Contents

Introduction		1
The	Age of Romance	
1	The Sci entific Sublime: From Darkness Comes Knowledge	20
2	Masters of Spectacle: Smelting in Shropshire	32
3	Satirizing Science: Gillray and Laughing Gas	46
4	Observing the Air: Constable's Clouds	58
5	Tracking Progress: Turner in the Age of Steam	74
6	Plants on Paper: The Art of Botany	87
The	Age of Enthusiasm	
7	Reaching for the Moon: The Truth about Photography	104
8	Dyeing to Display: Variety and Vibrancy	118
9	Capturing Time: Vision versus Realism	132
10	Celebrating Speed: Mobility and Modernity	146
11	Rejection of Rationality: Art as Protest	156
12	Humans in the Industrial Machine: Smokestacks in Salford	168
13	Form of Knowledge: The Mathematical Model as Muse	183
The	e Age of Ambivalence	
14	Supersonic: The Art of the Possible	198
15	Patterns from Atoms: Designing the Future	214
16	Wonder Materials: Transforming Everyday Life	226
17	Polaroid Perceptions: Capturing an Instant	240
18	Protecting the Earth: Political Pessimism on Screen	256
19	Patterns of Thought: AI and Algorithms	270
20	Imagining Matter: At the Edge of the Unknown	284
Pic	ture Acknowledgements	295
No	Notes	
Ack	Acknowledgements	
Index		308