

APPLICATION – please follow the format provided below.

- A. Abstract: (100 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your abstract) Describe briefly how the funds for which you are applying will be used. If funded, the abstract will be posted to the CoTA website.

I am seeking a CoTA Research Grant to facilitate the completion of Ground Control (Brownsville/Matamoros) which is part of an ongoing project begun in 2007 which explores the embodied and performative relationship between the United States and Mexico as it intersects the labor, craft, geopolitics, multinational institutions and satellite cartography.

- B. Proposal: (500 word limit using Microsoft Word – please post word count at the end of your proposal) Describe the goals of your project / activity / conference and the areas in which your project supports the strategic goals and objectives of the unit, college and university.

I am seeking a CoTA Research Grant to facilitate the completion of Ground Control (Brownsville/Matamoros) which is part of an ongoing series of tapestries begun in 2007. Since 2007 I have made three of these tapestries, all of which have been self-funded, depicting images collected by NASA at places of conflict along the US/Mexico border; Mexicali/Calexico (2007), El Paso/Juarez (2010), and Colorado River Delta (2014).



Ground Control (Mexicali/Calexico) 2007



Ground Control (El Paso/Juarez)



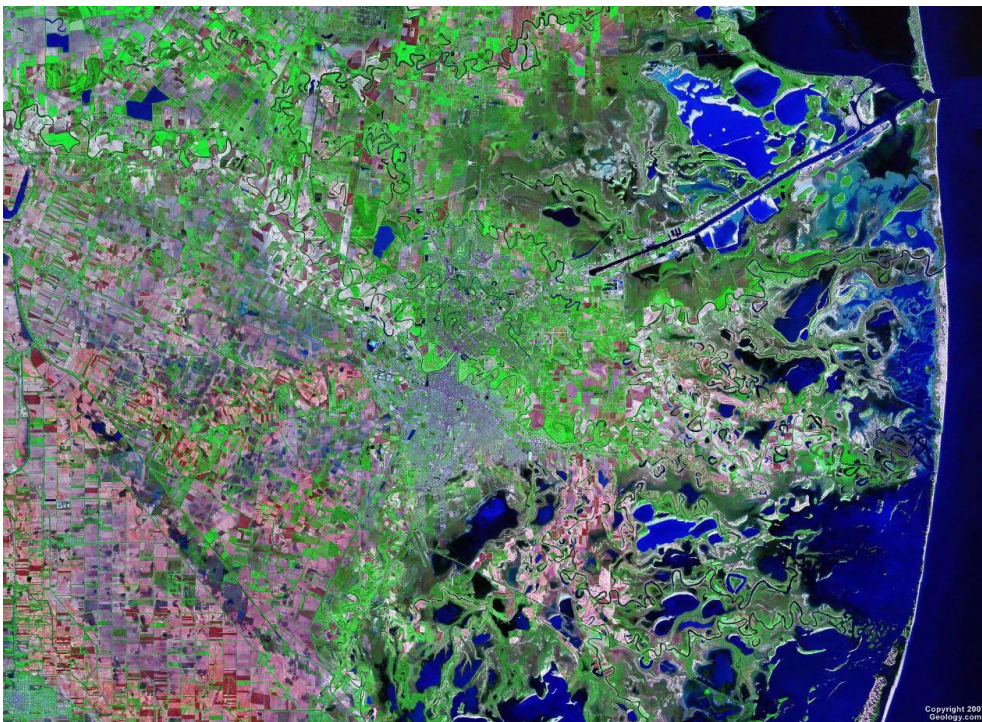
Ground Control (Colorado River Delta) 2014

The Ground Control series is informed by the unique socio-political climate of the United States border with Mexico and the imaging technologies used to uphold it. This series of wool rugs depicts NASA satellite images of the US/Mexico border at places of conflict current and historical. It is woven in Guadalajara, Mexico in exchange for the amount of money it cost's a family of four to illegally immigrate to the United States at the time of production. Ground Control is an exercise in free monetary/commodity exchange across the U.S./Mexico border in contradistinction to the growing restrictions on human migration. A satellite using electromagnetic remote sensing collected the source images for the works in Ground Control. Unlike photography that attempts to mimic the function of the eye, remote sensing collects data and constructs images through a process entirely foreign to human experience. Without

physical remediation remote sensing exists only as data, epitomizing the Cartesian abstraction which maps by their nature rely on. By remediating these satellite images into handmade wool rugs Ground Control reconnects the remote sensed images (remote both to human experience and physical location) of the earth with the earth itself as well as with an embodied presence that engages with the viewer in tactile, visual and performative ways.

The Ground Control body of work was conceived as a series of five total rugs/tapestries, Brownsville/Matamoros is the fourth in this series and my home town of San Ysidro/Tijuana will be the last. It takes several years for me to save the money to fund each part of this project. This grant will bring me closer to the completion of this part of the project, and thus closer to the completion of the series as a whole.

The Ground Control project has afforded me several national awards which have brought attention to the University and serve as an indication of the potential outcomes of this current project including the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant, the Florida Prize for Contemporary Art, Orlando Museum's "People's Choice Award", the Santo Foundation Prize and just this year a Best in Show Award from "Fantastic Fibers" and the Southern Prize. At the completion of this project I have been asked to be a part of a survey exhibition of the Taller Mexicano de Gobelinos which will travel through Mexico and abroad.



Source image of Brownsville/Matamoros taken by NASA's Landsat satellite





In progress image of tapestry as of October 17, 2017 ( approximately 1/6 complete)