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# WITTE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Delve Into *Flights of Imagination* at the Witte Museum**

**SAN ANTONIO**— The fascination of flight has haunted the dreams of man through countless centuries. Long before the Wright brothers made their historic first flight there had been many attempts to defy gravity. *Flights of Imagination*, an exhibit that shows how two artists from very different times imagined new ways for man to fly, opens in the Witte Museum's Focus Gallery on **March 29** and remains on view through **September 2008**. Free with museum admission.

Leonardo da Vinci had a lifelong fascination with flight and used nature as his model. He observed bats, insects and birds, and designed his flying machines to imitate their structure and motion, getting his inspiration from the natural world.

Charles A. A. Dellschau, like Leonardo da Vinci, was fascinated with flying and flying machines. A self-taught artist, Dellschau created elaborate notebooks filled with watercolor collages and press clippings related to flight. He was inspired by nature and the ability to soar through the sky like birds and butterflies. Encouraged by the technology of his time, which included balloons and engines, his intricate designs show flying machines from a variety of perspectives.

The exhibit displays Dellschau's watercolor paintings showing the complex designs of flight concepts revealing pulleys, gears, engines, sleeping quarters, lights and galleys. Accompanying the watercolors are vibrant paintings of birds soaring through the sky showing how nature inspired these artists to appreciate their ability to fly. Cases of butterflies and other flying insects from around the world are displayed to show the marvelous structure of these flying creatures. Today's scientists continue to study the natural world as da Vinci and Dellschau did in the past for ways to improve flight design.

For more information call 210.357.1900 or visit [www.wittemuseum.org](http://www.wittemuseum.org).

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