

Rhodes, Richard. "Jerry Pethick 1953 - 2003 And Then", *Canadian Art*, p 159, Fall 2003, vol 20, No 3

## JERRY PETHICK 1935-2003



FLIGHT POSTER (1910, THE START OF EXTENDED FLIGHT AND JOURNEYS

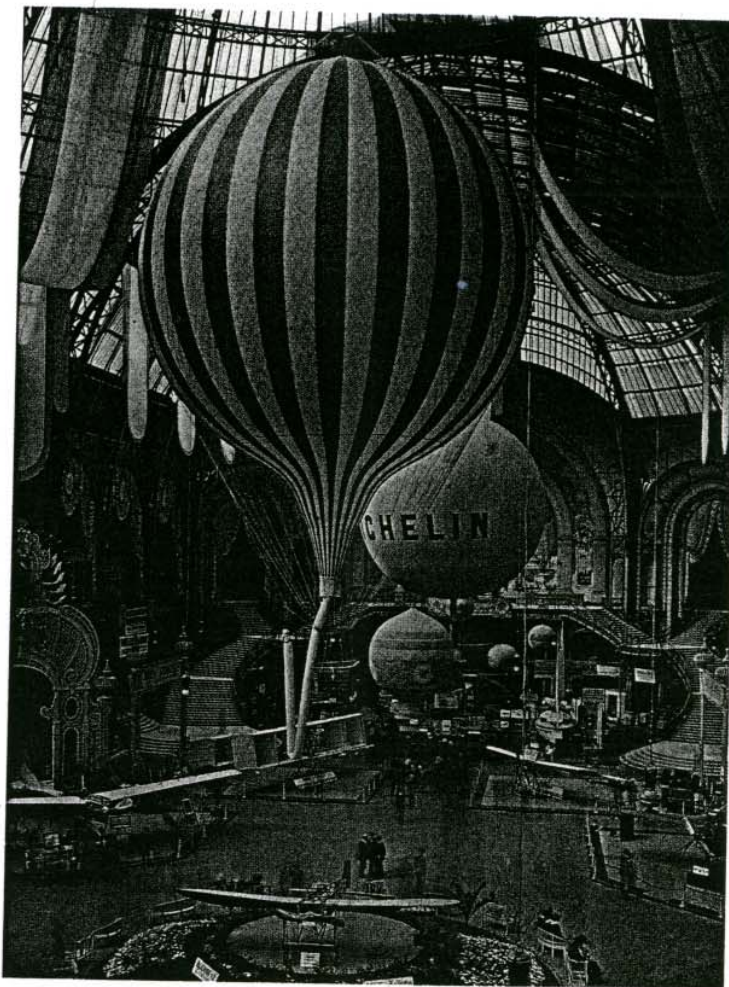
## And Then

◀◀ THE PRINTING at the bottom of these colour photocopies is Jerry Pethick's; he annotated these early aviation images to serve as illustrations for an essay called "Triple Traverse" that he wrote last winter. The essay was about the Wright Brothers, their first powered flight at Kitty Hawk and its connection to the early 20th-century avant-garde work of Kandinsky, Duchamp and Léger. It was just one of a number of essays he had written for a book he wanted to call *Theoretical Real: Hardwiring History*. Writing is what Jerry did when he wasn't making sculpture, and, like his sculpture, it was always inventive, always pushing past the conventions of received opinion. Pethick's art-history forays were not academic. They were speculative projects, busy with how real things could spark imagination. He wrote like an artist—content came first, and the job was to see how far you could take it. He was already familiar with flight. It is what he called thinking, and he did it every day of his now cut-short life.

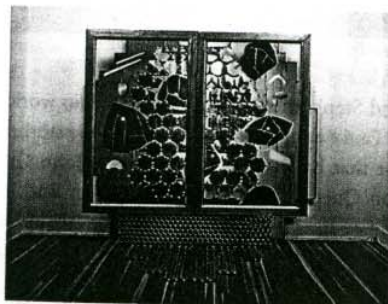
RICHARD RHODES

drawn into the paintings by a sense of equivalence that, on closer inspection, proves false. Colour is intuitive, rather than matching direct references to representational imagery or its cultural codes.

Commenting on his latest work, Evans says, "It's not what you do, it's what you don't do that makes a painting interesting." His concern is for the observer to approach the paintings as objects, objects with unexpected and ironic compositional passages that then present an experiential confrontation. From that experience, he creates a discourse that is as sensual as it is intellectual. SARAH NIND



1909 AIR SHOW - PHOTO LEON GIMBEL



JERRY PETHICK  
*Volklingen Scarab* 1995  
Aluminum, stainless steel,  
plywood, photographs, Fresnel  
lenses, glass, fluorescent fixture,  
SpectraFoil, silicon  
2.45 x 2.1 x 1.35 m  
Courtesy Catriona Jeffries Gallery