

**RSVP**

(lunch included!)



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28
12:00 - 1:00 PM
FORD DESIGN CENTER
ROOM 1.350



Performing Computational Labor

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Abstract:

The most advanced technology in the world looms in my brown community. For 33 years, United Launch Alliance exploits my father's labor to launch the satellites used by Google Maps, military branches, and privately funded ventures. The purpose of my talk is to raise questions about the blue collar assemblers involved in the manufacturing of scientist products and to show how I use the aesthetics of computational photography and infrared technology to speak of immigration at the southern border, the exploitive history of brown labor, and the future of labor on mars. The talk will revolve around my photographic series How-To: Build a Father and Son Relationship, which is an ongoing photographic series where my father and I perform guides demonstrating How-To use our bodies to outline national borders, show the maintenance of a SpaceX Mars base, and show workers' solidarity in a Blue Origin spacecraft. In How-To: Exploit Mexican Men in 4 Steps, my father poses as a Bracero in front of an infrared mesquite grid. The grids in my photographs speak to computational photography and its use in military-grade cameras and satellites. Using a landscape captured by the Mars Rover in How-To: Cross the Colonial Landscape of Mars I regenerate the Western Frontier landscape photographs and emulate the desert journey traveled by migrants between Mexico and The United States. My talk will further point out how the history of colonial photography matches the aesthetics of cameras developed for space exploration and border surveillance. Grids in my pictures further offer my father and me agency by using the technology my father helps assemble but will never afford or have the privilege to operate. During long exposures, our bodies sync, we rest, and our relationship continues to build.