In this presentation Herrera-Sobek analyzes the various ways barbed wire is used in Chicano/a paintings as a visual metaphor to represent the United States’ repressive policies against Mexican transnational migratory movements. She utilizes the critical theory paradigm she developed for analyzing artistic works and which she denominates as "aesthetic activism." Aesthetic activism implies the use of artistic expressions such as art and literature for effecting/promoting social justice and change. Chicana/o visual artists such as Malaquías Montoya, Rupert García, Consuelo Jiménez Underwood, and others utilize barbed wire as an icon and semiotic code to represent various concerns related to crossing the US-Mexican border.

Friday, February 1 at 4:00 p.m. in Royce 306