

Quarter/Year

Fall 2015

Course Number

ART-HIST 440

Day/Time

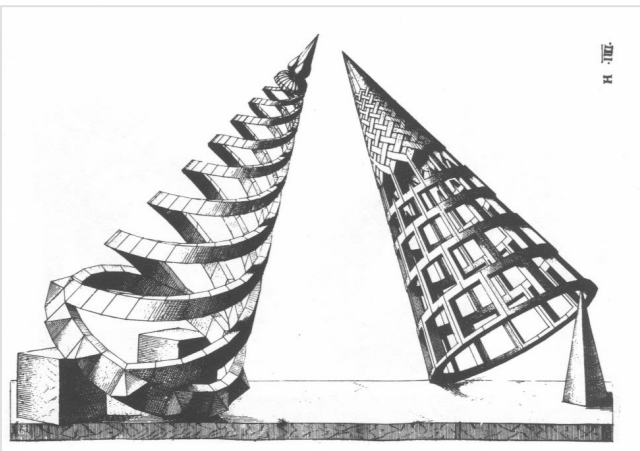
MWRF 0:00-0:00

Instructor

Swan

Course Title

Studies in Baroque Art: Early Modern Art & Science



It is frequently acknowledged that Kantian aesthetics and, more generally, Enlightenment humanism effected a rift separating the domains of art and of science in ways that diverge fundamentally from early modern conceptions of the two domains and of their interrelations. Less frequent are efforts to devise adequate historical and conceptual frameworks for remediating this historiographical divide—though arguably some of the most interesting work in the history of art and of science, respectively, has lately focused on shared terrain. This seminar is intended as both an introduction to some of the ways in which the practices of art and science depended on and informed

one another in the early modern period in Europe, and as an intervention in an ongoing scholarly discussion about the prerogatives of the arts and of scientific pursuits. Our focus will be the relations between art and science, each broadly construed, in northern Europe between ca. 1550 and 1750. We will begin by examining the development and production of early modern descriptive sciences—in particular, anatomy and botany—in the German-speaking territories of Europe and in the Netherlands, in court and university contexts. We will also explore the epistemological underpinnings of descriptive and pictorial efforts ca. 1600 in the Netherlands; the respective roles of art and science in global exploration; artisanal knowledge and the arts; collections, *Wunderkammern*, gardens, and related sites of scientific and artistic practice.

Required Textbooks

Assessments