

locustprojects

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****MEDIA ALERT****

**Locust Projects Awarded its Seventh Art Works Grant from
the National Endowment for the Arts**



[Miami: February 4, 2021] The Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts has approved Locust Projects for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to support the production and presentation of experimental and innovative exhibitions and projects in 2021. The funds will support the creation of newly commissioned installations and temporary public art projects by emerging and nationally recognized artists, as well as the 2021 Talks free curatorial lecture series presented in partnership with Oolite Arts.

The National Endowment for the Arts has approved 1,073 grants across America totaling nearly \$25 million that were selected during this first round of fiscal year 2021 funding in the Grants for Arts Projects funding category. Of the 16 Miami-Dade County organizations receiving grants, Locust Projects is the only Florida organization to receive a Grant for Arts Projects grant in the Visual Arts category. The 2021 grant marks Locust Projects' seventh NEA Art Works grant to date.

The Art Works funding category supports projects that focus on public engagement with, and access to, various forms of excellent art across the nation; the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence; learning in the arts at all stages of life; and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support this project from Locust Projects," said Arts Endowment Acting Chairman Ann Eilers. "Locust Projects is among the arts organizations across the country that have demonstrated creativity, excellence, and resilience during this very challenging year."

"Locust Projects is honored to be among the amazing arts organizations, locally and nationally, to receive support from the National Endowment for the Arts," said Lorie Mertes, Locust Projects Executive Director. "This grant supports our work as an incubator of new art and ideas introducing the public to ambitious new projects by local, national and international artists at all career stages, as well as free access to talks by leading curators of contemporary art."

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In 2021, Locust Projects will present commissioned site-specific, large scale exhibitions by GeoVanna Gonzalez, Tal Amitai-Lavi and Tal Frank, Jessica Segall, and Matthew Suib and Nadia Hironaka, among others. Artists are given the time, space, and resources to create new work without commercial pressures or limitations of traditional arts institutions, and are supported with residencies while they experiment and expand their practice.

Presented in partnership with Oolite Arts, the Talks 2021 speakers include Hamza Walker, Julie Rodrigues Widholm, Rujeko Hockley, Lauren Haynes, Dr. Lynne Cooke, and Lars Nittve. Currently presented through Facebook Live, the Talks lecture series activates conversations around new art and ideas by annually featuring six leading curators who discuss their practice, the art and artists that have shaped their careers, and how they support the work of artists whether in museums or non-traditional spaces. Each curator also visits studios of six Miami-based artists through the ZOOM platform, providing vital feedback and visibility.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

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 2020-2021 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 Children's Trust; Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Incubator Grant; Funding Arts Network; The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui; Kirk Foundation; Miami Salon Group; Scott Hodes; Jones Day; Community Recovery Fund at The Miami Foundation and the Wege Foundation; and the donors to the Still Making Art Happen Campaign and Locust Projects Exhibitionist members.

ART HAPPENS HERE.