

# locustprojects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Locust Projects presents**  
PROJECT ROOM:  
Christina Pettersson:  
*In the Pines*

**Exhibition Dates:**  
April 3-June 13, 2020

**Public Opening Event:**  
Friday, April 3  
7-9pm

**Related Programs:**  
ARTIST ACTIVATION  
Celebrate the artist's  
birthday  
Tuesday, May 26, 1-3pm  
Miami City Cemetery  
1800 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33132

**Public Hours:**  
Tuesday to Saturday  
11am – 5pm

## LOCUST PROJECTS PRESENTS NEW WORK BY CHRISTINA PETTERSSON Opens Friday, April 3, 2020 with a reception to meet the artist from 7-9pm



Photography by Eli Peck.

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects is proud to present *In the Pines*, a new site-specific immersive installation by Miami-based artist Christina Pettersson. *In the Pines* will open to the public with a reception on April 3 from 7-9pm. Both the reception and the exhibition are free and open to the public.

*In the Pines* transforms the Project Room into a cemetery populated by early South Florida figures to which the artist is drawn, each also deeply connected to the land and its long and often forgotten history. A lasting and familiar impression of the collective past, the cemetery invites the viewer to contemplate historical narratives while also functioning as a memorial commemorating the individual life and its significance.

The space is filled with hushed sounds of nature and the soft crunching footsteps coming from a video projection of the artist wandering through the historic sites in South Florida's swamps and lush wilderness. Dressed in Victorian-era mourning wear, the film depicts Pettersson traveling through places of the dead and buried: a remote mangrove shore in the Everglades where poor veterans unable to evacuate the Keys washed ashore during the the great hurricane of 1935; a circus cemetery in North Miami; a Tequesta mound hidden in a modern neighborhood; the site of the last coontie mill, a native source of starch by the Seminoles wiped out by early pioneers; and a pine forest, Florida's only Civil War battlefield. Visitors' footsteps echo the

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artist's as they walk across Florida native pine mulch in the cemetery filled with the handmade gravestones. All are encouraged to make grave rubbings to take home a piece of the exhibition in homage to figures from South Florida's robust history.

Above the gravesite looms a large-scale multi-panel apocryphal drawing embedded with gravestone symbolism and commemorating the lost landscape of South Florida. Carved to resemble a cemetery gate, the work presents a landscape devoid of trees, divided by railroad tracks leading nowhere. The work is a memorial to the historical landscape of South Florida, erased so

completely that few can recall it, where only invasive species remain. Flanking the drawing are two crumbling entrance towers, all that remains of the estate of John Sewell, one of Miami's founders, now crumbling and forgotten on the side of the 195 highway. Mounted on the opposite wall, wrought iron gate is familiar, reminiscent of both the traditional borders separating the dead from the living as well as the fences and window boxes commonly found in Southern architecture.

*In the Pines* celebrates South Florida's history by mourning what has been lost while also taking back the cemetery for the living. A sense of community is strengthened by the act of honoring the dead and exploring their forgotten history.

## RELATED PROGRAM:



### ARTIST ACTIVATION: Celebrate Christina Pettersson's birthday at the Miami City Cemetery

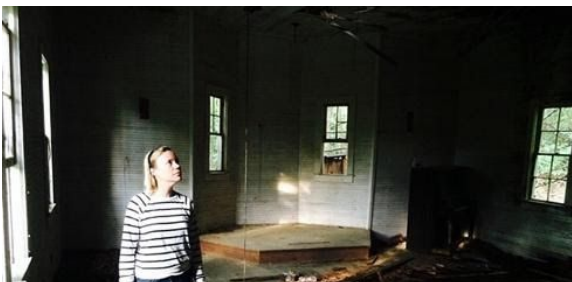
Tuesday, May 26, 1-3pm

The exhibition will be accompanied by a free public program on at the Miami City Cemetery celebrating Christina Pettersson's birthday. Every year the artist enjoys a picnic lunch alongside the grave of John Alfred Ball, a young man with the same birthday as Pettersson, who died in 1918. Join Locust Projects and Christina Pettersson in enjoying the artist's usual meal of fried chicken and champagne together with other Southern Swamp classics. Listen to tales of the dead, and perhaps search for your own birthday soul mate.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Christina Pettersson has lived in Miami, FL most of her life. Her last two solo exhibitions, in Everglades National Park and at the historic Deering Estate on Biscayne Bay, reflect her lifelong passions in her hometown.

Recent shows include the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, Girls Club, Fort Lauderdale,



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the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, FL, Launch F18, New York, NY. She has exhibited at other museums, particularly in the South, such as the Birmingham Museum of Art, AL, Columbus Museum of Art, GA, Baltimore Museum of Art, MD, Wiregrass Museum of Art, AL, and the Naples Museum of Art, FL. Her work is in major collections locally, such as the PAMM, Martin Z. Margulies at the Warehouse, Deborah & Dennis Scholl, Frances Bishop Good & David Horvitz, and throughout the country.

She has received the South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship thrice, the largest regionally sponsored grant in the US. She received a Fulbright Grant to return to Sweden in 2000, attending the Valand School of Fine Arts in Gothenburg.

She has attended residencies at Yaddo, Ucross, Vermont Studio Center, VCCA, The Studios of Key West, Atlantic Center for the Arts Master Program under Inka Essenhigh, and a year long program at the Deering Estate. Taking her to remote and historic places, they have a profound effect on her work. Most influentially she spent a month inside Everglades National Park under the AIRIE residency program in 2015. This residency solidified her desire to focus her artwork on the combination of her local environment, history and community outreach.

Pettersson has curated and staged group performances and public programming throughout her native South Florida. In conjunction with exhibitions and organizations such as AIRIE, Girls Club, and various historical entities she collaborates to bring these themes to life in the community- thru walking and bus tours of neighborhoods, cemeteries and the local environment, guest lectures, workshops, book clubs, even shadow puppet performances. These events have allowed Pettersson's work to become a true engagement with the community, dissolving boundaries, utilizing the talents of a variety of people and organizations with limited resources, and educating and delighting by innovative means.

Photos: Eli Peck.

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## ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

Founded by artists for artists in 1998, Locust Projects is Miami's longest running nonprofit alternative art space. We produce, present, and nurture ambitious and experimental new art and the exchange of ideas through commissioned exhibitions and projects, artist residencies, summer art intensives for teens, and public programs on contemporary art and curatorial practice. As a leading incubator of new art and ideas, Locust Projects emphasizes boundary-pushing creative endeavors, risk-taking and experimentation by local, national and international artists. We invest in South Florida's arts community by providing artists with project grants and empower creative careers by supporting the administrative work of being an artist through an onsite artist resource hub and access to pro bono legal services.

Locust Projects 2019-2020 exhibitions and programming are made possible with support from: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; Kirk Foundation, Funding Arts Network, the Wege Foundation and Locust Projects Exhibitionist and Significant Other members.

**ART HAPPENS HERE.**