

Intelligence of the Artificial

Recent work by heritage scientists has emphasized the importance of understanding fully the complexities of historical material compositions. As a historian, this has given me a new appreciation of the “intelligence” of the materials that I have encountered through more than a half-century of studying and interpreting material culture. A series of brief case studies, ranging from ancient Egyptian faience to laser diodes, will make the case for more fully incorporating the compositional intelligence of material artifice into our histories of science and technology.