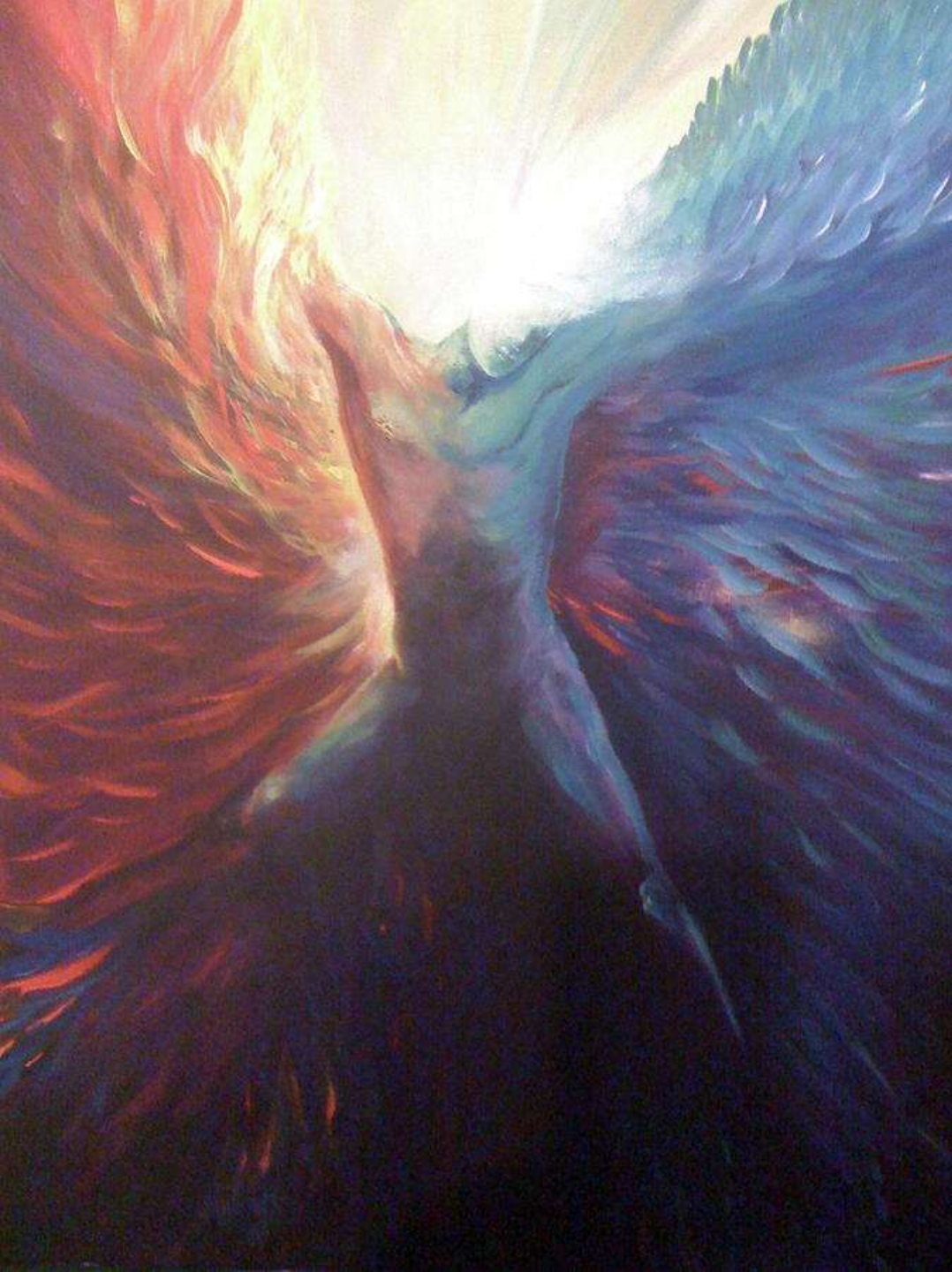


Carlo Saraceni

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLu07lyg32Q>



Richard Wallace



Patti Lane



Rumen Spasov



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duf0knJ7CXI>

<https://joyofmuseums.com/museums/europe/belgium-museums/brussels-museums/royal-museums-of-fine-arts-of-belgium/landscape-with-the-fall-of-icarus-by-pieter-brueghel-the-elder/>

Musée des Beaux Arts

About suffering they were never wrong,
The old Masters: how well they understood
Its human position: how it takes place
While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along;
How, when the aged are reverently, passionately waiting
For the miraculous birth, there always must be
Children who did not specially want it to happen, skating
On a pond at the edge of the wood:
They never forgot
That even the dreadful martyrdom must run its course
Anyhow in a corner, some untidy spot
Where the dogs go on with their doggy life and the torturer's horse
Scratches its innocent behind on a tree.
In Breughel's *Icarus*, for instance: how everything turns away
Quite leisurely from the disaster; the ploughman may
Have heard the splash, the forsaken cry,
But for him it was not an important failure; the sun shone
As it had to on the white legs disappearing into the green
Water, and the expensive delicate ship that must have seen
Something amazing, a boy falling out of the sky,
Had somewhere to get to and sailed calmly on.
W.H. Auden

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=zEJyZepZlr8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEJyZepZlr8)



[John Singer Sargent](#)

<https://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/now-at-the-met/2017/john-singer-sargent-world-war-i>

Leonardo DaVinci

Among the many subjects Leonardo studied, the possibility of human mechanical flight held particular fascination. He produced more than 35,000 words and 500 sketches dealing with flying machines, the nature of air, and bird flight. These investigations of flight are scattered throughout the many da Vinci codices and manuscript collections, but he did produce one short codex almost entirely on the subject in 1505-1506, the *Codice sul volo degli uccelli* (*Codex on the Flight of Birds*).

Leonardo's interest in flight appears to have stemmed from his extensive work on military technology which he performed in the employ of the Milanese court. He filled many notebooks with countless sketches of weapons, military machines, and fortifications. They included a giant crossbow, a tank, and a submarine, to name just a few. However, as far as it is known, none of these inventions were ever built. Leonardo's focus on military technology and tactics lead him to the idea of aerial reconnaissance. Once engaged with the notion of a flying machine, it became an obsession.

