



Locust Art Builders (LAB), promo image designed by LAB students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ***Garden of Candor***

The 2022 Locust Art Builders Exhibition
July 23 – August 13, 2022

locustprojects

[Miami]: Locust Projects is proud to present Locust Art Builder's *Garden of Candor*. Now in its 12th year, Locust Art Builders: Summer Art Intensive for Teens, aka LAB, is a unique four-week pre-college program for high school students with an interest in art, design, and exploring creative careers.

The students are selected through an online open call process from schools across Miami-Dade County for the opportunity to learn from a Lead Artist Mentor and other professional artists in a dynamic on-site program and build and art exhibition in Miami's longest running alternative art space from scratch.

Each year's exhibition evolves as a unique and timely reflection of the current issues and ideas impacting youth today.

For the 2022 LAB students' their exhibition, *Garden of Candor*, "is the ultimate peace, enlightenment, and acceptance gained through self-actualization reached after a long, arduous, and oftentimes traumatic experience."



LAB STUDENT STATEMENT ABOUT THE SHOW:

Many people struggle and grapple throughout their lives on this path. This struggle and its outcome are what this exhibition aims to simulate through a series of sectors representing different steps on said path. In *The Garden of Candor*, these stages are "*Reality*", *Chaos*, *Depression*, and finally, *Transcendence*.

"*Reality*" represents the world we are presented with and ultimately have to break through to begin our journey. This is depicted through a seemingly stereotypically "perfect" house, which upon closer look, reveals a myriad of problems. This reflects both literally on how many's home lives are very different privately, and also figuratively on how the systems we come to accept are far more convoluted and negative than they appear. [see image above for entrance and opening night performance]

This then transitions into the next sector, *Chaos*. This sector is representative of the inner turmoil experienced when one is confronted by the reality of the world around them. The room emulates a child's playroom, carrying the motif of the home. This room evokes chaos, overstimulation, and confusion.

After the expenditure of mental energy this turmoil requires, many fall into a deep *Depression*. This hallway portrays the raw, blank, and ever-expanding feeling brought about by such depression. This is shown by a bedroom that has fallen into decay by neglect.

Following this is *Transcendence*. Serving as a perfect foil to the negative space of contemplation evoked by *Depression*, *Transcendence* is the ultimate stage after struggling on the path to self-actualization. This sector represents a garden, made to look warm, inviting, and ethereal.



THE 2022 LOCUST ART BUILDERS

Nellie Abrahamyan, Thomas Baquero, Alexandra Bonilla, Nicole Bosch, Gabe Carreras, Daniel De Aguiar, Alexander de la Ossa, Hannah Demeritte, Amy Gomez, Cas Jimenez, Emily Leroux-Diaz, Kaelyn Lucero, Gabriella Martinez, Luna Valentina Martinez, Natalia Nuila, Francesca Paul, Daniela Pearson, Victor Dieguez, Anne Reichle, Aaron Rodriguez, Giuseppe Rodriguez, Noelani Sadler, Melissa Salgado, Isabella Santa, Luna Sosa, Angel Suarez, Marena Torres, and Mica Zeitlin.

Miami-Dade County Schools Represented: Design and Architecture Senior High, Palmer Trinity School, New World School of the Arts, TERRA Environmental Research Institute. Miami Arts Charter, Jose Marti (MAST) Academy, School for Advanced Studies Wolfson, FL Virtual School, Downtown Doral Charter Upper School, Gulliver Prep, Coral Reef Senior High School, Barbara Goleman Senior High, and Ronald Reagan Senior High.

Lead Mentor Artist and Workshop Presenters: Miami-based artist, activist and educator, Loni Johnson; special thanks to Guest Artist Mentor Chire Regans/VantaBlack and workshop presenters: Katie Christie-Bereng, Eddie Brown, Nicole Combeau, Carolina Cueva, and John English

LAB Interns: Zipporah Hinds, starting California College for the Arts in San Francisco this fall; Destiny Moore, current student at Maryland Institute College of Art in Maryland; current student at Celeste Viana, Georgetown University in Washington D.C.



LOCUST ART BUILDERS (aka LAB): Summer Art Intensive for Teens promotes contemporary art and project-based learning as a means to encourage creativity, critical analysis, and problem solving, while building communication skills. LAB extends Locust Projects' nearly 25-year commitment as an incubator of new art and ideas, by supporting experimentation and innovation in artistic practice with the next generation of South Florida artists.

2022 Locust Art Builders (LAB) is made possible through lead support from the Hillsdale Fund Inc. and the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation. Additional support provided by 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 Kirk Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui and the Incubator Annual Fund's Friends of Next Generation.

***For images and additional information please contact communications@locustprojects.org**

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.

ART HAPPENS HERE.

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