

Seminar Machines and Imagination, 2012-2013

# Electricity and imagination

5 December 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Laboratoire SPHERE (University Paris Diderot 7 / CNRS)  
Bâtiment Condorcet, 4 rue Elsa Morante, 75013 Paris

Room Mondrian 646A (6th floor)

**organization: Pierre Cassou-Noguès, Viktoria Tkaczyk, Koen Vermeir**  
**guest organizer: Christian Carletti**

09:00 - 09:30

Koen Vermeir (SPHERE), Christian Carletti (SPHERE)  
*Electrical machines and imagination*

09:30 - 11:00

Paolo Brenni (National Research Council - CNR, Florence)  
*Fairies, Lightnings and Dynamos: Symbols and Allegories in the History of Electricity*  
Ulf Otto (Stiftung Universität Hildesheim)  
*'Pandora oder Götter-Funken'. Electricity as Pantomime*

11:00 – 11:30 break

11:30 – 1:00

Christine Blondel (Centre Koyré, Paris)  
*Which Representations for Electrical "Healing Machines" in Late 19th Century France:  
Between Scientific Precision, Consecration and Nightmare.*  
Baptiste Brun (Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense)  
*Art brut and electricity: an anti-modern iconography?*

1:00 – 2:30 lunch

2:30 – 4:00

Remko Scha (University of Amsterdam)  
*Electric Power and the Human Body*  
Sam Halliday (Queen Mary, University of London)  
*Bipolarity and Sexuality*

4:00 – 4:15 break

4:15 – 5:00

Laura Ludtke (University of Oxford)  
*Electric Lights, New Mesmerism, and the Spectacle of Science in Richard Marsh's 'The Beetle' (1897)*