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Imaging and Aesthetics

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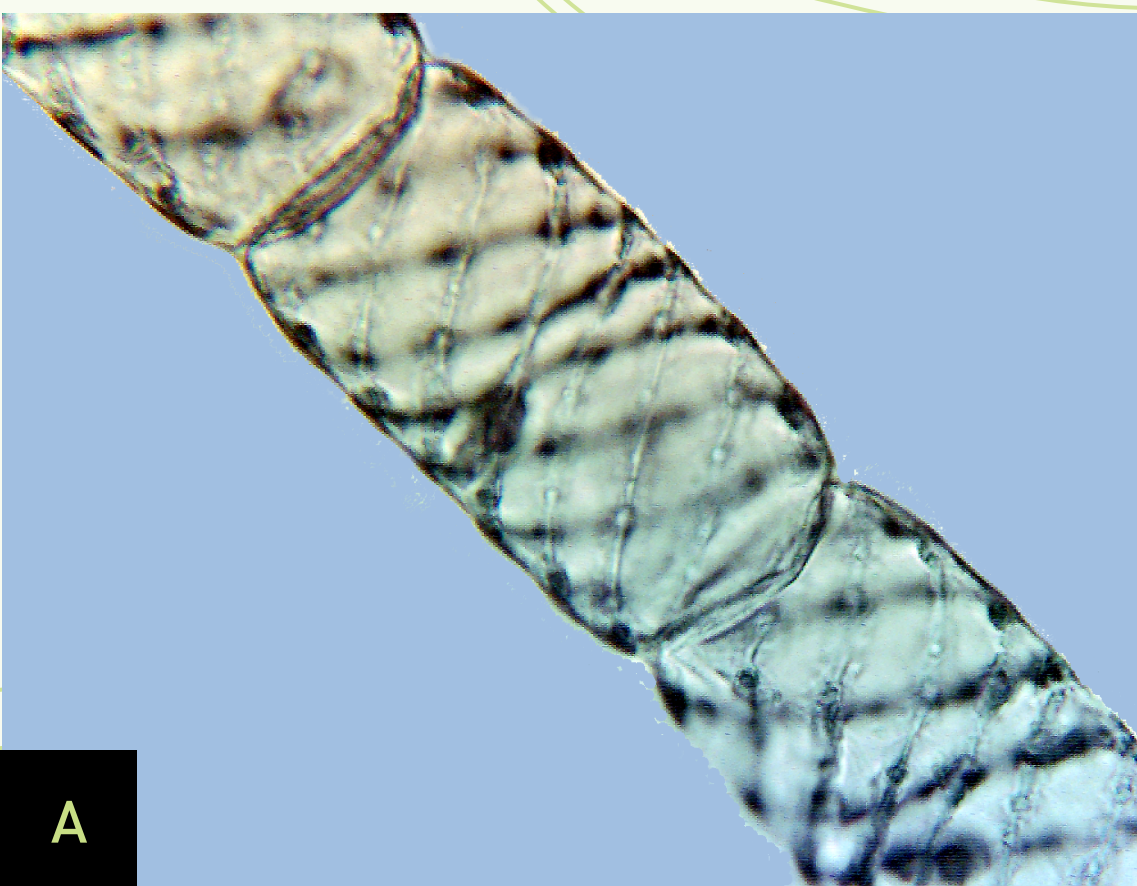
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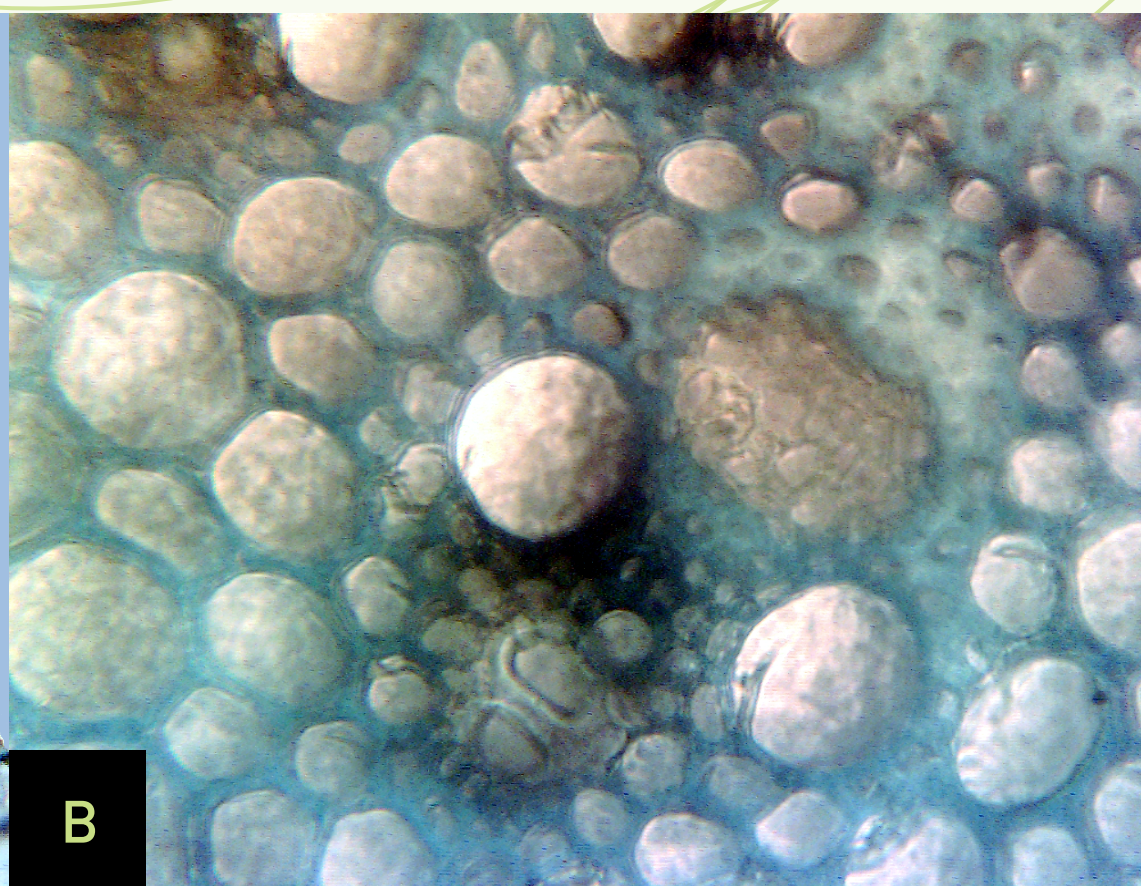
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IMAGING



A



B



C

AESTHETICS

Images of the microscopic are as old as the microscope itself. Robert Hooke's engravings of the miniature world in *Micrographia* captivated popular imagination in 1665. Hooke's appeal was not simply due to his calculated renderings of a magnified louse or plant cell; his images were also beautiful.

Hooke's depictions reflect the numerous decisions scientists make in determining the aesthetics of images. Preparing the microscopy sample, positioning the angle of the microscope lens, or selecting the appropriate level of resolution all constitute choices that affect the appearance and integrity of an image.

In making these aesthetic decisions, where does scientific imaging end and artistic representation begin?

A

Spirogyra filament //
Courtesy of John M. Herr

B

Arundo donax leaf //
Courtesy of John M. Herr

C

Croptilon divaricatum //
Courtesy of Erika Balogh