

# locustprojects

3852 North Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33127  
305.576.8570 | [info@locustprojects.org](mailto:info@locustprojects.org) | [www.locustprojects.org](http://www.locustprojects.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## RAÚL ROMERO BRINGS THE SOUNDS OF THE COQUÍ TO MIAMI'S URBAN STREETS

**Locust Projects presents**  
ART ON THE MOVE:  
Raúl Romero:  
*Onomonopoeitics of a  
Puerto Rican Landscape*

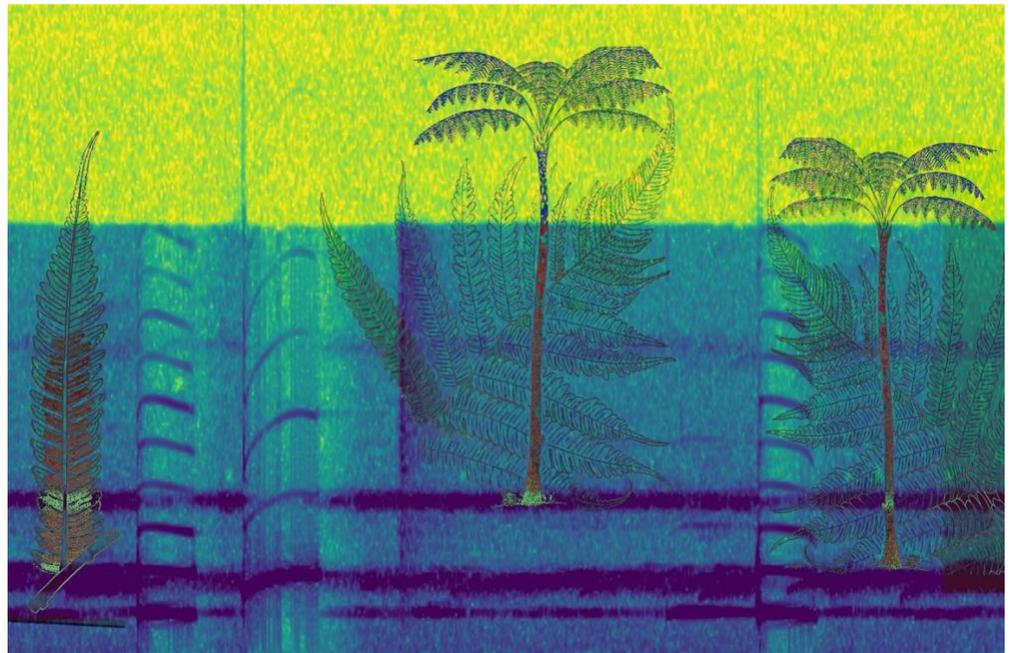
**Exhibition Dates:**  
September 12-  
October 24, 2020

**Public Hours:**  
Wednesday-Saturday,  
11am-5pm  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**Performance dates  
and times:**  
To be announced

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Alexandra Contreras  
[info@locustprojects.org](mailto:info@locustprojects.org)  
305-576-8570

**Press Images:**  
[Available here](#)



Raúl Romero, *Coquí en el Helecho Gigante*, 2020

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects is proud to present Philadelphia-based artist Raúl Romero's new project *Onomonopoeitics of a Puerto Rican Landscape*, an interactive mobile art project that explores how sound can evoke memory and a sense of place for Miami's immigrant communities. The evolving multi-city project will be based at Locust Projects starting September 12 with initial performances in the public sphere taking place through October 24, 2020. Admission is free.

*Onomonopoeitics of a Puerto Rican Landscape* explores how people in Miami connect back to their homeland, in the case of the artist, Puerto Rico. Romero creates an acoustic ecology using his field recordings of the coquí, a small iconic frog native to Puerto Rico. The word "coquí" is an onomatopoeia named by the Tainos indigenous peoples of Puerto Rico. The distinct sound will be transmitted alongside the everyday urban sounds onsite at Locust Projects and throughout Miami, creating an augmented soundscape.

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As a second-generation Puerto Rican immigrant growing up in Florida, connecting to his homeland through visiting the island has helped form Romero's identity. He connects his experience of the land, the coquí, and Puerto Rico's Arecibo observatory through sculpture, sound, and movement, reaching the public throughout different neighborhoods.

In this project, a cargo tricycle is converted into a mobile sound transmission and data gathering station projecting calls of the coquí frog. Riding the trike through Miami neighborhoods, Romero and performers will broadcast the sounds of the frog native to the artist's homeland as well as capture Miamians' experiences and stories of the coquí and their own native regions' iconic sounds. The public is encouraged to record their audible homeland memories, either via a direct voicemail at 305.699.4233 or by sending their recording to [Miami@coquicalls.com](mailto:Miami@coquicalls.com). These memories become an active part of the project, uploaded to [www.CoquiCalls.com](http://www.CoquiCalls.com) where they live on as an online archive available for anyone to hear and share.

Motion-activated sounds of the coquí will also be audible along Locust Project's exterior along North Miami Avenue where the trike will be parked when not in the field gathering data.

*Onomonopoeitics of a Puerto Rican Landscape* explores how people connect with the lands where they hold their roots, and initiates conversation about what travels culturally and how reminders of nature can resonate, evoking memory and imagination.

*Onomonopoeitics of a Puerto Rican Landscape* has been awarded \$5,000 from the Velocity Fund Grant, an Andy Warhol Foundation regional regranting program grant, for its iteration in Philadelphia and a NALAC Fund for the Arts (NFA) grant.



Raul Romero in his Philadelphia studio, photo courtesy the artist

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Raúl José Romero lives in West Philadelphia. He graduated from Yale University School of Art with an MFA in Sculpture, 2018. He currently works at the University of the Arts as a Film Coordinator and Lecturer teaching sound art. Raúl has exhibited at The Kitchen in New York City, NY. The Denver Contemporary Art Museum, Transformer Gallery in Washington D.C., Pentimenti Gallery in Philadelphia, PA, The Tampa Museum of Art, he was awarded the William and Nancy Oliver Gallery Prize by Anne Pasternak for the 32nd Annual Juried Art Exhibition at The Contemporary Art Museum in Tampa, FL. Learn more at [www.raulromero.com](http://www.raulromero.com).

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## ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

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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.

## **ABOUT ART ON THE MOVE**

Art on the Move is Locust Projects' ongoing temporary public art initiative, through which Locust Projects commissions new work for the public sphere, including billboards, bus backs, mobile billboard trucks, and bus shelters as well as performative activations, temporary interactive installations, and public interventions. Art on the Move brings experimental contemporary art beyond Locust Projects' walls to neighborhoods throughout Miami.

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; Funding Arts Network; The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation, Kirk Foundation; Miami Salon Group; and the Wege Foundation; and the donors to the Still Making Art Happen Campaign and Locust Projects Exhibitionist members.

**ART HAPPENS HERE.**