

This special exhibition, which included original da Vinci art, models of his inventions, and reproductions of his drawings, focused on him as an artist, scientist, and inventor.

(label in the Flight section of the exhibition)

Leonardo's flying machines were born from his soaring imagination

Leonardo threw everything he had into his 30-year romance with flight: the artist's quick eye, the inventor's gadget-making creativity, the scientist's ability to move from reality to theory and back again.

What he learned from all these approaches led him in directions that, 400 years later, allowed people to fly. The models behind and above you show his best thinking: a helicopter, and a glider that looks a lot like the version that inspired the Wright brothers.

(label in the Machines section of the exhibition)

From wind meters to the first "automobile," Leonardo invented machines for all reasons

Leonardo's artistic ability to observe, analyze and imagine also led him to invent all sorts of machines. His notebooks contain thousands of drawings: presses and gears, clocks and meters, basic machines like the block-and-tackle and wild dreams like the automobile.

His drawings were detailed enough to build the models you see here. No one really knows which machines were actually built during his life.