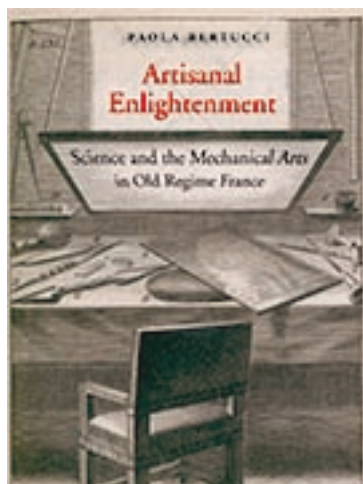


## Arts & Humanities Book Talk Series



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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