

locustprojects

3852 North Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33127
305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents
FeCuOp
Antenna

Artists:

Jason Ferguson
Christian Curiel
Brandon Opalka
Victor Villafaña

Exhibition Dates:

September 14 – October 12,
2019

Opening Event:

Saturday, September 14
7 – 9 pm

Related Programs:

LECTURE

featuring Dr. Theodore
Ferguson
Saturday, September 28, 3-
5pm

PERFORMANCE

in partnership with Miami Light
Project
Friday, October 11, 7pm

CONVERSATION

Saturday, October 12, 3-5pm

Public Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday
11am – 5pm



Locust Projects is proud to present *Antenna* by the artist collaborative FeCuOp. Established in Miami in 1997, this is FeCuOp's first solo exhibition since 2003. Constructed primarily to solicit auditory participation, the artists' site-specific project is a performative and interactive installation that seeks to create a social experiment with communication as its foundation.

The work continues the collaborative's interests in actively engaging the audience, encouraging viewers to interact with the installation and in doing so, both becoming and owning a part of the project. In the Main Gallery, a fifty-foot tall antenna looms in the darkness as if having just plummeted from the sky, disconcertingly lying askew on the gallery floor, an almost alien object when not upright. The fall of this antenna does not make it nonfunctional or halt its transmissions, but instead brings its function closer to the viewer. As a room-sized theremin, the object invites visitors to approach and discover an audible reaction to their physical presence bypassing the need for a radio as intermediary instead directly communicating with the audience—altering its audio output based on each individual as they move.

In stark contrast, the work presented by FeCuOp in the Project Room brings viewers into a pristine traditional gallery space, leading them towards a single wall lined with what appear to be ears. The room is filled with whispers from unseen voices, providing advice on communication skills in muted tones as visitors are urged to exercise these disembodied insights by speaking into each ear.

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The interplay between the heard and spoken whispers and the reactionary antenna audio mirror human communication and explore the different methods of connecting to each other, how our communications can be perceived and what reactions they provoke, and how that interaction effects our relationships to each other. The result is a large-scale call-and-response, a microcosm that explores how humans relate to and understand each other and the world around them.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of activations, including a talk with agricultural scientist Dr. Theodore Ferguson, Jason's father; a performance in collaboration with Miami Light Project featuring dancer and choreographer Ivonne Batanero, tastings across the various events by Honey Blossom Cooking and Arthur Beefcowski and a conversation between the artists about the evolution of FeCuOp and Miami artist collectives.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

FeCuOp is a contemporary art collaborative established in Miami in 1997 by Jason Ferguson, born in Trinidad and Tobago and lives in South Carolina; Christian Curiel born, in Puerto Rico to Cuban parents and lives in New Haven, CT; and Brandon Opalka born in Virginia and lives in Colorado. The name constitutes an amalgam of the three founding artist's names. FeCuOp along with new Miami-based member Victor Villafañe, are like the periodic table of elements, unique characteristics of

each member, brings a unique variable property to every collaboration. Each an artist in their own right, together FeCuOp fuses to create work that encourages members to become a part of one collective voice. Working with various mediums and at times nontraditional venues, FeCuOp often creates work that comments on human behavior – through this, FeCuOp seeks to reveal unconscious patterns that drive our biases and shape our choices. The results of which are documented and become a commentary on our fundamental existence.

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 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 State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; Kirk Foundation and the Wege Foundation; Team LAB and Locust Projects Exhibitionist and Significant Other members. Special thanks to our Talks program partners Oolite Arts.

ART HAPPENS HERE.