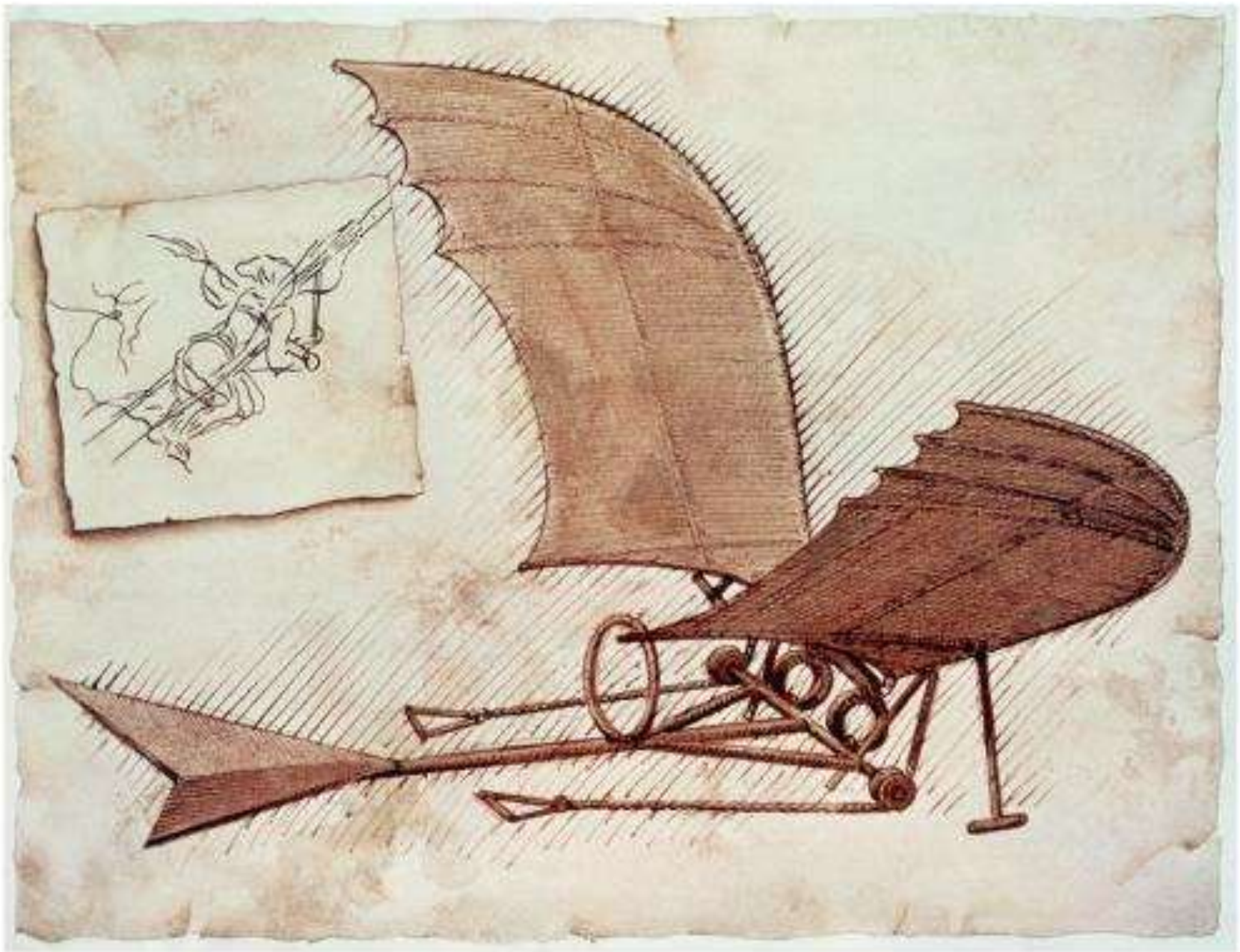
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlj4CzDZ0W8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPCZ6HU9XLQ>

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely from a 17th-century manuscript. The text is written in dark ink on aged, slightly stained paper. The words are difficult to decipher due to the cursive style and fading.

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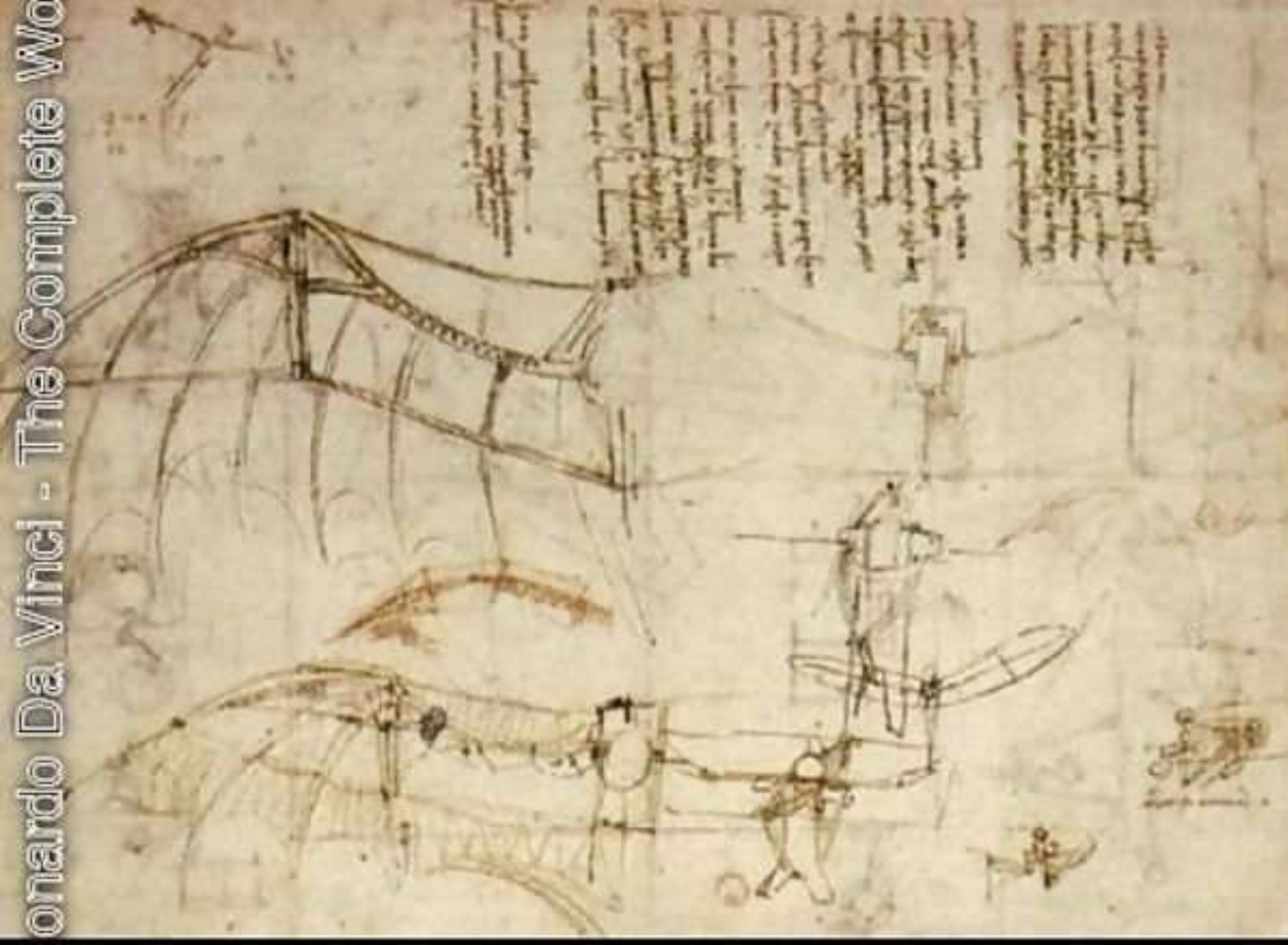




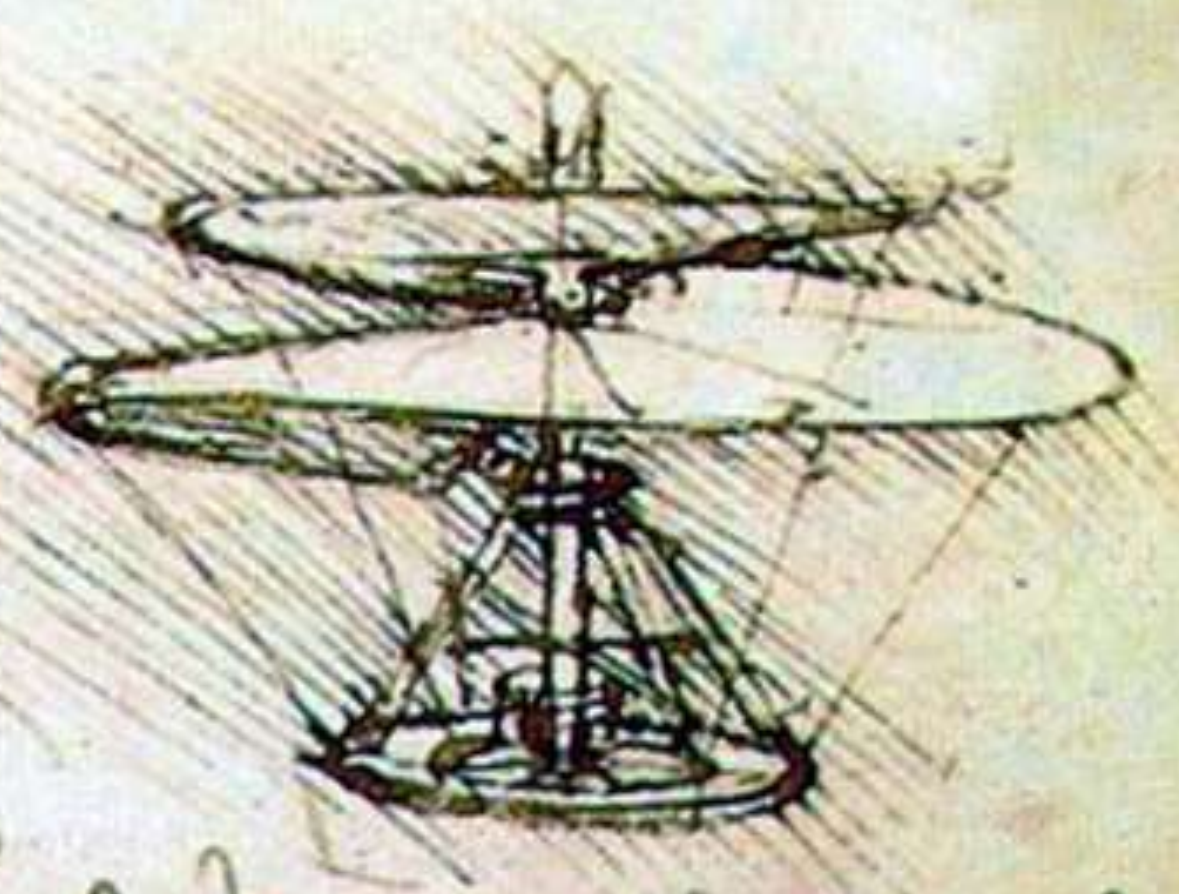
1. Die Flügel sind aus einem leichten Material zu machen
 2. Die Flügel müssen so beschaffen seyn, daß sie sich leicht zusammen- und auseinanderklappen lassen
 3. Die Flügel müssen so beschaffen seyn, daß sie sich leicht zusammen- und auseinanderklappen lassen

