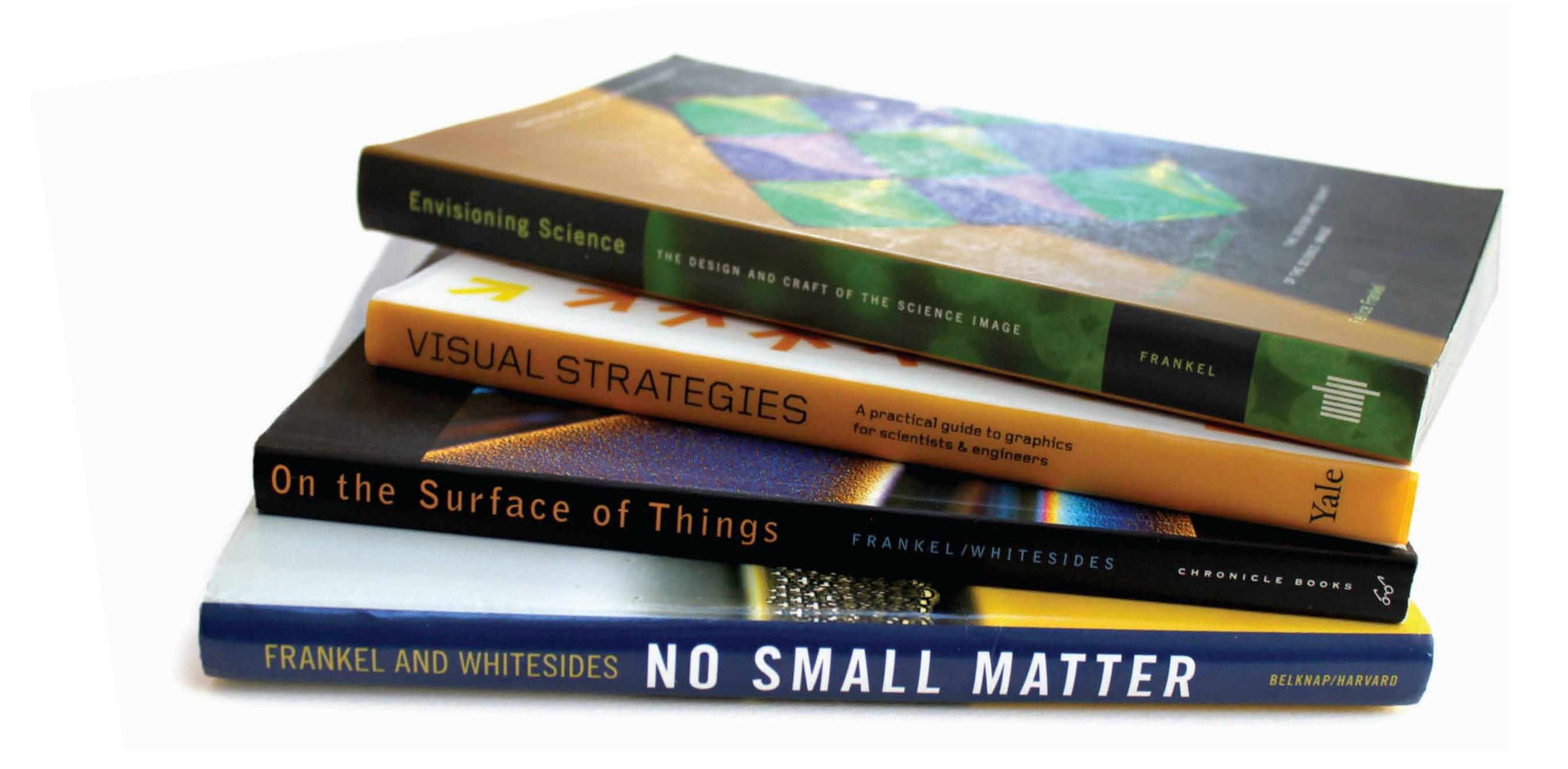


"Photographing science is an act of discovery. It's how I learn."

Photographer Felice Frankel is a research scientist in the Center for Materials Science and Engineering at MIT. She works with scientists and engineers to create images of their work. She believes that compelling images can help viewers understand and love science.

Visualizing Science

Frankel's images have appeared in more than two hundred magazines and journals, including *National Geographic*, *Nature*, *Science*, *Newsweek*, *Scientific American*, *Discover Magazine*, and *New Scientist*. She is the author of several books about the visual communication of science and engineering.



Photograph by Lisa Abitol

Getting it Right

Frankel placed a drop of ferrofluid on a glass slide. She placed the slide on a yellow sticky note, which rested on seven circular magnets.

"I went in for a very tight shot, but then realized the image I made wasn't a story about ferrofluid. It was more about the window reflections, which is not what I wanted."

"I pulled out a bit but knew this wasn't interesting enough. I wanted to bring the viewers' eyes to the center, so they could notice the crazy shapes."

"I held a green card over the material to take advantage of its reflective quality. It added an aesthetic component that helped the viewer pay attention, but it was still not good enough. One problem was that the ferrofluid was centered. I very rarely compose centered images."

"The final version is better composed and weighted. The yellow sticky note and the smeared glass slide created a more interesting background."

"At first I didn't see my own reflection on the surface of this ferrofluid drop," says Frankel. Can you find her reflection?

Photographs courtesy of Felice Frankel

Frankel photographed a drop of ferrofluid for *On the Surface of Things: Images of the Extraordinary in Science.*

