

Vaden W. Miles Memorial Lecture

Thursday, April 4, 2013

The Science of Optics; The History of Art

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&
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Renowned artist David Hockney observed that certain drawings and paintings from as early as the Renaissance seemed almost "photographic" in detail. Following an extensive visual investigation of western art he made the revolutionary claim that artists must have used optical aids.

In this talk I show a wealth of optical evidence for Hockney's claim that Hockney and I subsequently discovered during a remarkably productive collaboration between an artist and a scientist. I also discuss the imaging properties of the "mirror lens" (concave mirror), and implications this work has for the history of science as well as the history of art (and the modern fields of machine vision and computerized image analysis).

These discoveries convincingly demonstrate optical instruments were in use -- by artists, not scientists -- nearly 200 years earlier than commonly thought possible.

Where: **Spencer M. Partrich Law School Auditorium**
471 W. Palmer Street
Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Time: Refreshments served at 3:30 pm
Lecture from 4:00-5:00 pm

For event information and to RSVP:

***<http://physics.clas.wayne.edu/>* Seminars and Colloquia**



The Marriage of Giovanni Arnolfini and Giovanna Cenami, Jan van Eyck, 1434.

Evidence indicates the chandelier is based on an optical projection.



**College of
Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Department of Physics and Astronomy