

locustprojects

297 NE 67th Street, Miami, FL 33138

305.576.8570 | communications@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents

PROJECT ROOM:

Assembling beneath a desire for sabotage

Exhibition Dates:

March 4 – June 24, 2023

Public Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday

11am – 5pm; FREE

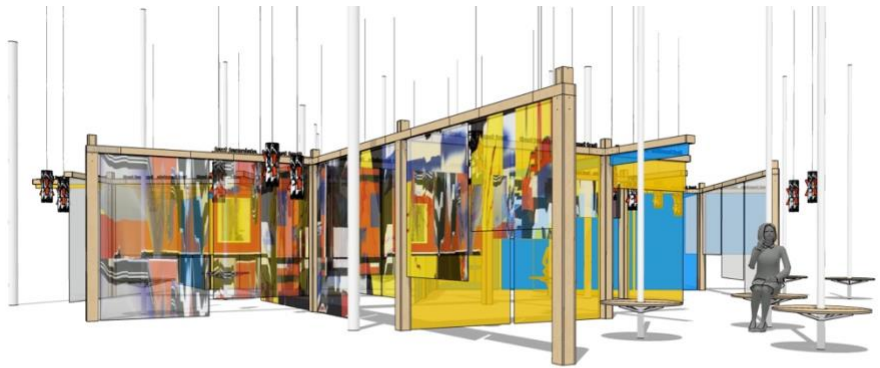
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Kicking off its 25th anniversary year, Locust Projects opens expansive new home with a monumental installation by Cuban-American Artist Rafael Domenech

Domenech's exhibition will evolve in "chapters" over three months, changing with every community activation



Rafael Domenech, render for Locust Projects

[Miami, FL] (MIAMI) Locust Projects, Miami's longest-running nonprofit alternative art space, is doubling in size with a move to Little River in March and opening with an immersive, multi-layered installation by Cuban-American artist Rafael Domenech.

As an incubator of new art and ideas, Locust Projects plays a unique and critical role in Miami's arts community by embracing a culture of "yes," and inviting artists to experiment on a large-scale in ways that lead to creative breakthroughs and new career opportunities.

With 17-foot ceilings, an open floor plan, and access to a large enclosed courtyard, the former industrial warehouse at 297 NE 67th St. will be a laboratory for both physical and digital art, where Miami-based and international artists can experiment with new media and materials.

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Invited to take over the new space prior to the build-out of dedicated galleries, Domenech has envisioned “Assembling beneath a desire for sabotage,” a massive architectural environment that creates a pavilion-like setting activated by a sequence of events. Building on his recent pavilion for the 58th Carnegie International, Domenech’s architectural intervention at Locust Projects is intended to redefine the exhibition experience as an active machine for production and dialogue rather than a repository space for passive viewing. For “Assembling”, Domenech repurposes imagery from his Miami archive alongside a composite of texts to create a space that allows for *affordance* – a recognition of an architectural space in a state of transformation. Attendees can walk through the free flowing rooms, and layer their own experiences and ideas by participating in various activations, including a Community Celebration on March 3.

The activations, conceived as a series of “chapters” informed by Domenech’s history of working with artist’s books and experimental publishing formats, will punctuate the run of the show, evolving in and through the community’s active participation. Activations include: A Conversation about artistic process held during the structure’s construction with Talia Heiman, the 58th Carnegie International’s curatorial assistant; a Social Factory inviting participants to collaboratively build lamps to be installed in the exhibition; a Sculpture Garden inside the pavilion featuring works by national and local artists; and the 25th Anniversary Benefit Dinner, in which the artist has created an interactive dining experience that is a “Gesamtkunstwerk,” or a work of art itself.

“Locust Projects is about ideas in motion. As a laboratory, we champion the artists’ creative process. Oftentimes the end result isn’t as important as the road the artists take to get there,” said Lorie Mertes, Locust Projects’ director. “We’re honored to have Rafael in our new space with a project embodying that ethos prioritizing process and the evolution of ideas in a project that will change as people activate it.”

Domenech embraced the exhibition opportunity as he wanted to be a part of Locust Project’s history and impact.

“Locust Projects helped create a diversity of practices and voices for the city, by developing a space where artists can come and explore ideas without the financial pressure, with no objectives or goals outside of being there to make art,” Domenech said. “It’s a space that attempts to create a new set of rules for the artist to *make*. It places the responsibility on the artist. You are the one in charge of doing as much as you want and to push yourself as much as you want.”

The move to the new space is made possible by a leadership grant from philanthropist and Board Member, Diane “Dede” Moss, who will be honored at the February benefit dinner. A five-year, \$1 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in 2019, and multi-year grants from the Warhol Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, were instrumental in the organization's growth.

In the coming year, Locust Projects will add a Digital Innovation Lab funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, where artists can use new technologies to experiment and create.

“Locust Projects holds a unique place in South Florida’s arts ecosystem as a creative incubator supporting the production of experimental new work and introducing the community to the creative process,” said Victoria Rogers, VP|Arts for Knight Foundation. “We’re excited by Locust Projects’ ongoing evolution and how this new home will expand its ability to accelerate their careers, and increase access to the work of featured artists.”

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rafael Domenech (b. 1989, Havana; lives between New York, NY and Miami, FL) is an interdisciplinary artist and educator exploring notions of architecture and urban design, public gathering spaces, and publishing methodologies.

He refers to his works as "publications," and they take the form of pavilions, installations, and public programs, as well as experimental publications.

Domenech's spatial interventions intersect publishing methodologies such as cutting, redacting, revising, and circulation as research tactics to amplify his interest in the exhibition model as an active machine for production rather than a repository space.

Recent exhibitions include: the 58th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; The Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; Passerelle centre d'art contemporain, Brest, France; Museum of Art and Design (MOAD), Miami.

His work has been exhibited at SculptureCenter, New York; Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City; LIST Center, MIT, Cambridge; The Bass Museum, Miami Beach; Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York; Phillip and Patricia Frost Art Museum, Miami; Bronx Museum of the Arts, among others. He holds an MFA from Columbia University. In 2015, he received his BFA from New World School of the Arts and in 2009 received a BA from the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes "San Alejandro" in Cuba.

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 2022-2023 exhibitions and programming are made possible with support from: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Diane and Robert Moss; 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; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Ruth Foundation for the Arts; The Miami Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui; Florida, Department of State; Hillsdale Fund; The Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Foundation Incubator Grant; Funding Arts Network; Diane and Werner Grob; Kirk Foundation; and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.

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