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Handwritten text in Devanagari script, likely a title or introductory note, located to the left of the diagram.



Handwritten text in Devanagari script, likely a detailed description or explanation of the device shown in the diagram, located below the diagram.

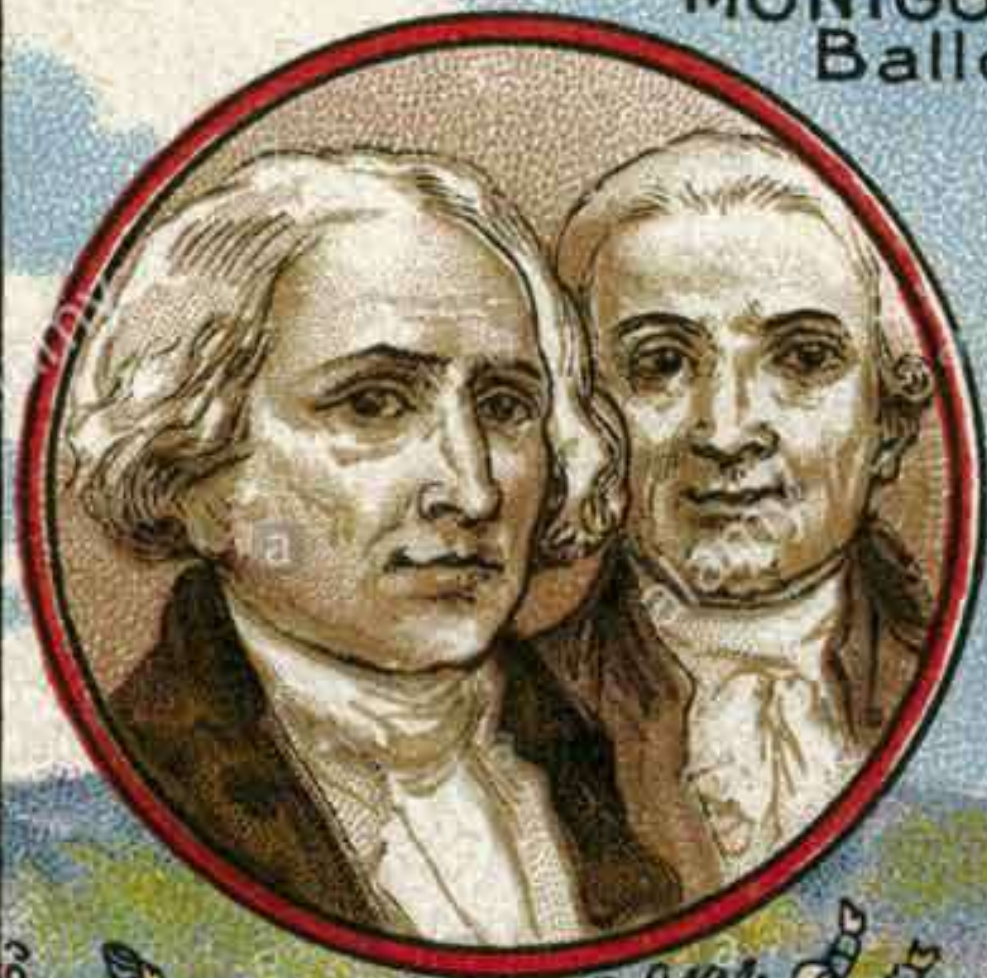
Montgolfier Brothers

Joseph-Michel Montgolfier (26 August 1740 – 26 June 1810) and **Jacques-Étienne Montgolfier** (6 January 1745 – 2 August 1799) were paper manufacturers from [Annonay](#), in [Ardèche](#), France best known as inventors of the ***Montgolfière***-style [hot air balloon](#), globe aérostatique. They launched the first piloted ascent, carrying Jacques-Étienne. Joseph-Michel also invented the self-acting [hydraulic ram](#) (1796), Jacques-Étienne founded the first paper-making vocational school and the brothers invented a process to manufacture [transparent paper](#).

