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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents PROJECT ROOM: LIZN'BOW: Niñalandia Skycoaster

Exhibition Dates: September 7 – November 2, 2024

Exhibition Public Hours: Wednesday to Saturday 11am – 5pm

Opening Event Saturday, September 7, 2024 6-8pm | LIZN'BOW Performance 8pm

Locust Late @ The DiLL Thursday, September 26 | 7-10pm 3D Animation Workshop by Bow Ty Enterprises Venture Capital and DJ set by Liz Ferrer

Little Haiti Little River Art Days Saturday, October 19 | 12-5pm Neighborhood art crawl

Closing Event

Saturday, November 2, 2024 12-5pm: Tianguis / Flea Market; Local Miami makers, artists, and vendors gather to celebrate the closing of *The Elephant Never Forgets* and *Niñalandia*.

MEDIA CONTACT: <u>communications@locustprojects.org</u> 305-576-8570

Press kit and images: <u>Available here</u>

ALSO ON VIEW:

MAIN GALLERY: <u>Daniel Almeida</u> <u>& Adrian Rivera:</u> <u>The Elephant Never Forgets</u>

LIZN'BOW: Niñalandia Skycoaster

VR Roller-Coaster Ride Through a Mixed Reality Multiverse of a queer-futurist post-apocalyptic version of Miami



LIZN'BOW Niñalandia courtesy the artists.

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects presents *Niñalandia Skycoaster* a multimedia experience by Miami-based artists LIZN'BOW opening in the Project Room on Saturday, September 7, 2024 | 6-8pm and a performance by the artists at 8pm.

The artists invite visitors to step into an immersive multimedia experience and embark on a VR rollercoaster ride based on the artists' *Niñalandia Mixed Reality Multiverse,* a queer-futurist post-apocalyptic version of Miami which brings together ideas from their nearly decade long collaboration.

Liz and Bow's personal car, a 2006 Buick Rendezvous custom-wrapped in a hypermaximalist digital collage becomes the participants roller coaster cart. Once inside they are transported into a virtual theme park experience. The immersive gallery installation also features projected animations and a sound score, creating an environment where physical and digital realms unite.





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Visitors zoom past iconic elements from Niñalandia, such as a jet-ski unicorn cow, a mountain of burning money, and giant leche jugs, all submerged halfway underwater and set against neon rainbows in undulating pink and purple skies. By presenting queer-coded imagery through nostalgic digital aesthetics reminiscent of early-internet games like RollerCoaster Tycoon and Mario Kart, *Niñalanida Skycoaster* encourages expansive approaches to familiar forms of entertainment, promoting a more inclusive worldview.

With the support of Locust Projects, *Niñalanida Skycoaster* aligns with contemporary trends in art and technology that prioritize interactivity and accessibility. This project is not just a display, but a platform for discourse, challenging traditional exhibition norms and inviting conversation within the vibrant context of Miami-inspired iconography.

Niñalandia Skycoaster was a "Curator's Pick" selected by Executive Director Lorie Mertes drawn from the artists' applications to open calls in 2023 and 2024 for both the Digital Commission and Project Room.

RELATED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Locust Late @ The DiLL | Thursday, September 26 | 7-10pm 3D Animation Workshop by Bow Ty Enterprises Venture Capital and DJ set by Liz Ferrer

Little Haiti Little River Art Days | Saturday, October 19 | 12-5pm Highlighting arts and culture offerings in the neighborhood on a quarterly basis

Closing Event | Saturday, November 2, 2024 | 12-5pm

12-5pm: Tianguis Flea Market; Local Miami makers, artists, and vendors gather to celebrate the closing of *The Elephant Never Forgets* and *Niñalandia* by LIZN'BOW.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Liz Ferrer and Bow Ty's work spans various mediums including digital art, tech, sculpture, music, video, and performance art. Through a queer and comedic lens, their work together has been building a reputation for critiquing American and Latin pop. Their most recent projects together are femme reggaeton band Niña and new media collaborative LIZN'BOW.

Niña is a feminist reggaeton duo featuring Liz and Bow, they started this body of work to bring diverse voices to the traditionally male genre of reggaeton. LIZN'BOW is a new media body of work in which they use media technology, digital tools, and community building exercises as vehicles to visualize, play, and explore different social and creative possibilities.

Liz's and Bow's work has been featured at MOCA North Miami, Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, The Bass Museum, Young at Art Museum, David Castillo Gallery, Mana Contemporary, Squeaky Wheel, Borscht Film Festival, Eternal Family TV, The Miami Herald, iii Points Festival, Wassaic Projects, Cunsthaus, The Koubek Center, Davey Fest, Museum of Modern Art Santo Domingo, Index Performance Art Festival Santo Domingo and Miami, Albright Knox Center Buffalo,



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Burchfield Penney Art Center, and The Art Institute of Chicago.

Liz and Bow are recipients of a Creative Capital Wild Futures Award, NEFA Development & Touring Grant, Knight Art Challenge from the Knight Foundation, Franklin Furnace Award, PAM CUT Labs Fellowship, Locust Projects' WaveMaker Grant, Oolite Arts Ellies Award 2019 and 2022, LMCC Creative Engagement, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Sundance Short Film Miami Intensive Fellow, City Arts Corps Grant New York, and a Borscht Film Festival Commission.

Liz and Bow have been awarded residencies and fellowships at MacDowell, Headlands, and Ucross for 2024. They have attended Collar Works Elizabeth Murray Residency, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Knight Sundance Short Film Miami Intensive, Caldera Arts Residency, Squeaky Wheel, Mana Contemporary Studio Residency, En Residencia, Tempus Projects, ACRE, La Sierra de Santa Marta Residency in Colombia, and the former Miami nonprofit, Cannonball.

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.

LIZN'BOW is presented as part of Knight Digital Commissions.

Locust Projects 2024-2025 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; Dede and Robert Moss; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Diane and Werner Grob; Susan and Richard Arregui; The Korean Arts Management Service; The Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation; Funding Arts Network; Kirk Foundation; Cowles Charitable Trust, Miami Salon Group, and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.



