This lecture will survey modes of knowledge production, exchange, and transmission made possible by printmaking through an examination of the work of Dürer and his proto-scientific contemporaries. While artists recognized the great value of prints as a means to transmit information through the propagation of multiple images, they valued the new technology beyond this aspect, fabricating printed images not only to spread knowledge but also to generate it. Some prints functioned materially and conceptually as instruments in the processes of inquiry into the natural world. This talk will examine how Dürer engineered his prints to operate in these ways.

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