



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Research Explorer

After Prometheus

Citation for published version:

Warwick, G & Taws, R 2016, 'After Prometheus: Art and technology in early modern Europe' *Art History*, vol 39, no. 2, pp. 199-209. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8365.12234

Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1111/1467-8365.12234](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8365.12234)

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

Published In:

Art History

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

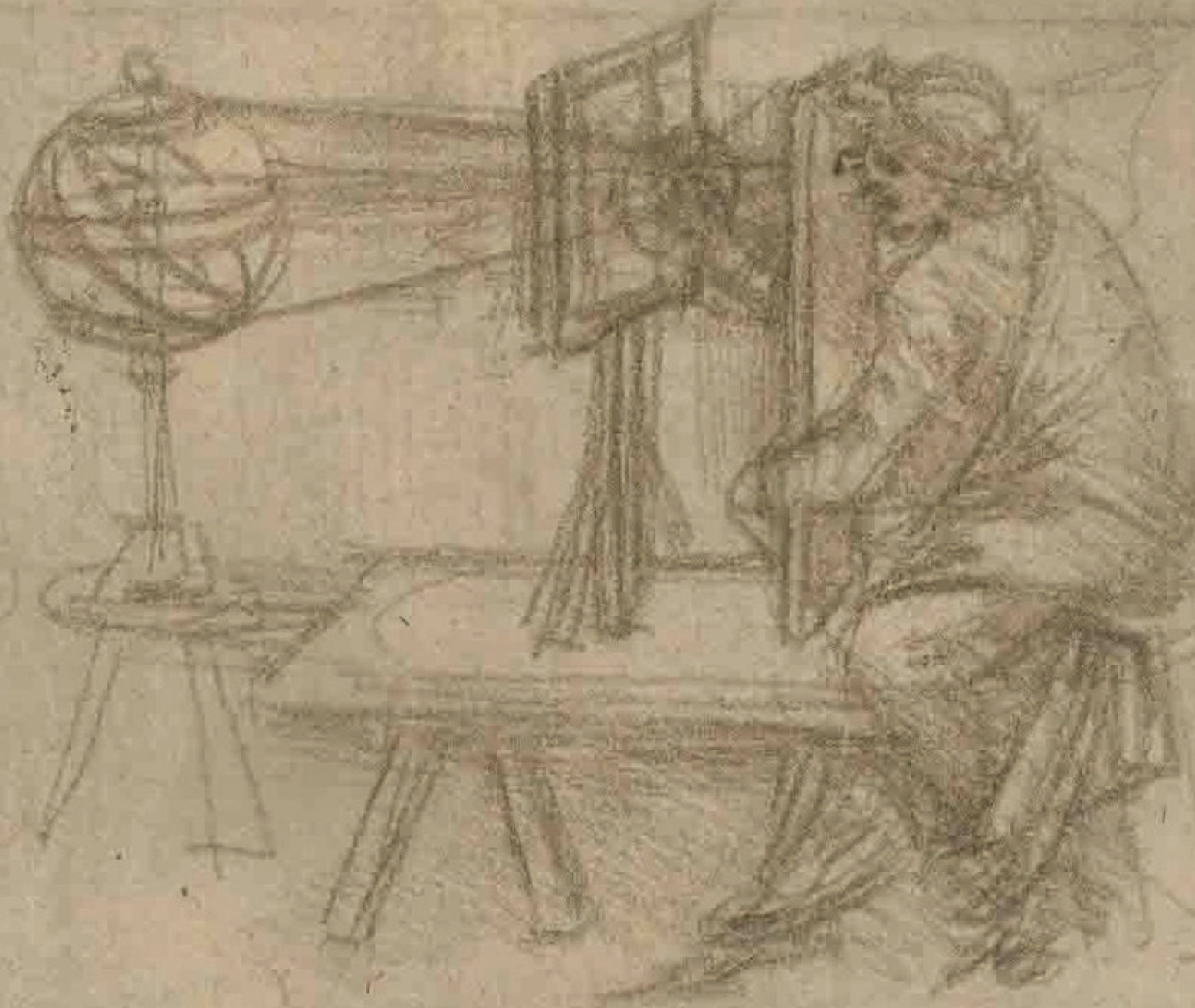
Take down policy

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



5

Handwritten text, possibly a title or description, written in a cursive script.



