



Tara Aliya Kesavan & Indranil Choudhury, Installation view of *Current Occurrences*, 2022.

locustprojects

Current Occurrences: **Tara Aliya Kesavan &** **Indranil Choudhury**

The 2022 LAB MFA Exhibition
July 23 – August 13, 2022

Locust Projects presents *Current Occurrences*, the eighth edition of the LAB MFA summer exhibition and residency program featuring Tara Aliya Kesavan and Indranil Choudhury, MFA candidates at Hunter College, The City University of New York.

To produce *Current Occurrences* Tara and Indranil participated in a month-long residence, and created an installation with found objects, animation, and sound. The artists brought domestic forms to life by activating them with hand drawn layers of projected imagery and spatialized sound, building an imagined world teeming with non-human activity. The show uses objects that act as thresholds - doors, grilles, screens - to create sites where indoor and outdoor, real and virtual, human and non-human collide.



Tara Aliya Kesavan & Indranil Choudhury: *Current Occurrences*, Locust Projects' Installation view, 2022

Titled *Current Occurrences*, the show invites viewers to a world that is mostly still yet gently evolving, creating a space that, in Brian Eno's words, rewards attention but doesn't demand it. A floating door becomes a portal into a domestic space where spectral presences carry out curious routines. Ornate grilles take turns to hum, transmitting snatches of sounds from a disembodied choir. Fragments of brick lattices create openings for skittering creatures to wander and return.

“Sculptural audiovisual installations allow us to plant one foot in real space and one foot in virtual space, letting us build worlds that respond to a physical environment while creating openings to other imagined places. We enjoy the chance discoveries of found objects as a starting point for our work.

As the sculptural pieces come together, we start sketching out images and sounds that might animate them. For this work, we want to contrast traces of human habitation with speculations about how we may reimagine our relationship with non-human worlds.”

– Tara Aliya Kesavan & Indranil Choudhury

Tara and Indranil draw from artistic practices that preserve the tactility and craft of classical forms while being open to the creative possibilities of new technology. These include Shigeko Kubota's exploration of landscapes through a hybrid practice that complicates the categories of sculpture, readymades and video; Tabaimo's site-specific video installations that confront viewers with surreal, animistic worlds through the visual idiom of Japanese woodblock prints; and Shahzia Sikander's expansion of cultural boundaries within Indo-Persian painting.

In her moving image practice, Tara uses a mix of materials like watercolors, charcoal, and chemigrams to create handmade images that she digitally animates. Indranil composes spatial sound works by collaging field recordings, found sounds, and music.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Above: Tara Aliya Kesavan & Indranil Choudhury; photograph courtesy the artists.

Tara Aliya Kesavan is an artist working across drawing, film and sculpture. She teaches in the Film and Media Department at Hunter College. She also works as the Programs Coordinator at UnionDocs. She is a candidate for an MFA in Integrated Media Arts at Hunter College, CUNY.

Indranil Choudhury is a media artist working in sound, sculpture and video. He teaches at Hunter College and Marymount Manhattan College. He is a candidate for an MFA in Integrated Media Arts at Hunter College, CUNY.

Together their recent work includes: 2022 Culture Pusher Fellowship for Utopian Practice, Queens Public Library Podcast, 2021 Jamaica Flux, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, NY; 2020 IART, Hunter College, NY; 2019 M+ Museum of Visual Culture, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

This project was selected as part of Locust Projects' annual LAB MFA Open Call by panelists Michelle Lisa Polissaint, Miami-based curator and arts and culture producer; Allison Matherly, from WEARENICE'NEASY Miami-based artist collective; Victoria Ravelo, Miami-based artist; and coordinated by Elizabeth Withstandley, Los Angeles-based video installation artist and co-founder of Locust Projects.

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 2022-2023 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 Miami Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui; Florida, Department of State; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Foundation Incubator Grant; Diane and Robert Moss; The Ruth Foundation for the Arts; Cowles Charitable Trust; Diane and Werner Grob; Kirk Foundation; and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors; and Friends.

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