HUMANITY CENTERED ROBOTICS INITIATIVE

BROWN

Andy Law (RISD) and Ilan Moyer (MIT)

“Augmenting OUR Hands”

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
12:00 – 1:30pm
Barus and Holley Room 190

In this lecture, we will discuss how augmenting our hands to be more accurate and more reliable will create a whole new form of production. We will explain how tools and machines, conceived at the crossroads of making by hand and desktop production, will critically change and drive innovation in the USA.

Andy Law is probably best described as an Experience Designer and consequently easily gets excited about the culture, correspondence and interesting friction in all kinds of networks including production, educational, telecommunication, transactional, entrepreneurial and social networks. At the Rhode Island School of Design, he works with graduate and undergraduate students asking them to investigate and challenge contemporary design issues. Andy's recent professional work included establishing and directing the Scottish Orkney Island based residency charity the Erlend Williamson Artist Fellowship and acting as a City of Providence commissioner on the Open Providence Commission for Transparency and Accountability.

Andy Law is an Associate Professor in Industrial Design at the Rhode Island School of Design. He was the Sub Head of Curriculum, a Davis Fellow for Reflective Teaching but right now he's the Department's Graduate Program Director. In 1997 Andy was granted the first ever patent in the USA for an earthquake proof combined locking and anti-tilt filing cabinet. He also designed the world's first biodegradable disposable hot cup lid for Edinburgh based Vegware.

Ilan Moyer is a mechanical engineer and product designer. His first foray into building digital fabrication tools was during his undergraduate thesis 'Rapid Prototyping of Rapid Prototyping Machines’ — an experience that has set him on a long mission to create a tighter coupling between ideas and the tools used to render them physically. Ilan is a co-founder of the digital power tools company Taktia, where he designs the hardware of a smart router that can make precise parts much bigger than itself. He's worked on medical devices, consumer electronics, and taught in the student machine shop at MIT for years. Ilan received his MS at MIT doing research in the CADLab, where he was also a tireless TA for the infamous MIT undergrad course 2.009 Product Design. He's a thoughtful designer, always looking for the best impedance match, and lives in Belmont, MA with his wife and two cats.

This presentation is part of the HCRI’s Multidisciplinary Speaker Series that showcases diverse and groundbreaking research undertaken by leaders in science, technology, design, and impact of robotics on society.

For more information on this talk and the HCRI Speaker Series,
contact hcri@brown.edu or visit hcri.brown.edu.