After Prometheus: Art and Technology in Early Modern Europe

Genevieve Warwick and Richard Taws

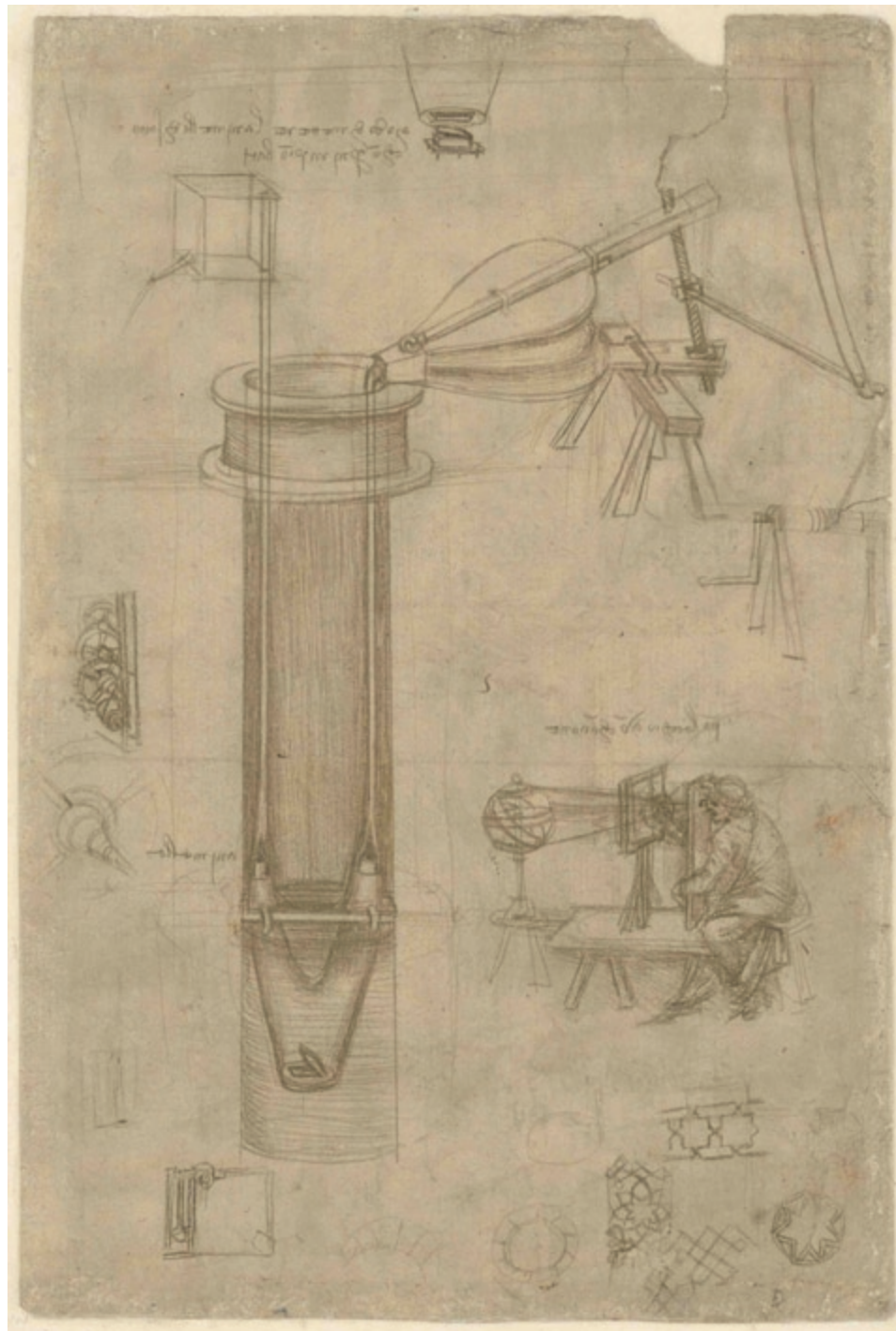
1 In a celebrated letter to Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan, Leonardo offered his
2 complement of services as both an artist and an engineer. His stated abilities
3 comprised a wide array of skills, from the construction of portable bridges, tunnels
4 under rivers, methods of draining water for agricultural as well as military purposes;
5 fortifications, weapons and armoured vehicles; architecture for both public and
6 private uses; sculpture and casting in metal; and finally, painting, which he offered to
7 do ‘as well as any other’.¹

8 The thousands of pages of Leonardo’s notebooks provide evidence of the full
9 range of interests and abilities that his letter claims, from hydraulic engineering to
10 anatomy, astronomy, biology, optics, and art. Throughout the notebooks, his studies
11 in art and technology sit side by side, often within the same sheet. Early sketches for
12 the figural composition of a painting appear beside mechanical designs for water
13 wheels, or machinery for the transport of heavy goods, often interspersed with notes
14 of his further thoughts on their function and design. Other pages bring together
15 the different facets of his varied interests in technology, for example, a design for
16 industrial machinery, and for astronomical investigation, alongside visual technology
17 deployed by an artist at work (plate 1). In the centre left of this sheet is the deep
18 cylinder of a reciprocal displacement pump for moving water, driven by mechanized
19 bellows, with a detail of the valve mechanism above. It configures one of the leading
20 threads of Leonardo’s notes, the study of water as a force of nature to be harnessed,
21 as in Giorgio Vasari’s account of Leonardo designing pumps ‘to draw up water from
22 great depths’.² To the right, a seated draughtsman sketches after a globe-shaped
23 astrolabe or armillary sphere, an astronomical model of the circuits of the planets
24 used to derive mathematical measures of space and time. Together the pump and the
25 astrolabe demonstrate Leonardo’s lifelong interest in the development of technologies
26 as extensions of the human ability to master and study nature. In order to render
27 the visual appearance of the astrolabe’s spherical volume into the two-dimensional
28 surface of a diagram, the draughtsman works by means of a further instrument
29 apparently of Leonardo’s devising, a perspectograph.³ The artist looks through a
30 sighting device to steady the eye onto a framed pane of glass placed before the object
31 to be depicted. By this means the perspectograph allows the draughtsman to establish
32 the outline and geometrical relation of the parts directly onto the glass before him.⁴
33 As an ensemble, the instrument guided and thereby extended the capacities of the
34 human hand and eye in the accurate observation of volume, and facilitated the visual
35 demonstration of this knowledge in a graphic model. Collectively, the sketches on