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjqdgbFGFiE>

INVENTEURS

MONTGOLFIER
Ballon

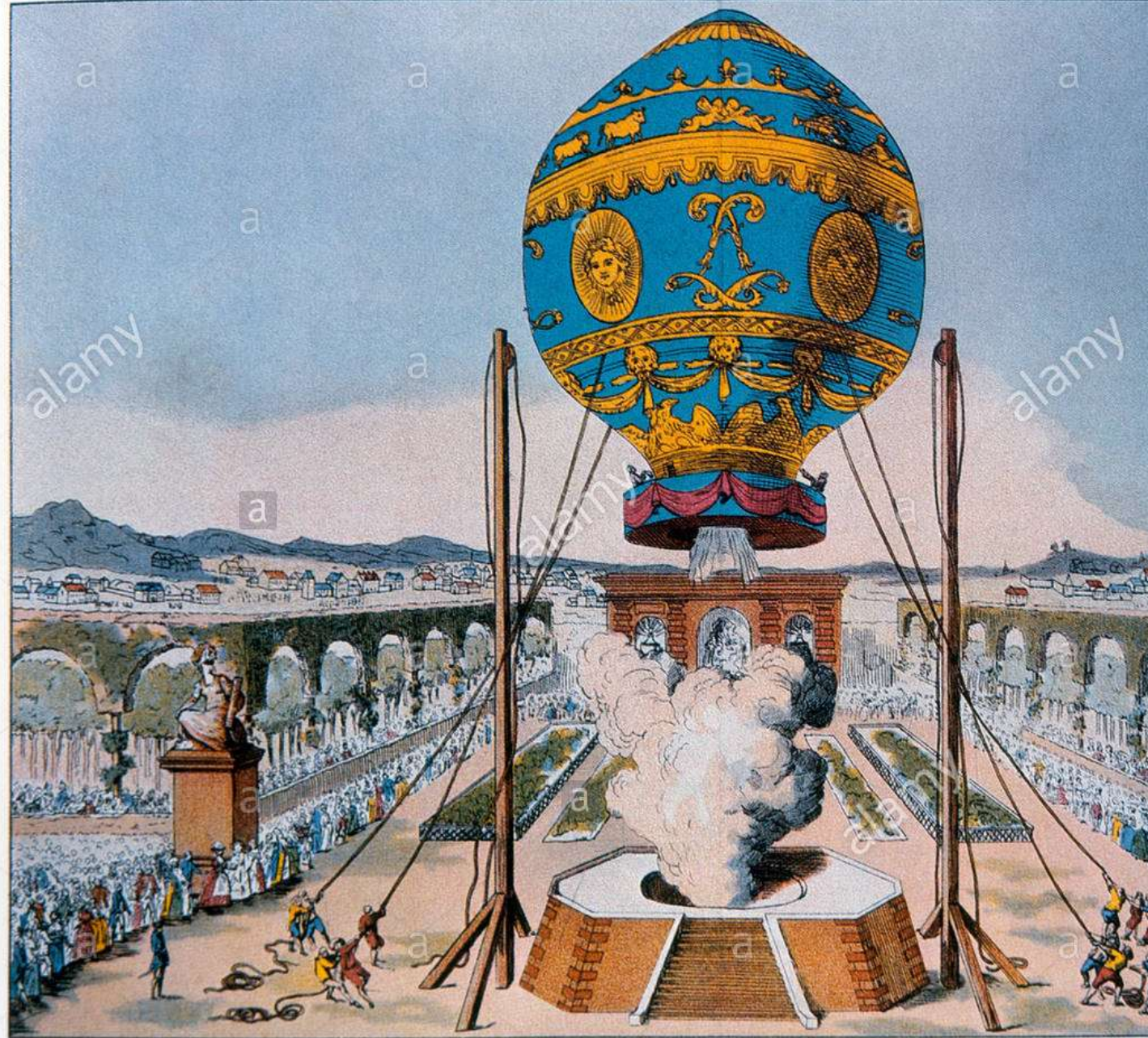


Cailler CHOCOLATS
FINS



Série XXI

N° 3





Montgolfier's B.
Fauxbourg of St Germain.





FIGURE EXACTE
DU GLOBE
Qui le premier,
des Hommes

ET PROPORTIONS.
AÉROSTATIQUE,
a enlevé
dans les Airs.



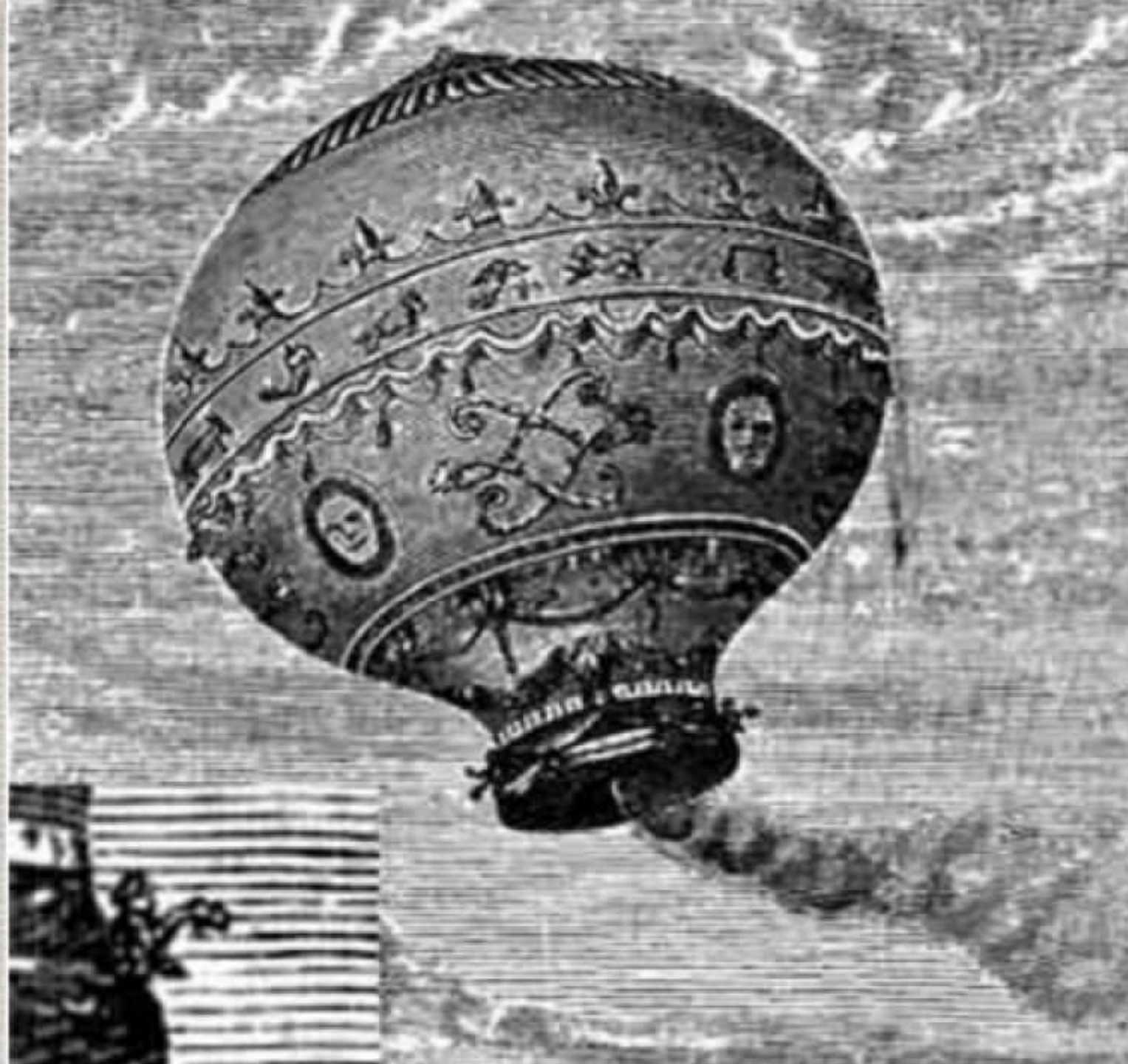
Hauteur du Globe..... 70 pieds	Largeur du Globe..... 400 Toises
Diamètre..... 48 pieds	Largeur qu'il a eue à son départ..... 400 Toises
Capacité..... 60000 pieds cubes	La galerie avoit 3 pieds de largeur

