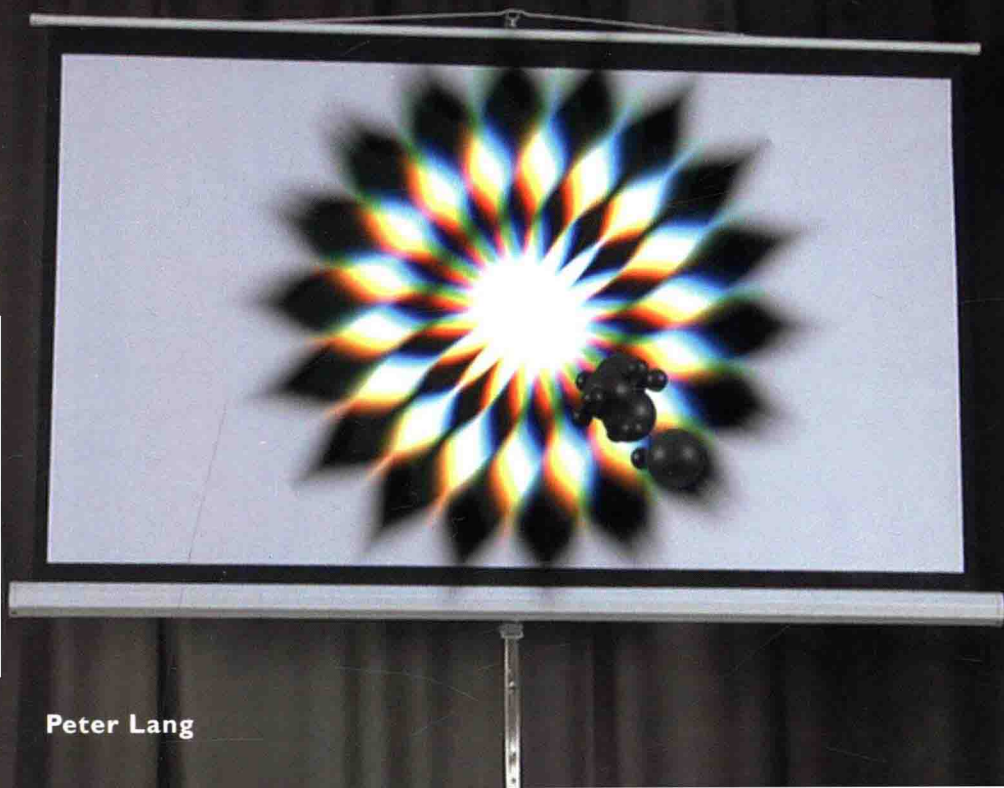


Memories of the Future

Stephen Wilson and
Deborah Jaffé (eds)

On Countervision



Peter Lang

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PETER LANG

Oxford · Bern · Berlin · Bruxelles · Frankfurt am Main · New York · Wien

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DEBORAH JAFFÉ

Preface

The examination of time, whether it be a story, design, artwork, invention or event, is important to propose a future. In the late eighteenth century, in the English Midlands, a group of friends exchanged ideas on the engineering, technological and industrial processes they were developing. They met once a month at full moon, giving the group, who were intent on changing the course of the future, the name the Lunar Society. In a time before electric lighting, the beam of the full moon guided them and the natural world was their time-keeper.

Their visions, and those of countless other women and men, were both speculative and practical usually to enhance a future and develop a modernity. The fluidity of time backwards and forwards, like the technology of the timepieces that have transformed its keeping, provide constant possibilities for both real and counterfactual interpretations. However, the natural world as time-keeper has now been displaced by the innovations of technology. While the inventor, engineer and designer focus on creating improvements, the storyteller and artist reflect on a former time to reinterpret it for the future.

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