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## Technology Is

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# TECHNOLOGY IS

JOHANNAH RODGERS

technology is  
nail polish clothing buttons  
holy water dispensers  
milk cartons punch  
cards robots lamination  
plastic roller skates margarine  
manure spreaders alphabet  
toilet paper wheel suspension  
bridge carpet mill thermometer  
numbers eyeglasses polyester  
lettuce spinner brick typewriter  
money crossbow rubber pottery  
horseshoe plough agriculture phonograph  
glass airplane arch  
elevator adding machine  
refrigeration electricity glue concrete  
radio radar microwave  
paper map sail  
zipper stop light  
incandescent bulbs batteries  
gun windmill automobile  
engine television clock  
shoes clothing penicillin  
ball point pen gear answering machine  
rocket walkie talkie  
light emitting diodes automatic  
hat yo yo matches paper clip  
scissors post it notes computer software  
pencil bleach swing mandolin  
cimitar flannel compass blast furnace

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*“Technology Is” is part of a series of Word Drawings that I began in 2004, when I became interested in “publishing” text on walls. These drawings have allowed me not only to notice the ways in which people respond to text differently when it is perceived primarily as a visual object but also to explore the spatial relationships between words and the spatial aspects of signification. The drawings can be read either horizontally or vertically and signify in unique ways depending on the reading path selected. This project also continues my ongoing exploration of the sentence as a unit of language, its unique energies, its boundaries, as well as its propensity to disintegrate under certain conditions.*

*Most of the drawings begin with a topic or point of departure, as was the case with “Technology Is,” which relates to my research into how to begin defining—and thinking about—technology.*

JOHANNAH RODGERS has been living and writing in Brooklyn, New York, for the past thirteen years. Her book *sentences*, a collection of short stories, essays, and drawings, was published by Red Dust in 2007. Her short stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Fence*, *Bookforum*, *Fiction*, *CHAIN Arts*, *Pierogi Press*, and the *Brooklyn Rail*, where she is a contributing editor. Currently, she is teaching writing at the City University of New York, where she is an assistant professor of English.