

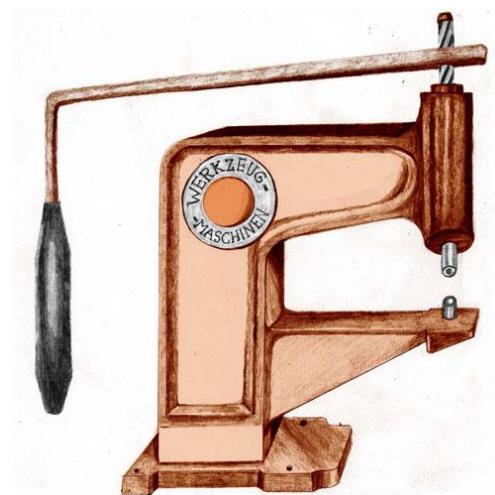


Multimedia Library Collection: Art & Graphics

Machine Tools

Porras Chassignet, Marina

With the emergence of industrial mass production, material prosperity became synonymous with a “good life.” The technological revolution resulted in the rapid spread of machines: in 2011, more than one billion automobiles roamed our streets and the number of mobile phones exceeded the world’s population. Just a hundred years ago, Earth at night was completely dark; today, it is lit up by lights from urban cities. This is the result of an incomparable growth process: a sphere of human consciousness has risen above the chemical, geological, and biological spheres of the past. Though this consciousness was initially focused on material growth, today we are beginning to see a trend towards sustainability and a climate-conscious way of life. However, in order to establish these new values on a worldwide scale, we need to make sure that basic human needs, such as a roof over one’s head and sufficient food and water, are sufficiently met.



Machine Tools

Marina Porras Chassignet

Drawn by Marina Porras Chassignet, 2014.



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The history of the hole: Machine tools

Text and images by [Marina Porras Chassignet](#)

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The story of the hole

“If my hands were freed up, I would dig a hole right here.”



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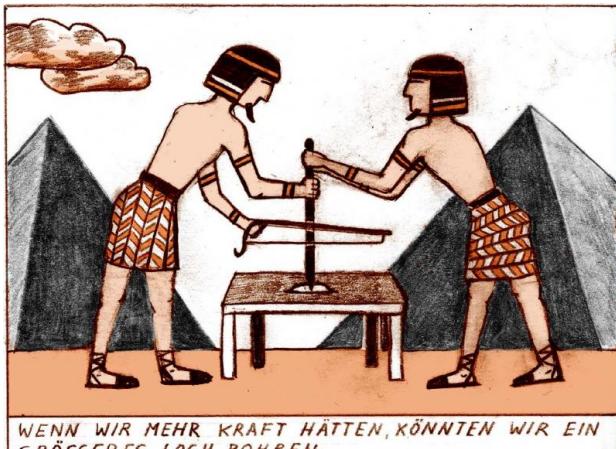


“If I knew a better technique, I wouldn’t need 60 hours to drill this hole.”



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WENN WIR MEHR KRAFT HÄTTEN, KÖNNTEN WIR EIN GRÖSSERES LOCH BOHREN.

“If we were stronger, we could drill a larger hole.”



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WENN WIR EIN PRÄZISERES WERKZEUG HÄTTEN, KÖNNTEN WIR FEINER ARBEITEN.

“If we had more precise tools, we could work more accurately.”



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WENN ICH BESSERE MASCHINEN HÄTTE, WÜRDE ICH 1000 LÖCHER PRO MINUTE BOHREN.

“If I had better machines, I would drill 1,000 holes per minute.”



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WENN DIE MASCHINEN AUTOMATISCH WÄREN, KÖNNTEN WIR BEIM ARBEITEN KAFFEE TRINKEN.

“If the machines would run automatically, we could drink coffee while working.”



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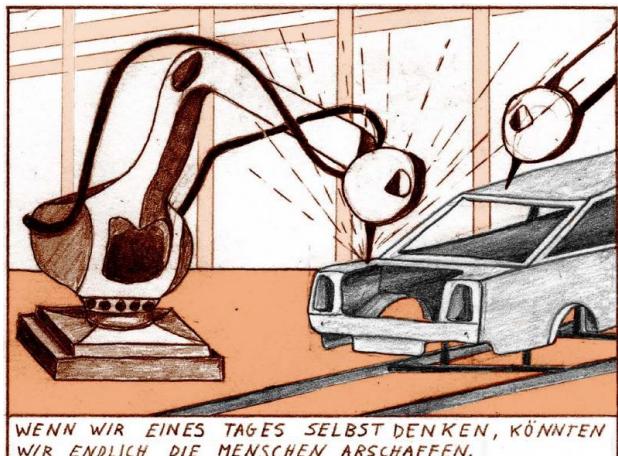
WENN ICH KEINE KNÖPFE DRÜCKEN MÜSSTE, KÖNNTE ICH MEINE TOCHTER VON DER SCHULE ABHOLEN.

"If I didn't have to press buttons, I could pick up my daughter from school."



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WENN WIR EINES TAGES SELBST DENKEN, KÖNNTEN WIR ENDLICH DIE MENSCHEN ABSCHAFFEN.

"If we could one day learn to think for ourselves, we could finally get rid of humans."



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Artist's comment

It was only through my research for this comic that I understood how the development and utilization of machine tools led to a highly technological world. The implementation of tools not only influences the production of goods, but it also significantly impacts our rhythm of our life, culture, environment, and daily life. We must decide how want to continue in the future.

How to cite

Porras Chassignet, Marina. "Machine Tools." Environment & Society Portal, Multimedia Library, 2014. <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/6655/>.

The comic also appears in Alexandra Hamann, Reinhold Leinfelder, Helmuth Trischler, and Henning Wagenbreth, eds., *Anthropozän – 30 Meilensteine auf dem Weg in ein neues Erdzeitalter. Eine Comic-Anthologie* (Munich: Deutsches Museum, 2014).



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Further readings:

- [Sources and Literature for the Anthropocene Milestone Comics](#)

Related links:

- Welcome to the Anthropocene. The Earth in Our Hands. Special exhibition at the Deutsches Museum
<http://www.deutsches-museum.de/en/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/archive/2015/anthropocene/>
- Welcome to the Anthropocene. The Earth in Our Hands. Virtual exhibition on the Environment & Society Portal
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/6354>
- Comic-Anthology, Deutsches Museum Website
<http://www.deutsches-museum.de/sammlungen/entdecken/comics/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <https://www.marinaporras.com>

Websites linked in image captions:

- <http://www.deutsches-museum.de/sammlungen/maschinen/werkzeugmaschinen>