

The Dream of Flying

AIRBUS etchings by Bernd Lehmann, focusing on the new A380



The dream of flying is as old as mankind.

We all know the Greek myth of Daedalus and Icarus, who flew with his wings too near the sun and had to pay for this dream with his life. Icarus failed, but the vision of flying persisted. Researchers and futurologists like Leonardo da Vinci embraced the idea, but it was not until the 18th century that the dream grew into reality, when hot-air balloons took to the skies. Initial motorized flying trials followed at the turn of the century, and passenger air travel established itself worldwide in the nineteen-twenties.

Now, in the year 2006, the dream of flying is embarking on a new dimension. The flight into the future began when the new jumbo jet A380 built by Airbus ascended on its maiden flight. To mark this event the internationally renowned artist Bernd Lehmann is creating a new edition of finest etchings commissioned by AIRBUS. This continues his series of cosmopolitan portraits. Whereas the series previously included explorers, philosophers, poets, creative individuals such as Chamisso, Rilke, Andersen, Joop and Messner, now there is an unusual corporate personality at the centre of his artistic work. AIRBUS, a Franco-German company with Spanish and British support, personifies the 21st century and the future in his etchings: it stands for growth, progress, speed – coupled with perfection and extraordinary inventive genius.

The dream of flying spans many dimensions. There is undoubtedly another spirit inside Bernd Lehmann's etchings - one that transgresses experiences, surpasses actual fact. "Flying" is always somewhat of a spiritual experience – thoughts in free flight incorporate innovation, growth and the future. Artists and enterprises and indeed our entire society need the "Dream of Flying" more than ever before. We need to be courageous, discover new things, be daring, exceed limits, consider the world as a single entity and be at home everywhere around the globe. Only then can we be competitive and fit for the future. Bernd Lehmann's new edition of etchings describes all these elements, uniting various aspects, epochs and cultures into one world, and so it becomes a symbol of Europe's creativity and future sustainability.

Studio

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