**Detail from Leonardo,
page of sketches including
bellows for raising water
and a draughtsman drawing
after an astrolabe through
a perspectograph, Codex
Atlanticus, f. 5r, c. 1480
(plate 1).**

DOI:
10.1111/1467-8365.12234
Art History | ISSN 0141-6790
XX | X | Month XXXX | pages
XX-XX

I Leonardo, page of sketches including bellows for raising water and a draughtsman drawing after an astrolabe through a perspectograph, *Codex Atlanticus*, f. 5r, c. 1480. Silverpoint on prepared paper, 297 × 198 mm. Milan: Ambrosiana. Photo: Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

the page testify to the growing role of early modern technology across all realms of human endeavour, from the pump and bellows of the hydraulic engineer to the artist's drawing frame. They demonstrate how skill as a draughtsman served in the development of new technological designs, just as new technologies shaped the development of art.

As Leonardo's drawings and notebooks amply disclose, the writing of art's histories rests substantially, if for the most part tacitly, on an underlying account of technological change and development. This volume embarks on a history of that technological substrate as it pertains to the making and viewing of art in early

1 modern Europe, c. 1420–1820. That is to say, it examines artists’ instruments, tools,
2 devices, machines, technologies, crafts, materials, skills, and techniques in their
3 historic applications, to consider how they shaped the course of early modern art.
4 The analytical endeavour is to knit together the history of early modern visual
5 technology with the history of its art, and to make manifest the far-reaching
6 connections between the two. The concern is a history of practice-based skills and
7 devices intrinsic to early modern art’s production and use, and in technology’s
8 relationship with a theoretical conceptualization of ‘art’ in the broader visual field.⁵

9 The temporal scope of the volume is framed by two metanarratives in the history
10 of visual technology: the development of the printed image in the mid-fifteenth
11 century; and of the photographically produced image in the early nineteenth century.
12 The essays that follow do not treat the history of the print or the photograph as such,
13 however, but rather the period that lies between, in order to map a distinctively early
14 modern history of art and technology. Throughout, we use the term ‘invention’
15 advisedly, acknowledging Marc Bloch’s longstanding critique of its artificial relief cut
16 against the grain of a more gradual history of technological development.⁶ We remain
17 equally wary of a teleological or determinist history of technological change, and of
18 the assumptions regarding a triumphal narrative of human achievement implicit in
19 such an account.⁷ Yet the model of history prompted by chronicles of ‘invention’, as
20 marked by moments of fundamental rupture with the past that align with Thomas
21 Kuhn’s conception of the paradigm shifts that distinguish scientific ‘revolutions’,
22 also helps delineate our field of study.⁸ Both the print and the photograph facilitated
23 a vastly greater diffusion of visual knowledge than ever before. Such historic
24 augmentation of the circuits of knowledge exchange, then as now, fuelled intellectual
25 developments and discovery in all aspects of human enquiry, including the artistic.

26 If our own information age is defined by the digital structures of electronic
27 communication, early modern culture was inextricably bound to the medium of
28 print. Printed text and image arose within a few years of each other in the mid-
29 fifteenth century, credited to the German goldsmith, Johannes Gutenberg, who
30 seemingly drew together a series of extant yet disparate technologies into a new
31 machine that could print several thousand sheets a day. The ancient oil or wine
32 press, coupled with the goldsmith’s craft in fine metal carving, the late-medieval
33 development of plentiful rag paper, and the recent formulation of more stable oil-
34 based inks enabled Gutenberg’s ‘revolution’. Similarly, early photography developed
35 from a coming together of two otherwise disparate technologies; on the one hand the
36 pinhole camera through which to capture a reflected view of the world as an image,
37 and on the other the chemical means to fix the effects of light exposure on paper. In
38 both cases these technologies shared aesthetic resources with other media available
39 at the time, while also producing forms of representation that were uniquely
40 theirs, and which offered access to new ways of seeing, and enabled new forms of
41 subjectivity. The greatly expanded flow of visual information facilitated by these
42 technological breakthroughs worked to quicken the circulation of knowledge, and so
43 the foundations of thought itself.⁹

44 To understand the far-reaching consequences of Gutenberg’s legacy is prescient
45 today, as we move into a new heuristic landscape of technologically enabled
46 knowledge flow structured by the internet. From Gutenberg to Google, these
47 technological ‘revolutions’ have brought about a fundamental reordering of the
48 structures of knowledge in images and texts alike. Today, the parallel interfaces of
49 Google Books and Google Images represent coterminous curations of textual and
50 visual knowledge in a new *Encyclopédie* of the screen.¹⁰ By contrast, the story of the print

