This talk comes from Rhee’s book *The Robotic Imaginary: The Human and the Price of Dehumanized Labor* (University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming 2018). She traces connections between U.S. robotics technologies and cultural forms at the sites of dehumanization and devalued labor. Rhee argues that the figure of the robot in contemporary culture and technology is largely shaped by the conceptions of the human and more importantly of the dehumanized. She looks specifically at the labor of drone operators and what she call “drone art,” or contemporary artistic responses to drone warfare. Drawing on the racializing aspects of early cybernetics military research, she looks at drone art that responds to drone victims’ dehumanization by examining the limits of identification as a means of ethical response. Instead, drone art points to an understanding of the human through unrecognizability, difference, and unfamiliarity, rather than recognition, familiarity, and knowability.

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