

Quarter/Year

Winter 2017

Course Number

ART-HIST450

Day/Time

R 2:00-5:00

Instructor

Clayson

Course Title

Studies in Modern Art: Art and Technology



The seminar will investigate a wide array of visual art practices in the transatlantic world - from the 1830s (birth of Morse Code, telegraphy and photography) through the 1940s (WW2 and its aftermath) - that have imaged or in other ways referenced technology. A central question will be this: does a demonstrably technological or machinic iconography express an opinion on technology? Among the sources of artistic inspiration under scrutiny will be telegraphy, the railway, electricity-powered devices including lighting, construction equipment, the airplane, machines of war, high-tech architecture, and the automobile. The seminar will also investigate intermedial art forms whose production is technologized, e.g. intaglio printmaking.

Image: Francis Picabia, *This Thing is Made to Perpetuate my Memory*, 1915

## Required Textbooks

*Modernity and Technology*, 2003, Thomas J. Misa, Philip Brey & Andrew Feenberg, eds (0262633108)  
*Mechanization Takes Command*, 1948/2013, Siegfried Giedion (0393004899)  
*Victorians Decoded: Art and Telegraphy*, 2016, ebook, Caroline Arscott et al.  
Other readings will be posted on CANVAS.

## Assessments

Regular contribution to class discussion, the preparation of a discussion script, and the pursuit of an individual research project, in both written and oral forms, commensurate with the student's interests and abilities.