1 **2 Etienne-Claude Voysard**
 2 **after Claude-Louis Desrais,**
 3 ***L'homme de nature est***
 4 ***un faible animal. Mais la***
 5 ***Philosophie, aux Dieux le***
 6 ***rend égal, 1799. Etching and***
 7 ***engraving, 15.7 × 9.7 cm.***
 8 **Paris: Bibliothèque national**
 9 **de France. Photo: BnF.**

as a bearer of visual information, now increasingly superseded by the digital image, has become the historian's domain. If this is a relatively new prospect for the printed book, in many respects the printed image began the process of historical contingency some 150 years earlier, with the emergence of photography in all its varied early experimental forms.¹¹ Photography did not, of course, replace other media, rather functioning alongside and in many cases in collaboration with older technologies of visual representation, from painting to print.¹² Yet as Nicéphore Niépce, Louis Daguerre, and Henry Fox Talbot simultaneously developed the first photographs, the cultural position of the printed image changed irrevocably under the weight of this new, fully mechanized process of image reproduction.

The focus of this study, however, lies between these great shifts in the technological and material, but also ontological, status of the image. It is an interwoven history, marked by narratives of technological development, to be sure, but also vexed by instances of rupture, reversal, and obsolescence.¹³ Our own historical position at the threshold of 'new media' in the arts rests on an awareness of this historical process as technological shifts restructure art itself in the digital medium.¹⁴ Meanwhile, recent scholarship in the emerging field of media archaeology, and arguments for 'remediation' as an essential aspect of media change, as each new medium quotes from and refashions its predecessors, have demonstrated not only the persistence of past technologies for image-making in the present, but also the contemporaneity of historical images and processes that might otherwise have appeared obsolete.¹⁵

With contemporary visual practices and debates fully in mind, we are here committed to an examination of these issues within early modernity, and in their historical specificity. Rather than isolate the great gateposts of the print and the photograph, our intention is to open up for study the place of changing artistic technologies in the centuries that separated them, and thus the incursion of technology on artistic decision-making during early modernity. We are, then, concerned with the history of art's technologies from the Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution. The volume runs from the largely craft-based methods of the early Renaissance, to the wide plethora of automated viewing instruments and mechanical devices that characterized the years immediately preceding the advent of photography. The growing spread of technological marvels in all areas of human endeavour in the wake of industrialization is, for example, given pictorial representation in a print by Etienne-Claude Voysard's c. 1800 print after Claude-Louis Desrais (plate 2). Balloons, parachutes, telegraphs, astrolabes, cannon, warships, telescopes, chemical experiments, and other 'philosophical' objects converge in this condensed allegorical reflection on both the wonder and the darker implications of new technologies for narratives of European imperialism as laid bare in the background image of a plantation, and the focus on the Atlantic trade enabled by these devices.¹⁶

The array of technological artefacts under review in this volume likewise brings to light the scale of historical transformation at stake. For the early Renaissance, artistic production drew on a range of ancillary domestic crafts from which it borrowed materials and methods. In the eighteenth century, by contrast, definitions of visual technology are approached that resemble our own, signifying a spectrum of automated devices and viewing machines that mechanized the image in various ways. The encroaching instrumentalization of artistic practice across the period may be tied to broader historical processes of industrialization, but also to related developments in the history of science. For botany, astronomy and anatomy

1 alike, an early modern epistemic shift from a largely text-based to a predominantly
2 observation-based mode of study engendered new lens-based visual technologies.
3 Exemplified in the linked invention of the microscope and the telescope, these
4 viewing devices in turn produced new visual paradigms in all aspects of learning,
5 including the artistic.¹⁷ Towards the end of our period, for instance, portraitist John
6 Russell's pastel drawing of the gibbous moon, made between 1793 and 1797, seems
7 to anticipate, in that most fragile of mediums, the permanence and fidelity of a
8 'photographic effect' by way of observation through a telescope obtained from one of
9 his sitters, the royal astronomer Frederick William Herschel (plate 3).

10 To use the terms of Marcel Mauss's now-classic anthropological analysis, our
11 study charts this broad temporal shift from manual techniques to mechanized
12 technologies.¹⁸ Yet the complexity of the historical material inevitably complicates
13 any such trajectory, requiring us to attend both to change over time and to the



3 John Russell, *The Face of the Moon*, 1793–97. Pastel on paper strained over a wooden stretcher, 60.7 × 50.4 cm. Birmingham: Birmingham Art Gallery. Photo: © Birmingham Museums Trust.

1 contextualized analysis of specific moments within the longer spectrum, to survivals
 2 of techniques across long periods of time that coexisted alongside new instruments
 3 and technologies. Michel Foucault's far-reaching history of thought, which he termed
 4 an archaeology of knowledge, structured by a matrix of instruments, architectures,
 5 machines and procedures, draws together the terms 'technique' and 'technology'
 6 in ways that defy any easy distinction.¹⁹ Similarly, the sociologist Jacques Ellul
 7 defined both technique and technology as constituted from an ensemble of methods
 8 designed for the greatest possible efficiency in their practical application, in any given
 9 historical period, thus undermining any straightforward developmental relationship
 10 between the two.²⁰ Furthermore, the historical range of early modern visual
 11 technologies expanded the possible meanings of technology 'proper', complicating
 12 our understanding of the relationship between technique and technology, and
 13 specifically in their visual forms.

