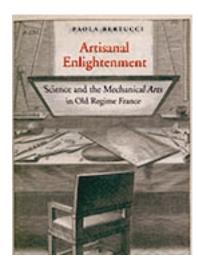
## **Arts & Humanities Book Talk Series**



November 13, 2017

Please join us for the Arts & Humanities Book Talk Series on *Artisanal Enlightenment: Science and the Mechanical Arts in Old Regime France* by Paola Bertucci, Associate Professor of History. The talk will be held on November 30, at SML in the International Room. Refreshments will be served at 4:00 pm and the talk will begin at 4:30 till 6 pm.

What would the Enlightenment look like from the perspective of *artistes*, the learned artisans with *esprit*, who presented themselves in contrast to philosophers, savants, and routine-bound craftsmen? Making a radical change of historical protagonists, Paola Bertucci places the mechanical arts and the world of making at the heart of the Enlightenment.

At a time of great colonial, commercial, and imperial concerns, artistes planned encyclopedic projects and sought an official role in the administration of the French state. The *Société des Arts*, which they envisioned as a state institution that would foster France's colonial and economic expansion, was the most ambitious expression of their collective aspirations.

Artisanal Enlightenment provides the first in-depth study of the Société, and demonstrates its legacy in scientific programs, academies, and the making of Diderot and D'Alembert's Encyclopédie. Through insightful analysis of textual, visual, and material sources, Bertucci provides a groundbreaking perspective on the politics of writing on the mechanical arts and the development of key Enlightenment concepts such as improvement, utility, and progress.

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