

**Pamela H. Smith**, director of The Making and Knowing Project

For *The Making and Knowing Project* digital edition of the technical manuscript BnF Ms. Fr. 640, and the project's website: <https://www.makingandknowing.org/>

The Making and Knowing Project consisted on the translation and annotation of a digital critical edition of a sixteenth-century manuscript describing hundreds of long-forgotten craft practices. The website further documented the methodological innovations undertaken by the project's many contributors and which were meant to recapture non-verbal knowledge and visual aspects of the material practices described in the manuscript. Historical reconstructions of the technical processes described in the manuscript were carried in the project's dedicated chemistry laboratory at Columbia University and engaged undergraduate and graduate students, as well as post-doctoral fellows in an experiential work environment that has allowed students and scholars to consider the role of tacit knowledge and craft skill in the production of artisanal objects and the development of premodern technological know-how. Likewise, the project undertook the philological work on the manuscript with an eye towards engaging students and experts from a wide variety of fields—from sculptors to linguists—in the French transcription and English translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640 and encoded the material digitally to make it suitable for analysis, web-based presentation, and dissemination. The digital platform successfully delivers to the general public the knowledge and expertise gained in all stages of the project by means of multimedia essays and a digital edition of the manuscript. It combines scholarly merit, methodical rigor, and pedagogical orientation making it an outstanding and original reference work that will support future scholarship in the history of technology and makes it a worthy recipient of the Eugene S. Ferguson Prize.