14 Yet an overarching view of the historic development of tools, instruments and
 15 machines also signals key differences in the relationship between these terms over
 16 time. Turning back for a moment to our earliest human technological endeavours,
 17 archaeologists constate these in the material remains of archaic tools shaped by fire.²¹
 18 Such prehistoric technology is mythologized in the story of Prometheus, the Titan
 19 god who first lit fire for human application. The originary technology of the flame
 20 is manifest in the god's use of fire to fashion the first human figure from clay as the
 21 exordium of art. Just as fundamentally, the story testifies to the central role of art as
 22 the locus of material and technological experimentation.²²

23 Thus as a term, technology encompasses an array of diverse, even conflicting
 24 definitions, from different disciplines, languages, and historical periodizations.
 25 This lexical complexity is, for example, central to Martin Heidegger's celebrated if
 26 dystopian 1954 essay on the ethical-philosophical 'question of technology', which
 27 draws on the dual meaning of 'Technik' in German to encompass both technology
 28 and technique. At the core of his essay is an understanding of thought itself as a craft,
 29 thus erasing any neat separation between concept and instrumentation, or its more
 30 familiar art-historical designations of theory and practice.²³

31 As a Promethean endeavour, this volume too is concerned with *techné*, those
 32 embodied forms of knowledge central to the manual/mechanical work of artistic
 33 production and use. Yet the history of visual technology is, following Heidegger,
 34 equally concerned with *logos*, or a theory of the image, and indeed with its changing
 35 conceptualization over time. The term 'techn[o]logy' seems to have first appeared in
 36 print in English in the early years of the seventeenth century, precisely to connote a
 37 form of knowledge comprising both *techné* and *logos*.²⁴

38 Thus the study of technology is not only concerned with practice-based
 39 forms of knowledge, but also with the changing conceptual paradigms that drive
 40 technological change. Analysis of technology brings together *homo faber* with *homo*
 41 *sapiens* – the human manufacture of tools and instruments as the material extensions
 42 of productive bodily labour, but also of patterns of thought and intention. It is the
 43 points of intersection between craft and concept that drive the development of new
 44 technological means. We may understand technological development as practical
 45 problem-solving, to be sure, but always within the folds of larger patterns of cultural
 46 enquiry.

47 Such expansive definitions of technology retain the meaning of techniques
 48 so resonant for the arena of artistic production in any period, as well as the
 49 instrumentation of its display. For the Renaissance workshop, at the outset of
 50 our study, art-making emerged through a process of thought predicated on the

possibilities of the media at hand, a practice-based way of thinking through materials. From the mixing of paint solutions to the grinding of minerals and the weaving of canvas, these craft technologies were as fundamental to the making of early modern art as the grids, squaring and sighting devices that constituted the instruments of a mathematically theorized perspectival vision, or the mechanics that would later enable the presentation of magic lanterns, panoramas, and early moving images. As technological prowess itself became a sign of wonder, machinic visibility as part of the presentation of an art object was often enhanced. Yet there is also evidence of the suppression of art's technical and technological means, its very invisibility understood as a token of art's skill.

By the end of the eighteenth century, as technology became more indelibly associated with industrialization, it came to be viewed as counter to the 'true' aims of art, a critique that became ever more pronounced as the nineteenth century progressed. Yet such commentaries only served to highlight technology's interface with a developing social critique of the 'machinic' in the wake of advancing industrialization, in the arts as for society more broadly. As the writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau embody, and later the works of the Arts and Crafts movement, the heralding of new technologies was met with cultural anxiety as much as industrial acclaim.²⁵

How then may this historic interplay of social critique, analysis and definition be brought to bear on the study of early modern technologies pertaining to art? Like Leonardo's perspectograph, the development of visual technology in the realm of art was linked to a technical history of the image as the means to instrumentalize the replication of nature. The role of artistic technology was understood as the method by which to render an ever-more exacting imitation of the visible world in the form of art. At the same time, there was a marked shift in the means to achieve this, from a predominantly but certainly not exclusively technical paradigm of manual execution in the early fifteenth century, to an increasingly mechanical or industrialized instrumentation of art over the course of the period covered. Moreover, there was a discernible shift towards technologies concerned with the display of art – phantasmagoria, stereoscopes, and other mechanized forms – in addition to its production. Thus our study moves spatially as well as temporally, between art-making and art-viewing, from the craftsman's workshop to the collector's gallery, the artist's studio to civic space, the scientist's laboratory and the fairground's popular entertainments. It also takes into account those technologies not directly implicated in the making or display of art, but which had a bearing on it nonetheless, often in unanticipated or unexpected ways. Above all, it traces a history of early modern art in its complex relationship with technology, as forms of instrumentation to be sure, but also as systems of knowledge. In so doing, it lends new visibility to a more often occluded history of art's means, and situates the study of early modern art and technology within a complex network of historical relations – between art and science, practice and concept, mechanics and epistemes.

