TECHNOLOGIES OF THE MARVELLOUS IN ANCIENT GREEK RELIGION

This book investigates the ways that technological and especially mechanical strategies were integrated into ancient Greek religion. By analysing a range of evidence, from the tragic use of the *deus ex machina* to Hellenistic epigrams to ancient mechanical literature, it expands the existing vocabulary of visual modes of ancient epiphany. Moreover, it contributes to the cultural history of the unique category of ancient 'enchantment' technologies by challenging the academic orthodoxy regarding the incompatibility of religion and technology. The evidence for this previously unidentified phenomenon is presented in full, thereby enabling the reader to perceive the shifting matrices of agency between technical objects, mechanical knowledge, gods, and mortals from the fifth century BCE to the second century CE.

TATIANA BUR held the Moses and Mary Finley Research Fellowship at Darwin College, Cambridge before joining the Australian National University as Lecturer in Classics. She is the recipient of the Cambridge University Hare Prize in Classics and the co-editor of *Technological Animation in Classical Antiquity* (2024).

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

General editors

J. P. T. CLACKSON, W. M. BEARD, G. BETEGH, R. L. HUNTER, M. J. MILLETT, S. P. OAKLEY, R. G. OSBORNE, C. VOUT, T. J. G. WHITMARSH

TECHNOLOGIES OF THE MARVELLOUS IN ANCIENT GREEK RELIGION

TATIANA BUR

Australian National University





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009331685

DOI: 10.1017/9781009331722

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009331722 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009331722 First published 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of

Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-33168-5 Hardback ISBN 978-1-009-33173-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.