

Russell, John. *The New York Times*, March 28, 1986.

**Icarus: The Vision of Angels** (Ronald Feldman Gallery, 31 Mercer Street, and 49th Parallel, 420 West Broadway): There has lately been a terrible topicality about the myth of Icarus, the pioneer aviator who flew too close to the sun, was betrayed by technology, and died of it. So an exhibition that looks back to a time when the instinct to fly was still at best partly fulfilled has today an added poignancy.

This two-gallery show, conceived by France Morin, is dominated by models of airplanes "by or after" Leonardo da Vinci, the 18th-century philosopher Emanuel Swedenborg and, above all, Alexander Graham Bell. Among more recent artists and inventors, Panamarenko and Murray Favro are also represented, together with visionary drawings by Robert Smithson and pertinent photographs relating to Vladimir Tatlin, Yves Klein, R. Buckminster Fuller and others.

The result treads, therefore, a middle ground somewhere between science and art. It is Bell who stands out, for tiny models, run up with nothing more than cardboard and pencil, that have an unforgettable spare poetry. The idea of the show should ideally be worked out on the scale of a major museum, but even in quite small rooms it manages to fly. (Through tomorrow.)