The following essays in this volume all, in different ways, contribute to a new analysis of the role of visual technologies in the development of early modern art. Together they map a history of visual instrumentation devised for the making and viewing of art interwoven with a broader historical shift towards industrial modernity. Individually, they signpost new avenues for enquiry, singling out those objects and images possessed of a particularly dense, heightened ability to break fresh ground in our understanding of early modern developments in art and

1 technology. Four opening essays study a range of early modern artists' instruments.
 2 The Renaissance artist's 'recipe book' is Pamela H. Smith's example, a collection of
 3 'how-to' instructions in materials and techniques. Smith's mode of analysis in itself
 4 instantiates *techné*, conducted through practice-based reconstructions of the recipes
 5 undertaken as an aspect of graduate training, much like the Renaissance workshop.
 6 The example of artists' mannequins and maquettes, used by Tintoretto, Poussin, and
 7 Vermeer among others, allows Jan Blanc to argue for a finely nuanced understanding
 8 of artistic process as a coupling together of working 'from life' and from art-historical
 9 memory. Genevieve Warwick takes up the case of the mirror, both as a workshop
 10 instrument used to translate the painter's view of the world into a two-dimensional
 11 surface, and as a motif within painting to signify the painter's art. Meanwhile, Amy
 12 Knight Powell takes up the telescopic view of landscape manifest in roundel paintings
 13 to argue for a new attention to the representation of distance in painting at the
 14 moment in which prosthetic devices for the extension of human vision first appeared.

15 The ensuing five essays take an individual painting or monument as their focus,
 16 collectively demonstrating a growing emphasis on technologies of artistic display.
 17 Giulia Martina Weston's study of Niccolò Tornio's c. 1645 depiction of astronomers
 18 binds the representation of astronomical viewing devices within the painting to early
 19 modern collections of such instruments of visual wonder, to argue for a renewed
 20 defence of the role of epistemic images in the immediate wake of Galileo's death.
 21 Etienne Jollet considers pictorial representations of the casting and elevation of the
 22 colossal bronze equestrian monument to Louis XIV by François Girardon at the Place
 23 Vendôme, completed in 1699. These images formed part of a widespread interest
 24 in technical knowledge surrounding artistic production, but also of royal power,
 25 through the patronage of mechanical technologies understood as manifestations
 26 of the marvellous within a broader early modern culture of *theatrum mechanicum*.
 27 Hanneke Grootenboer also takes up the example of the mechanical, through a
 28 small automated landscape painting framed by a display of clock faces produced
 29 in 1739 for a *Cabinet de Mécanique*, as a pictorial commentary on Descartes' disquisition
 30 on the nature of the universe as clockwork. Joseph Wright of Derby's celebrated
 31 pictorial representation of a scientific experiment, *The Bird in an Air Pump* of 1768,
 32 is the subject of Bryan Wolf's essay, newly analysed as a primer in the ideological
 33 and pedagogical underpinnings of visual observation and the cultural power of
 34 science. Ann Bermingham interrogates Philippe de Louthembourg's *Eidophusikon*,
 35 a public 'moving picture' attraction staged in 1781 in a London square, and fêted
 36 for its combination of technical accomplishment and mimetic visual magic at the
 37 threshold of a new, technologically driven, display culture of images in motion. By
 38 contrast, Richard Taws studies an historical instance of a new information technology
 39 in post-revolutionary France, that of optical telegraphy, which for some fifty years
 40 was a highly visible if ostensibly 'secret' means of disseminating political news
 41 and messages in the highly charged years during and after the French Revolution.
 42 Finally, Barbara Stafford's coda takes us from early modern technological wonder
 43 to contemporary instances of technological fascination in the visual realm. It dwells
 44 on the changing quality of human mental attention in relation to a history of new
 45 technological devices in the digital age. Tacitly recalling Ernst Kapp's foundational
 46 treatment of technology as prosthetic, it acknowledges this Aristotelian view of
 47 technologies as 'the extensions of man', in Marshall McLuhan's phrase. Thus the
 48 hammer is an extension of the fist, be it of a sculptor or a carpenter; the pencil and
 49 paintbrush of the artist's hand; while eyeglasses, microscopes, telescopes and lenses
 50 of all kinds extend the power and functions of the eye, both artistic and scientific.

Technology as such, Leo Marx reminds us, makes nothing happen – its agency lies in its human applications.²⁶ Stafford concludes with current considerations concerning digital memory and electronic data, leading her to reflect on how the computer has now seemingly become an extension of the brain itself. As Leonardo well understood, technologies could augment the capacities of hand and eye in the quest to know, and thus master, the elemental forces of nature. In this regard, he likewise recognized in technology a means to extend knowledge, and thus the mind.²⁷

Notes

Warm thanks are extended to all our contributors for their essays and interest in this project, and especially to each other for sharing the editorial collaboration, to Sam Bibby for his manifold patience, and to the attentive contributions of our anonymous peer reviewer.

