Department of Art & Design Winter 2025 **Speaker Series**

visual arts & design **forum**

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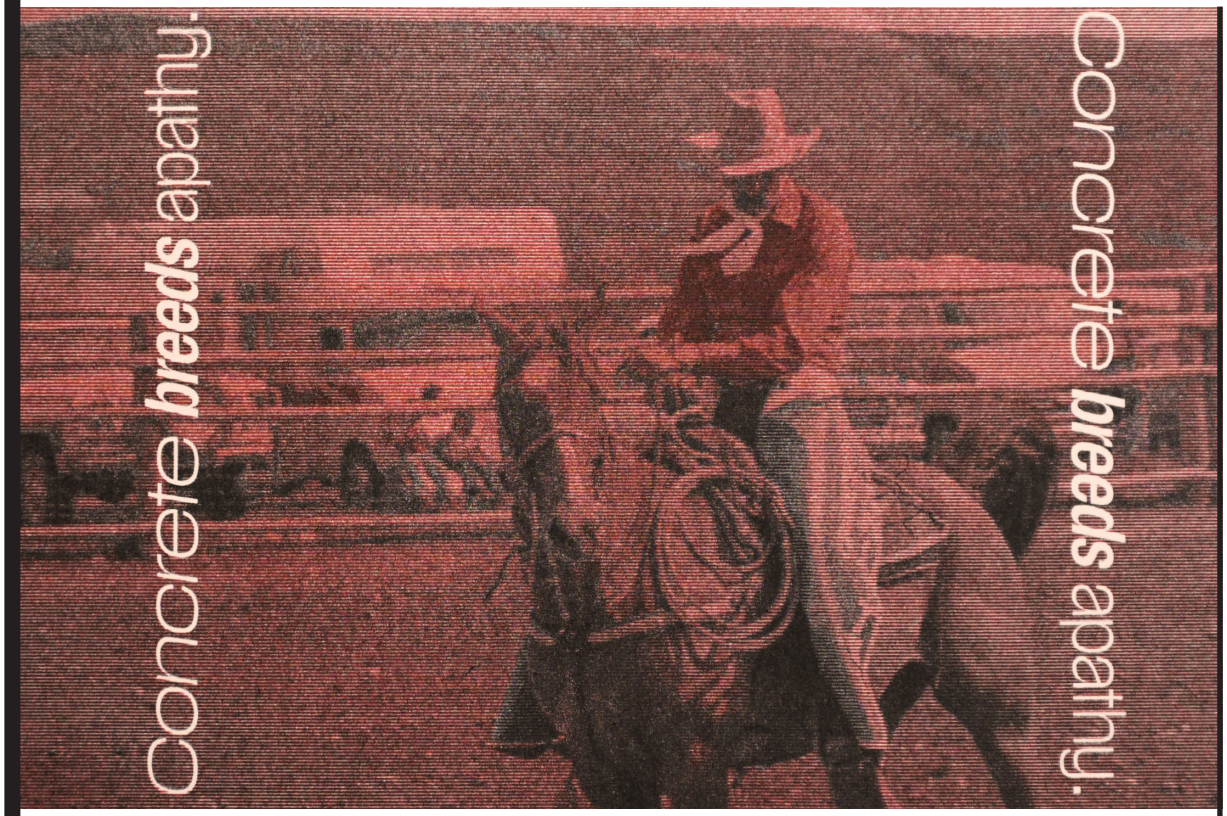
Christopher Swift

Assistant Professor in the Department of
Art & Design at Binghamton University (SUNY)



Thursday, March 13
10 am FAB 2-20

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA | DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

Rethinking Design as a Collaborative Practice

The talk will explore how printing, archives, and material processes shape perception and challenge traditional notions of authorship in design. It will cover projects ranging from cyanotypes and camera obscuras to offset and risograph printing, emphasizing the unseen labor and collaborative networks—both human and nonhuman—involved in reproduction and design.

Christopher Swift's work explores the intersections of design, technology, and ecological thought. With an MFA in Graphic Design from Vermont College of Fine Arts, his research seeks to decenter the human designer from the creative process by emphasizing the roles that tools, materials, and natural systems play in shaping design. Christopher challenges traditional design narratives, encouraging a more collaborative and inclusive understanding of creativity that engages non-human participants—whether technological, material, or ecological.