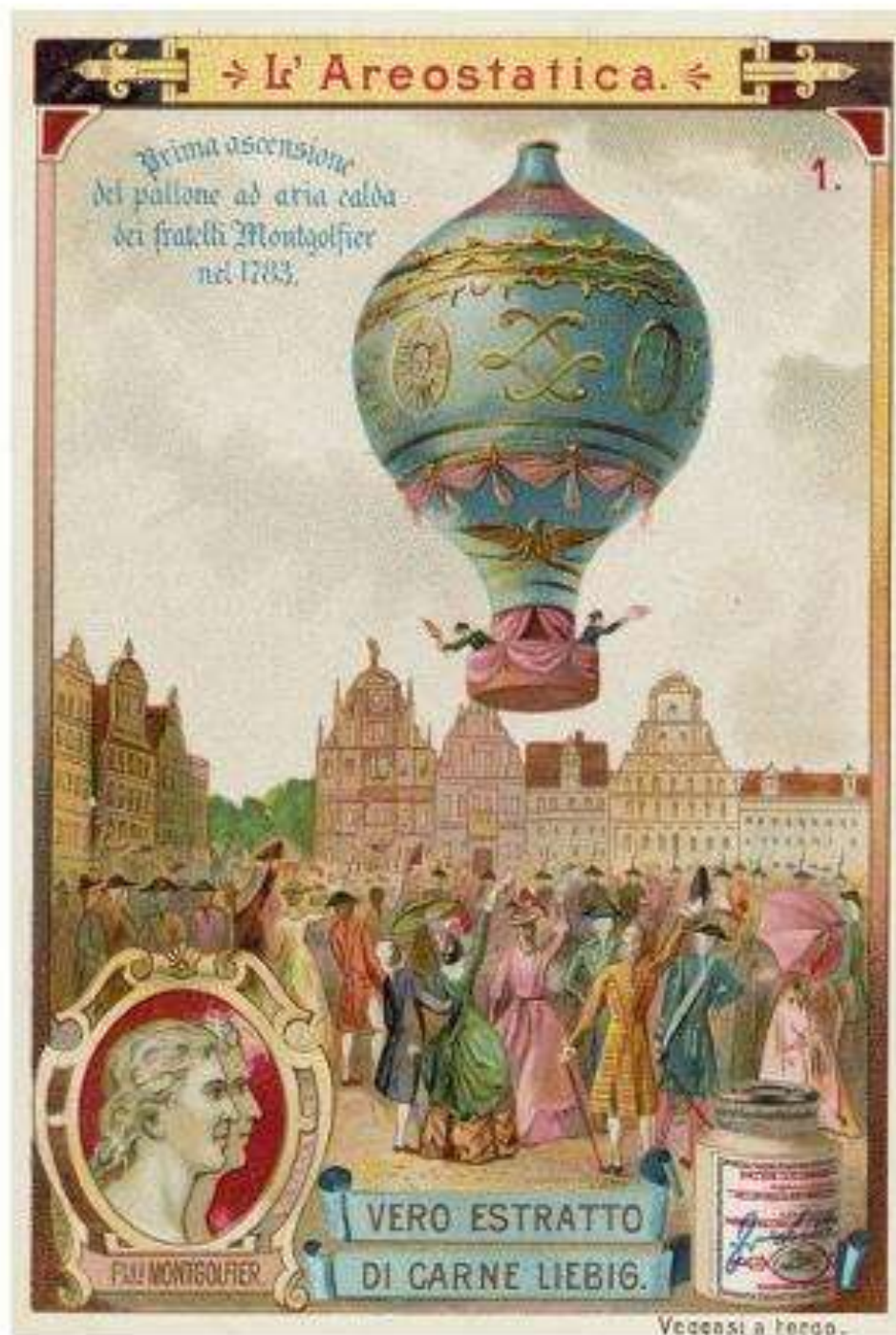
La partie supérieure étoit entourée de Fleurs-de-lys; au-dessous les 12 Signes du Zodiaque.
Au milieu les Chiffres du Roi, entourés de Soleils.

Le bas étoit garni de Marcarons et de Ours lardés, plusieurs Angles à sautoir étoient parvenus à supporter en l'air cette puissante Machine.

Tous ces ornemens étoient de couleur d'or sur un fond bleu, excepté que ce superbe Globe paroissoit être d'or et d'azur.

La galerie circulaire, dans laquelle on voyoit M. le Marquis D'ARLANDES et M. PILATRE DE ROZIER, étoit peinte en Draperies cramoisi à franges d'or.







gettyimages

25 YEARS

DEA / G. NIMATALLAH



A Professor Filling, & Explaining to an Audience, the Nature of a Balloon.

Pubd at the Art-Library, April 20th 1784, by J. BASTRE, No 10, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell.



Francesca Da Goya (1746-1828)

Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes was a Spanish romantic painter and printmaker. He is considered the most important Spanish artist of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and throughout his long career was a commentator and chronicler of his era.

At some time between late 1792 and early 1793 an undiagnosed illness left Goya deaf. He became withdrawn and introspective while the direction and tone of his work changed. He began the series of [aquatinted etchings](#), published in 1799 as the [Caprichos](#)—completed in parallel with the more official commissions of portraits and religious paintings. In 1799 Goya published 80 *Caprichos* prints depicting what he described as "the innumerable foibles and follies to be found in any civilized society, and from the common prejudices and deceitful practices which custom, ignorance, or self-interest have made usual". The visions in these prints are partly explained by the caption "The sleep of reason produces monsters". Yet these are not solely bleak; they demonstrate the artist's sharp satirical wit, particularly evident in etchings such as *Hunting for Teeth*.

Goya's physical and mental breakdown seems to have happened a few weeks after the French declaration of war on Spain. A contemporary reported, "The noises in his head and deafness aren't improving, yet his vision is much better and he is back in control of his balance." These symptoms may indicate a prolonged viral encephalitis, or possibly a series of miniature strokes resulting from high blood pressure and which affected the hearing and balance centers of the brain. Symptoms of [tinnitus](#), episodes of [imbalance](#) and progressive [deafness](#) are typical of [Menière's disease](#). It is possible that Goya suffered from cumulative [lead poisoning](#), as he used massive amounts of [lead white](#)—which he ground himself—in his paintings, both as a canvas primer and as a primary color.

Other postmortem diagnostic assessments point toward paranoid dementia, possibly due to brain trauma, as evidenced by marked changes in his work after his recovery, culminating in the "black" paintings.¹ Art historians have noted Goya's singular ability to express his personal demons as horrific and fantastic imagery that speaks universally, and allows his audience to find its own catharsis in the images.

A Way of Flying



Harris 200-101-2
3430.14

Witches' Flight



The Sleep of Reason produces Monsters



Marc Chagall (1887-1985)

Flying Lovers

They fell for each other in 1909 in Saint Petersburg. Bella Rosenfeld, who was a 19-years-old daughter of a wealthy Russian jeweler, and Marc, seven years her senior, a painter still attending an art school. They both said it was love at the first sight. Bella, who was to become a talented writer, described how Marc looked on their first encounter: *When you did catch a glimpse of his eyes, they were as blue as if they'd fallen straight out of the sky. They were strange eyes ... long, almond-shaped ... and each seemed to sail along by itself, like a little boat.* Marc also wrote about this meeting in *My Life*, his autobiography: *Her silence is mine, her eyes mine. It is as if she knows everything about my childhood, my present, my future, as if she can see right through me.*







