

locustprojects

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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:

Lunchtime at Locust
Tuesday, August 20, 12-
1:30pm

LECTURE

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

PERFORMANCE

in partnership with Miami Light
Project
Friday, October 11, 7-9pm

CONVERSATION

Saturday, October 12, 3-5pm

Public Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday
11am – 5pm



Locust Projects presents *Antenna* an interactive installation and activation by artist collaborative, FeCuOp. Founded in Miami in 1997, FeCuOp includes Jason Ferguson, Christian Curiel, Brandon Opalka and recent new member, Victor Villafaña. This is FeCuOp's first major collaborative project in Miami since 2003. **Their exhibition will open with a public opening on Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 7-9pm.**

Constructed primarily to solicit auditory participation, *Antenna* is a performative and interactive site-specific installation that seeks to create a social experiment with communication as its foundation. *Antenna* expands upon the collaborative's interest in actively engaging the audience, encouraging viewers to interact with the installation and in doing so, both becoming and owning a part of the experience.

In Locust Projects' 1,500 square-foot Main Gallery, a fifty-foot tall antenna lies in the dark prone and askew on the gallery floor as if having just plummeted from the sky. Visitors who approach the massive object discover it has an auditory reaction to their physical presence. Bypassing the need for a radio as intermediary, the antenna directly communicates with the audience—altering its audio output as each individual moves. In contrast, when entering the Project Room, they step into a brightly lit, white-walled gallery bisected by a wall punctuated with what appear to be ears. Whispers from unseen sources fill the space, providing advice on communication skills and urging visitors who listen, to share these insights with the listening ears along the wall.

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The interplay between the heard and spoken whispers and the aurally responsive antenna is intended to mirror and explore different means of connecting and communicating with each other and how our communications can be perceived, what reactions they provoke, and how that interaction affects our relationship to each other. In our digitally ever-connected world, Antenna offers a tangible and immediate call-and-response, a microcosm for human connection and what it means to be present.



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.

PAST EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES: 100+ Degrees in the Shade, curated by Jane Hart, Art Basel, Miami Design District (2015); Miami Gold Rush, The Yard at Casa Lin, Miami (2008); Happiness is a Warm Gun, Definitive Juxt in association with Scion Art Foundation, Miami (2005); Heart Shaped Kissing Booth, Box Art Space, Miami (2003); Assembly of an Allegory, Rocket Projects Gallery, Art Basel, Miami (2003); Going Out On a Limb, Miami Loves Design curated by Nina Arias, Art Basel, Miami Design District (2003); The No Show, curated by Robert Chambers, Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Coral Gables, FL (2002); The No Banner Show, curated by Robert Chambers, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami (2002); Box Project, performance, West Palm Beach, FL (2002); Globe>Miami<Island, curated by Robert Chambers, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach (2001); traveled to Museum of Contemporary Art, Washington, DC (2001); Blotter- site specific, curated by Tiffany Huot, Miami (2001); The Sears Building, curated by Robert Chambers, The House, Miami (2001).

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RELATED PROGRAMS: From September 14 through October 12, Locust Projects will present artist activations and collaborations inspired by *Antenna*, including:

Lunchtime at Locust

Tuesday, August 20, 12-1:30pm, Space is limited, first come-first-served.

LECTURE with Dr. Theodore Ferguson

Saturday, September 28, 3-5pm

Dr. Ferguson, an agricultural scientist by training based in the West Indies, is a leadership educator and a passionate advocate for a principled leadership ethos that springs from man's own humanity and is reinforced and shared in a social space.

PERFORMANCE

Friday, October 11, 7-9pm

Locust Projects members: Free; non-members \$20. Space is limited, first come-first-served.

Closing weekend performance by dancer and choreographer Ivonne Batanero presented in a special collaboration with Miami Light Project; followed by a members-only ticketed chef's tasting by Honey Blossom Cooking and Arthur Beefcowski @artbeef.

CONVERSATION

Saturday, October 12, 3-5pm

On the last day of the exhibition, FeCuOp hosts a conversation on the evolution of FeCuOp and artist collectives in Miami that were formed in the 1990s and early 2000s.

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.