

# locustprojects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents

MAIN GALLERY:

Jia-Jen Lin: *Treading on Thin Ice*

### Exhibition Dates:

April 22 – June 18, 2022

### Related Programs:

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, April 22 | 7-9pm

### Public Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday

11am – 5pm

### MEDIA CONTACT:

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Press kit and images:

[Available here](#)

## LOCUST PROJECTS PRESENTS NEW IMMERSIVE INSTALLATION BY TAIWANESE-AMERICAN ARTIST JIA-JEN LIN

April 22 – June 18, 2022



Jia-Jen Lin, *Treading on Thin Ice*, 2022. Photo by Alejandro Chavarria of World Red Eye

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects presents *Treading on Thin Ice*, a new immersive installation by Taiwanese-American artist Jia-Jen Lin, opening with a public reception on Earth Day, Friday, April 22 and on view through June 18, 2022, Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11am-5pm. Admission is free.

“Inspired by scholar’s rocks, naturally occurring stones of various colors and shapes that were famously admired by Chinese scholars during earlier centuries, I create sculptures of abstract shapes that are shown in between the video projections to represent a micro landscape that allows for the contemplation of our current world.”

— Jia-Jen Lin, about *Treading on Thin Ice*

*Treading on Thin Ice* contemplates human conditions under progressive catastrophes resulting from social issues and climate change. By employing the concept of landscape as traces of human history as a battleground and an extension of the human body, Lin presents a post-landscape where nature, human activities, and materiality intersect. By utilizing body imagery as a receiver and reflector, the artist explores using our physical bodies as vehicles for reconstructing the events and environments to which we have directly or indirectly been exposed. The project

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integrates sculpture, video projections, and sound into a large site-specific installation.

In the installation at Locust Projects, Lin presented a manmade natural environment to explore adaptation, the psychological space, and subtle changes in our everyday lives under the inevitable—our changing environment. Manipulating our senses of familiar and unfamiliar, the center of the exhibition is a backyard-like installation that situates the artist's sculptures with concrete pavers and artificial grass, which are commonly used for patios in Florida. The main video is projected onto a large screen above a blue-mirrored plexiglas that symbolizes a backyard swimming pool.



With footage that includes natural and artificial landscapes, an interview at a genetic laboratory, a scene with actors and a scenic panorama captured on Mars, the video creates a cross-path dialogue exploring our existence and the connections among change, adaptation, hope, human behavior, and emotions. The single-shot improvised acting by two actors, An-Ru Chu and Christopher J. Staley, explores our current moments and the fine line between genuine human reaction and sophisticated acting, based on the concepts found in Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days* and *Waiting for Godot*. An interview with scientist Dave Jackson about his blue-sky research at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York provides a neutral explanation of why artificial changes and genetic exploration have become inevitable and reflects the parallel path that both artists and scientists pursue to prove a concept. Lin also explores the boundary between artificial, natural, and imagined landscape through the eye of a digital camera while visiting a Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Florida.

Lin collaborated with Berlin-based sound artist Cedrik Fermont and new media artist Chun-Li Wang on the soundtrack and 3D animations for the video. Fermont created sound and music that respond to the imagery and channel the emotions of the video. Wang animated both 3D patterns to visualize Lin's concepts and an imagined landscape based on images of a collapsing iceberg, Mars (by NASA), and the online texture library Megascans.

The sculptures are inspired by scholar's rocks, naturally occurring stones of various colors and abstract shapes that were famously admired by Chinese scholars during earlier centuries. These represent a micro landscape that allows for contemplating our current world. The sculptures appear deformed by outer forces and represent a combination of the human body, animals, and rock with no specific contoured reference.

*Treading on Thin Ice* premieres at Locust Projects and will continue its expedition in the Arctic Circle in Svalbard, Norway in 2022. The exhibition is commissioned by Locust Projects, and supported, in part, by the National Culture and Arts Foundation of Taiwan and The Puffin Foundation.

Image: Jia-Jen Lin, *Treading on Thin Ice* Performance by An-Ru Chu. Videography by Manuel Molina Martagon. Photo by Kuo-Heng Huang. Video production advisory by Manuel Molina Martagon.

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST



Jia-Jen Lin is a Taiwanese-American artist based in Brooklyn. Her installations mediate the body, space, human condition, and our society. Lin's practice explores human experiences and how they inhabit our bodies despite different space and time. She creates visual presentations to investigate the human body and its surroundings as a reflection of our psyche. With an interdisciplinary approach, Lin's installations often span several media, including sculpture, photography, video, sound, text, and performance.

Her interest developed around transforming experience through modifying materials and objects into three-dimensional presentations. By employing her body and mind as an experiential interface, she looks into the subjects of cultural identities, struggles, correlated relationships between our physicality and psychology, and the resemblance between art making and manufacturing in social content. Photo by Kuo-Heng Huang.

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## 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 2021-2022 exhibitions and programming are made possible with support from:** The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; 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; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Susan and Richard Arregui; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Foundation Incubator Grant; Diane and Robert Moss; Elizabeth Bailey; Cowles Charitable Trust; Diane and Werner Grob; Kirk Foundation; Diane and Alan Lieberman; Artis; and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.

Locust Projects is a registered 501c3.

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