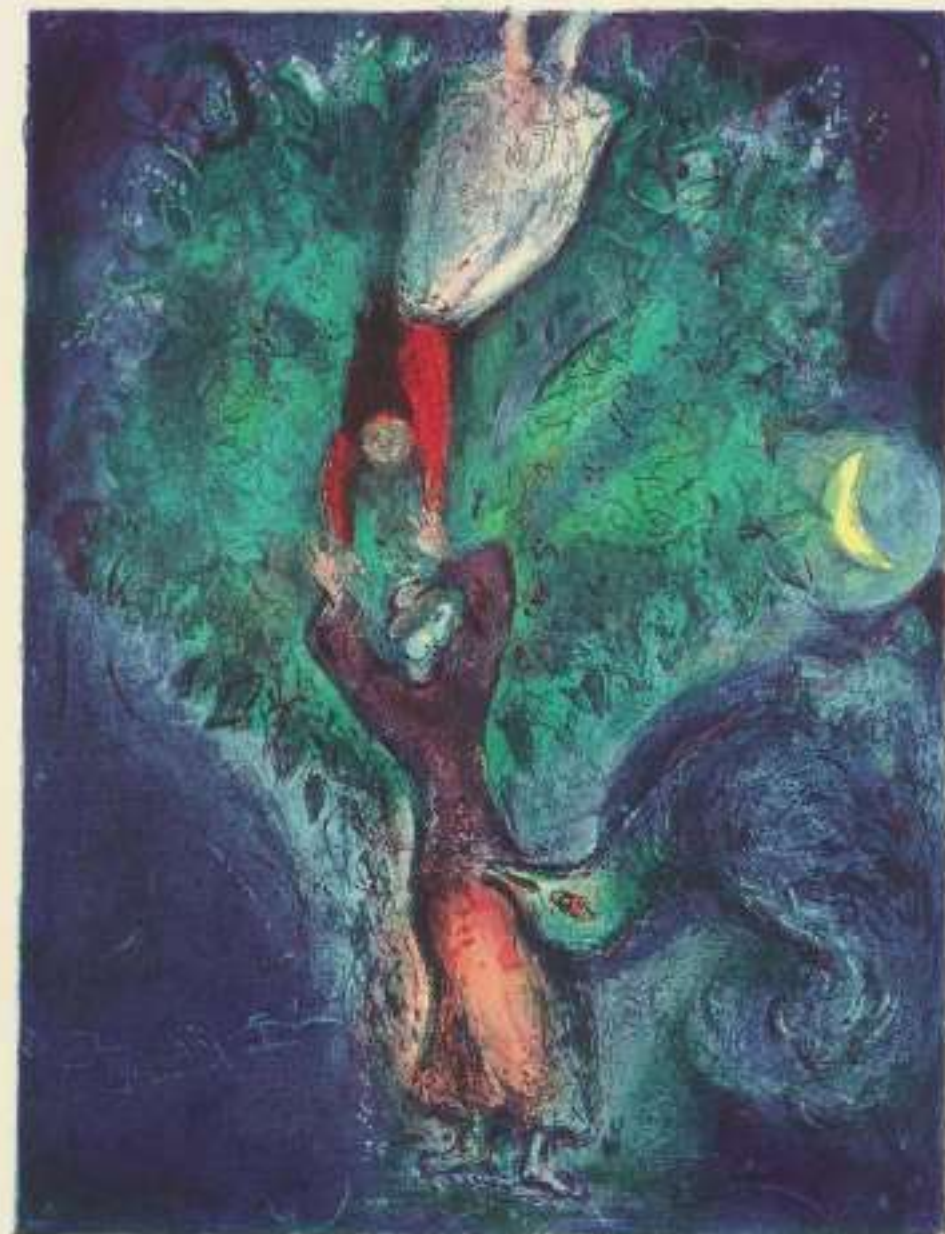








Marc Chagall - Der Spaziergang, 1917/18, State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg © VBK, Wien, 2006/07



Der Spaziergang

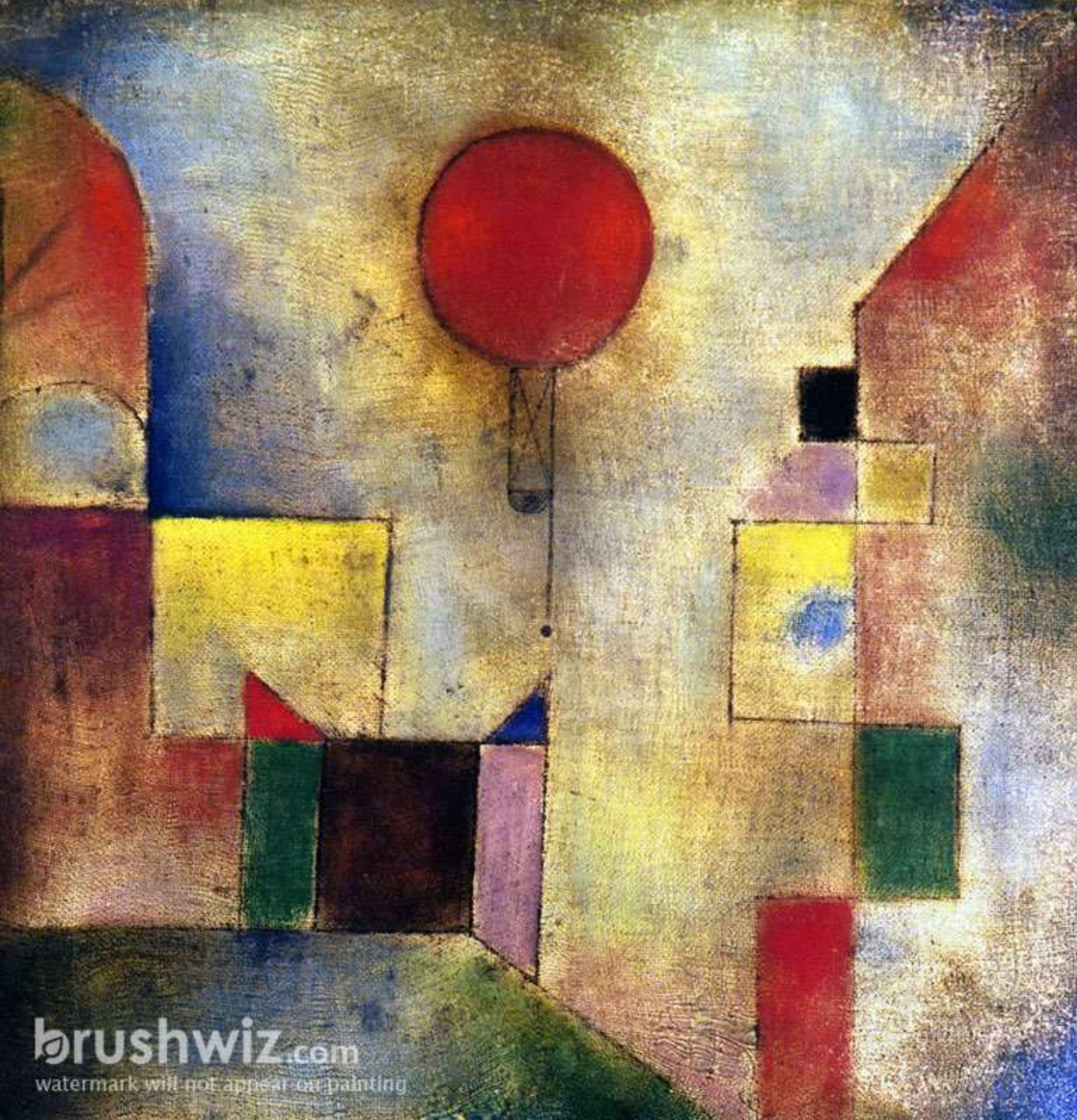
Marc Chagall

Paul Klee (1879-1940)

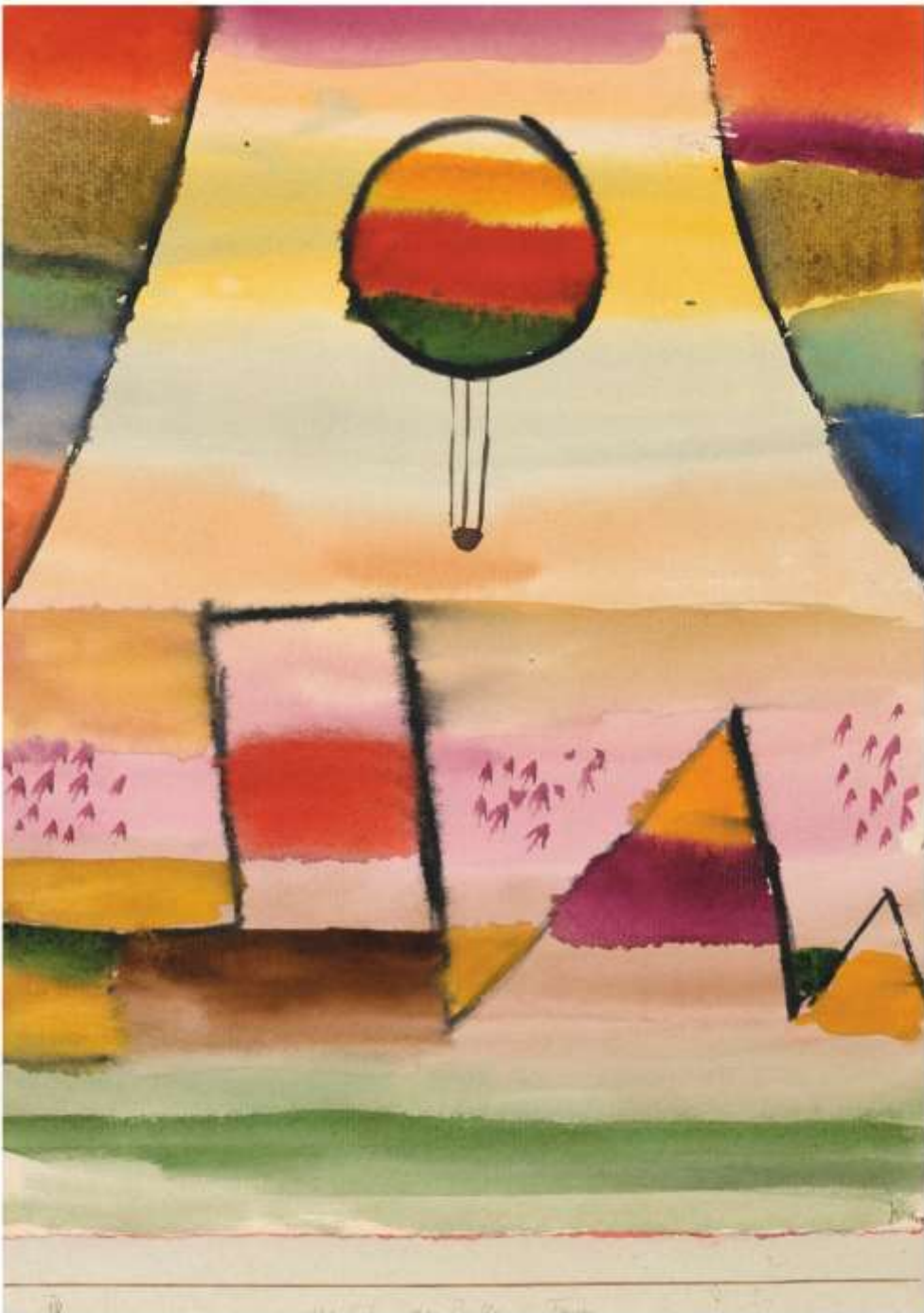
Paul Klee was a Swiss-born German artist. His highly individual style was influenced by movements in art that included [Expressionism](#), [Cubism](#), and [Surrealism](#). Klee was a natural draftsman who experimented with and eventually deeply explored [color theory](#), writing about it extensively; his lectures *Writings on Form and Design Theory* (*Schriften zur Form und Gestaltungslehre*), published in English as the [Paul Klee Notebooks](#), are held to be as important for modern art as [Leonardo da Vinci](#)'s [A Treatise on Painting](#) for the [Renaissance](#). He and his colleague, Russian painter [Wassily Kandinsky](#), both taught at the [Bauhaus](#) school of art, design and architecture in Germany. His works reflect his dry humor and his sometimes childlike perspective, his personal moods and beliefs, and his musicality.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nq9oBYgkxaw>

