Speculative habits of thought—such as hypothesis, conjecture, prophecy, and prediction—were at the heart of early modern poetics. This presentation calls these ways of thinking “possible knowledge” and uses them to show how poesie helped to re-imagine epistemic uncertainty at the time of the so-called Scientific Revolution. Uncovering the importance of creative modes to innovations in scientific thought, it shows how the imaginative techniques that characterize major genres of literary writing undergirded natural inquiry in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.