- 1 Codex Atlanticus, f. 1082r, Milan: Biblioteca Ambrosiana, c. 1480s; cited in Martin Kemp, *The Science of Art: Optical Themes in Western Art from Brunelleschi to Seurat*, New Haven, CT and London, 1990, 170–1.
- 2 Giorgio Vasari, *Le vite . . .*, ed. Luciano Bellosi and Aldo Rossi, Turin, 1986, volume <number>, 550.
- 3 On the diagram as a means of producing technical and artistic knowledge in early modernity, see John Bender and Michael Marrinan, *The Culture of Diagram*, Stanford, CA, 2010.
- 4 B. N. Ms. Ital. 2038, f. 24r, Paris: Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France, <date>; cited in *The Literary Works of Leonardo da Vinci*, ed. Jean Paul Richter, Oxford, 1977, vol. 1, 317.
- 5 See Horst Bredekamp, *The Lure of Antiquity and the Cult of the Machine: The Kunstkammer and the Evolution of Nature, Art and Technology*, trans. Allison Brown, Princeton, NJ, 1995; Horst Bredekamp, Vera Dunkel and Birgit Schneider, eds, *The Technical Image: A History of Styles in Scientific Imagery*, Chicago, IL, 2015; Martin Kemp, *The Science of Art: Optical Themes in Art from Brunelleschi to Seurat*, New Haven, CT and London, 1990; Jonathan Crary, *Techniques of the Observer: On Vision and Modernity in the Nineteenth Century*, Cambridge, MA and London, 1992; Barbara Maria Stafford, *Artful Science: Enlightenment Entertainment and the Eclipse of Visual Education*, Cambridge, MA and London, 1994; Barbara Maria Stafford and Frances Terpak, *Devices of Wonder: From the World in a Box to Images on a Screen*, Los Angeles, CA, 2001; Caroline A. Jones and Peter Galison, eds, with Amy Slaton, *Picturing Science, Producing Art*, London and New York, 1998; Pamela H. Smith, *The Body of the Artisan: Art and Experience in the Scientific Revolution*, Chicago, IL and London, 2004; Alina Payne, ed., *Vision and its Instruments: Art, Science, and Technology in Early Modern Europe*, University Park, PA, 2015. On pre-modern technology and culture more broadly, see Lewis Mumford, *Technics and Civilization*, New York, 1934; Siegfried Giedion, *Mechanization Takes Command: A Contribution to Anonymous History*, New York, 1948; Lynn T. White Jr, *Medieval Technology and Social Change*, Oxford, 1962; David S. Landes, *The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present*, Cambridge, 1969; Lorraine Daston, *Biographies of Scientific Objects*, Chicago, IL and London, 2000; Lorraine Daston, *Histories of Scientific Observation*, Chicago, IL and London, 2011; and Lissa Roberts, Simon Schaffer and Peter Dear, eds, *The Mindful Hand: Inquiry and Invention from the Late Renaissance to Early Industrialisation*, Amsterdam, 2007.
- 6 Marc Bloch, 'Les inventions médiévales', *Annales d'histoire économique et sociale*, 7, 1935, 634–43.
- 7 See Lisa Gitelman, *Always Already New: Media, History, and the Data of Culture*, Cambridge, MA, 2006; and the essays in Lisa Gitelman and Geoffrey B. Pingree, eds, *New Media, 1740–1915*, Cambridge, MA, 2003. Gitelman argues that claims to novelty are neither fixed nor inevitable, for all media were once themselves 'new', thus complicating claims for technological progress and agency.
- 8 Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Chicago, IL, 1962.
- 9 See the classic study by William M. Ivins Jr, *Prints and Visual Communication*, Cambridge, MA, 1953; and Roger Chartier, *The Culture of Print: Power and the Uses of Print in Early Modern Europe*, Princeton, NJ, 1989.
- 10 Jay David Bolter, *Turing's Man: Western Culture in the Computer Age*, Chapel Hill, NC, 1984.
- 11 The historical study of the invention of photography has been instrumental to the analysis of the technological conditions of image production more broadly, and to the revival of Walter Benjamin's now-classic 1936 essay, *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, London, 2008. From a vast bibliography, see in particular: Paul Valéry, 'And then came Daguerre...', in *The Collected Works of Paul Valéry*, ed. Roger Shattuck and Frederick Brown, Princeton, NJ, 1970, vol. 2, especially 159; and Victor Burgin, ed., *Thinking Photography*, London, 1982. More recently, the multiple 'inventions' of photography have been the subject of revived scholarly interest. See, for example, the essays in Tanya Sheehan and Andrés Zervigón, eds, *Photography and Its Origins*, New York, 2015. For a critique of 'photographic exceptionalism', see Stephen Bann's essay, 'Against photographic exceptionalism', in that volume, 94–103.
- 12 See Stephen Bann, *Parallel Lines: Printmakers, Painters, and Photographers in Nineteenth-Century France*, New Haven, CT and London, 2001.
- 13 Michael Werner and Bénédicte Zimmermann, 'Vergleich, Transfer, Verflechtung. Der Ansatz der Histoire croisée und der Herausforderung des Transnationalen', *Geschichte und Gesellschaft*, 28, 2002, 607–36.
- 14 See James Elkins, *The Domain of Images*, Ithaca, NY, 1999; James Elkins, *Six Stories from the End of Representation: Images in Painting, Photography, Astronomy, Microscopy, Particle Physics, and Quantum Mechanics, 1980–2000*, Stanford, CA, 2008; and Julian Stallabrass, *Internet Art: The Online Clash of Culture and Commerce*, New York, 2003.
- 15 See Jay David Bolter and Richard Grusin, *Remediation: Understanding New Media*, Cambridge, MA, 1998; Siegfried Zielinski, *Deep Time of the Media: Toward an Archaeology of Hearing and Seeing by Technical Means*, Cambridge, MA, 2008; and for an introduction to these issues, Jussi Parikka, *What is Media Archaeology?*, Cambridge, 2012.
- 16 On the background to the development of many of these technologies, see Charles Coulston Gillispie, *Science and Polity in France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years*, Princeton, NJ, 2004.
- 17 See Svetlana Alpers, *The Art of Describing: Dutch Art of the Seventeenth Century*, Chicago, IL, 1984; Catherine Wilson, *Early Modern Philosophy and the Invention of the Microscope*, Princeton, NJ, 1995; Eileen Reeves, *Painting the Heavens: Art and Science in the Age of Galileo*, Princeton, NJ, 1997; and Domenico Laurenza, *Art and Anatomy in Renaissance Italy: Images from a Scientific Revolution*, New Haven, CT and London, 2012.
- 18 Marcel Mauss, *Techniques, Technology and Civilisation*, ed. Nathan Schlanger, New York and Oxford, 2006
- 19 Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings*, New York, 1980
- 20 Jacques Ellul, *The Technological Society*, New York, 1964, xxv.
- 21 Earl Swanson, ed., *Lithic Technology: Making and Using Stone Tools*, The Hague, 1975.
- 22 Hesiod, *Theogony*, ed. M. L. West, Oxford, 2008, 507–616; Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound: The Complete Greek Tragedies*, ed. David Greene and Richmond Lattimore, Chicago, IL, 1960, vol. 1, 309–51.
- 23 Martin Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, New York, 1977. For a sustained engagement with Heidegger's thought on these issues, and on the repressed role of technics in the history of philosophy, see Bernard Stiegler, *Technics and Time*, 3 vols, Stanford, CA, 1998–2010.
- 24 'Technology', in C. T. Onions, ed., *The Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, Oxford, 1972, 2140.