Red Balloon



The Balloon in Fenster



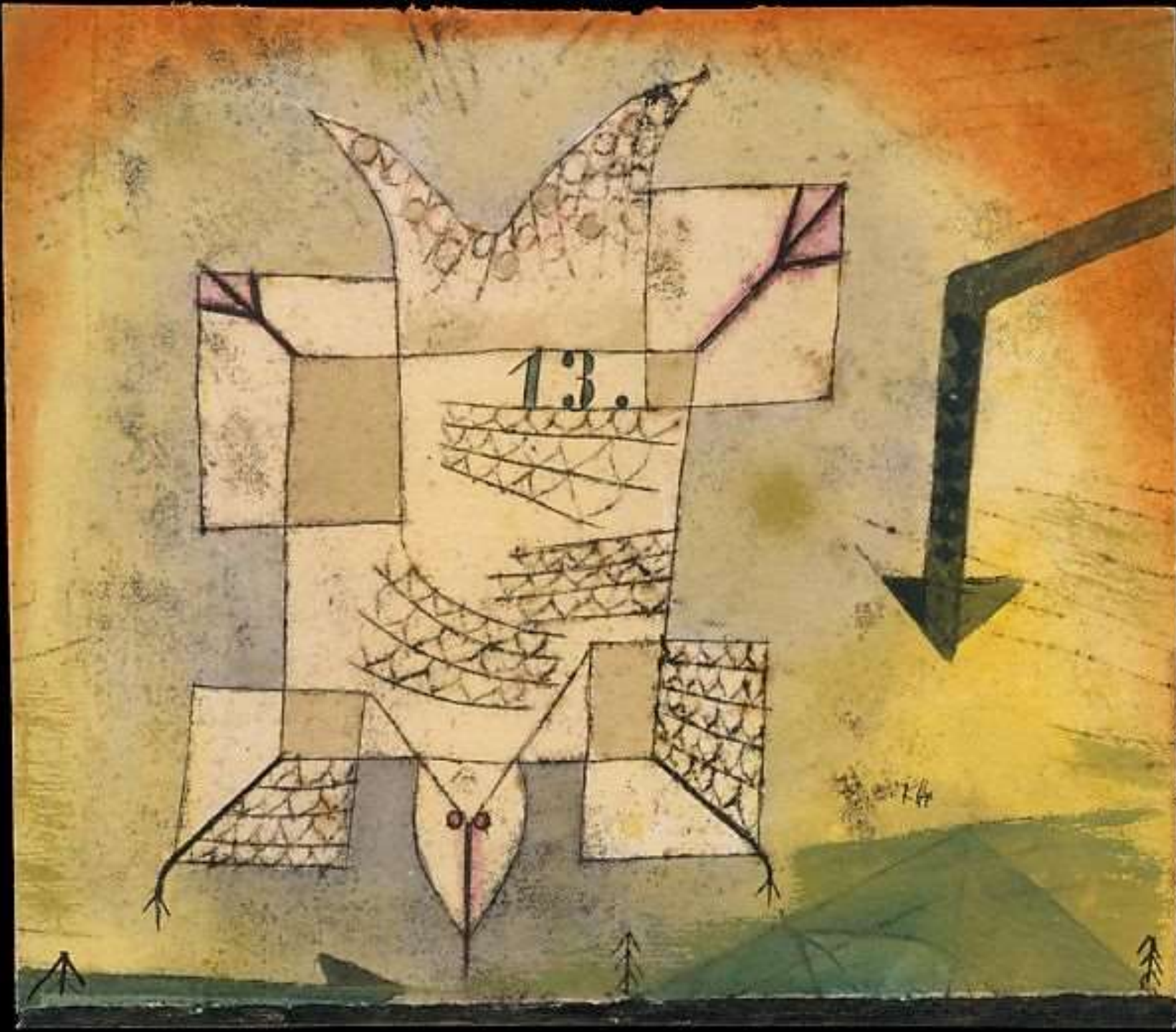
The War

After finishing the military training course, which began on 11 March 1916, he was committed as a soldier behind the front. Klee moved on 20 August to the aircraft maintenance company in Oberschleissheim, executing skilled manual work, such as restoring aircraft camouflage, and accompanying aircraft transports. On 17 January 1917, he was transferred to the Royal Bavarian flying school in Gersthofen ... to work as a clerk for the treasurer till the end of the war. This allowed him to stay in a small room outside of the barrack block and continue painting.



Angel of History

Falling Bird





Flying
Away

K'Lee



Birds
Swooping
Down and
Arrows

Robert Delaunay (1885-1941)

Robert Delaunay was a French artist who, with his wife [Sonia Delaunay](#) and others, co-founded the [Orphism art movement](#), noted for its use of strong colors and geometric shapes. His later works were more [abstract](#). His key influence related to bold use of color and a clear love of experimentation with both depth and [tone](#).



Homage to
Bleriot

Edward Wadsworth

Edward Wadsworth was an English artist, most famous for his close association with [Vorticism](#). He painted, often in tempera, coastal views, abstracts, portraits and still-life. He was also an [engraver on wood](#) and copper. In the First World War he was involved in transferring [dazzle camouflage](#) designs onto ships for the Royal Navy, and after the war he continued to paint nautical themes.

A Short Flight (1914)



Constantin Brancusi (1876-1947)

Bird in Space

In the *Bird in Space* works, Brâncuși concentrated not on the physical attributes of the bird, but instead on its movement. The bird's wings and feathers are eliminated, the swell of the body is elongated, and the head and beak are reduced to a slanted oval plane.

Seven of the sculptures in the series are made of [marble](#), while the other nine were cast in [bronze](#). The first and best known of the series is housed in the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in [New York City](#), while two bronze casts (1928 and c.1941) reside in that city's [Museum of Modern Art](#).

[Smarthistory - Brancusi's Bird in Space](#)



Steampunk flying machines

Steampunk is a retrofuturistic subgenre of science fiction that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery.

