

Das Technische Bild



»Das Technische Bild« was established in April 2000 by the Hermann von Helmholtz Center for Cultural Techniques and the Institute of Art and Visual History (Humboldt-Universität) as a joint department.

Objective

Images and imaging processes fulfil a wide spectrum of functions in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine. They are the result of different experimental set-ups, apparatuses, media and forms of reproduction, and range from anatomical illustrations in books to the automated recording and reproduction of measurement data.

Their common feature is that they enable results to be obtained and visualised that would not be evident in any other way. In different contexts and across disciplinary boundaries, aesthetic characteristics that influence these results can be detected.

As such, they are an object of research in visual history. Given their varied functions and the varied conditions in which they are produced, the analysis of these technical images calls for an expanded definition of »images« that takes into account technological developments as well as the instrumental and processual character of scientific and diagnostic processes. At the same time, new ways of describing and representing dynamic imaging processes must be introduced.

Methodology

As a counterpart to the formal analysis and historical deduction of visualisation strategies, we will develop image-studies methodologies and concepts that contribute to a theory of image-based discovery and the understanding of historical image practices.

This interest in the possibilities and limits of visual information links the applied and analytical sciences, making the project multidisciplinary. The project:

- applies comparative formal analysis to the use of visual media in the natural sciences
- uncovers the traditions and strategies that motivate and influence the use and interpretation of imaging processes
- researches the historical interactions between art, culture and technology in the design and selection of motifs and media
- incorporates findings from the history of science on standards, claims to objectivity, breaches of standards and defects in the generation of image data
- studies the theoretical discourse and empirical forms of perception and dissemination that serve to make natural-scientific illustration the focus of public communication

Selected Publications



The Technical Image A History of Styles in Scientific Imagery 2015

Edited by Horst Bredekamp, Birgit Schneider, Vera Dünkel.
The University of Chicago Press, Chicago/London.
Published in association with the Bard Graduate Center, New York City.



Bildwelten des Wissens **Kunsthistorisches Jahrbuch für Bildkritik** 2003–

Edited by Claudia Blümle, Horst Bredekamp, Matthias Bruhn.
Published by De Gruyter, Berlin (Germany).

Volumes:

- Vol. 1,1: Bilder in Prozessen (2003)
- Vol. 1,2: Oberflächen der Theorie (2003)
- Vol. 2,1: Bildtechniken des Ausnahmezustandes (2004)
- Vol. 2,2: Instrumente des Sehens (2004)
- Vol. 3,1: Diagramme und bildtextile Ordnungen (2005)
- Vol. 3,2: Digitale Form (2005)
- Vol. 4,1: Farbstrategien (2006)
- Vol. 4,2: Bilder ohne Betrachter (2006)
- Vol. 5,1: Systemische Räume (2007)
- Vol. 5,2: Imagination des Himmels (2007)
- Vol. 6,1: Ikonographie des Gehirns (2008)
- Vol. 6,2: Grenzbilder (2008)
- Vol. 7,1: Bildendes Sehen (2009)
- Vol. 7,2: Mathematische Forme(l)n (2010)
- Vol. 8,1: Kontaktbilder (2010)
- Vol. 8,2: Graustufen (2011)
- Vol. 9,1: Präparate (2012)
- Vol. 9,2: Morphologien (2013)
- Vol. 10,1: Ereignisorte des Politischen (2013)
- Vol. 10,2: Bild – Ton – Rhythmus (2014)
- Vol. 11: Planbilder (2015)
- Vol. 12: Image Guidance (2016)
- Vol. 13: Spuren (2017)
- Vol. 14: Scientific Fiction (2018)
- Vol. 15: Visuelle Zeitgestaltung (in preparation)

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