- 1 25 See, for example, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Sciences and Arts*,
2 in Roger D. Masters and Christopher Kelly, eds, *Collected Writings of Jean-*
3 *Jacques Rousseau*, Hanover, NH and London, 1992, vol. 1; and William
4 Morris, 'Art and Socialism', in G. D. H. Cole, ed., *William Morris: Stories*
5 *in Prose, Stories in Verse, Shorter Poems, Lectures, and Essays*, New York, 1934,
6 624–45.
- 7 26 Leo Marx, 'Technology: The emergence of a hazardous concept',
8 *Technology and Culture*, 51: 3, July 2010, 577.
- 9 27 Ernst Kapp, *Grundlinien einer Philosophie der Technik: Zur Entstehungsgeschichte der*
10 *Kultur aus neuen Gesichtspunkten*, Braunschweig, 1877; Marshall McLuhan,
11 *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, London, 1964. The influential
12 work of Friedrich Kittler offers a more pessimistic, anti-humanist
13 counter-argument to this position. Arguing against McLuhan's
14 'extensions of man', for Kittler technology is autonomous and directs
15 human activity, rather than the other way around. See, especially
16 *Discourse Networks 1800/1900*, Stanford, CA, 1990; *Gramophone, Film,*
17 *Typewriter*, Stanford, CA, 1999; and, with particular reference to the
18 visual, *Optical Media: Berlin Lectures 1999*, Cambridge, 2009.

After Prometheus: Art and Technology in Early Modern Europe

Genevieve Warwick and Richard Taws

The writing of art's histories rests substantially, if for the most part tacitly, on an underlying account of technological change and development. This volume embarks on a history of that technological substrate as it pertains to the making and viewing of art in early modern Europe, c. 1420–1820. It examines artists' instruments, tools, devices, machines, technologies, crafts, materials, skills, and techniques in their historic applications, to consider how they shaped the course of early modern art. Probing both the category of technology and its wider definitions, and the broader implications of technological shifts on the history of visual cultures, the volume maps the multiple histories of visual instrumentation devised for the making and viewing of art, to consider early modern technology's relationship with a theoretical conceptualization of 'art' in the broader visual field.

Genevieve Warwick is Editor of Art History.

Richard Taws is Reader in History of Art at University College London.

Dear Author,

During the preparation of your manuscript for publication, the questions listed below have arisen. Please attend to these matters and return this form with your proof.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Query References	Query	Remark
Query 1	Note 2: Please supply volume number.	
Query 2	Note 4: Please supply date.	