The term Steampunk was first coined in 1987 by K. W. **Jeter**, the author of the novel **Morlock Night**. He used the term to describe a genre of speculative fiction in which steam, not electricity, drove technological advancements. Since then it has been used to describe an artistic and cultural movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6-AmXihFsU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx8rnR3gl3Y> (flying machine)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieHMvpPPRVo> (building a flying machine)

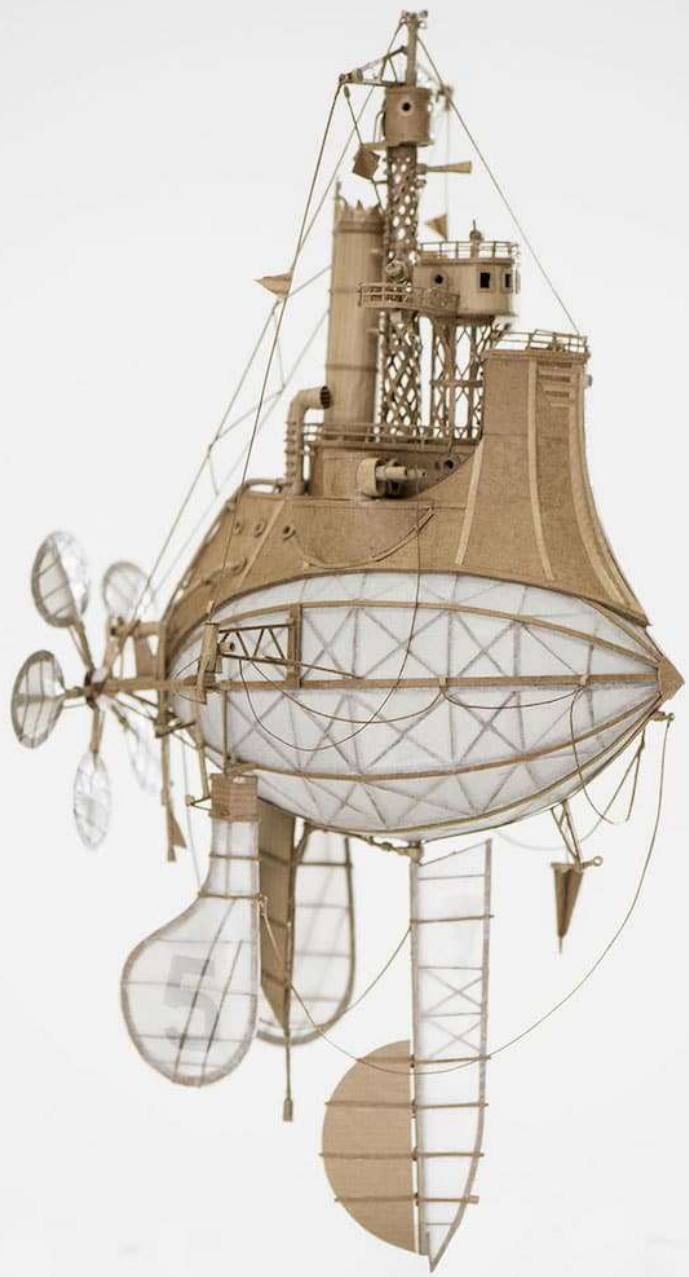
Jeroen van Kesteren

Artist Jeroen van Kesteren spends his hours making beautiful and elaborate fantasy aircrafts and airships. For about a year now, van Kesteren has been working on a collection of intricate 19th century flying machines inspired by the steampunk aesthetic. The various contraptions in his series *Orphanage for Lost Adventures* reflect the nostalgic relics of the neo-Victorian movement and feature retro-futuristic technologies found in the literary works of H. G. Wells and Jules Verne.

<https://mymodernmet.com/flying-machines-steampunk-sculpture-art/>







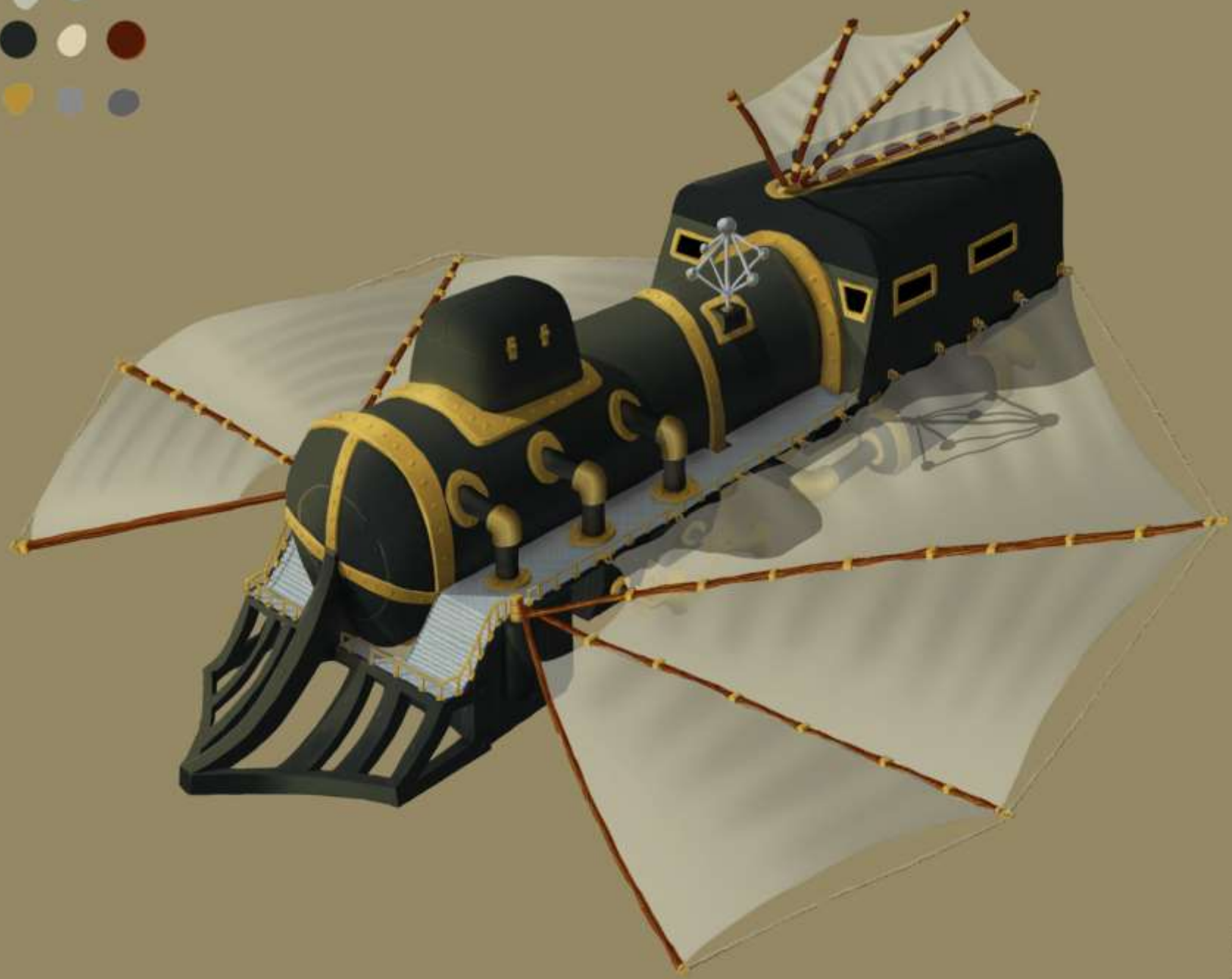


















Fantasy



Paul Bond
Flight of the Muse



Paul Bond
Something
Unprecedented



Paul Bond
A Favorable Wind

Angus
MacPherson
Assist



Angus MacPherson
Somersaults



Angus MacPherson
Over the Moon









Dee Nickerson
A Wonderful Middle-Aged Moment

Assignment Suggestions

- Invent a flying machine (in any media)
- Depict the concept or feeling of flight
- Use flight as a visual metaphor
- Paint a flight of fancy
- Picture yourself flying