



Jessica Reich and Tyson Houseman: LAB MFA: *Rhizomorph*, 2024. Installation view at Locust Projects.

**LOCUST  
PROJECTS**



# **LAB MFA: *Rhizomorph*** **Jessica Reich & Tyson Houseman**

June 13 - July 6, 2024

Locust Projects presents *Rhizomorph* by Jessica Reich and Tyson Houseman, current MFA candidates from SVA (School of Visual Arts), NYC, whose proposal was selected from an Open Call to current MFA students nationally as part of Locust Projects commitment to supporting the next generation of artists each summer through LAB, LAB MFA, and its new Teaching Artist Summer Studio Residency.

Reich and Tyson are co-artist duo practicing at the intersection of new media and bioart, Tyson Houseman is an Indigenous (Nehiyaw/Plains Cree) interdisciplinary video artist, puppeteer, and filmmaker, and Jessica Reich is a creative technologist, motion designer, and educator.

While in residence at the Locust Projects' house the artists built their site specific project that consists of cosmic, celestial imagery made using analog visual effects, including water refractions and microscope footage, imbuing Locust Projects' Project Room with an ethereal and dreamlike atmosphere that communicates parallels between microscopic biology and macroscopic galactic formations.

The branching surfaces of the sculpture created during their residency are constructed from lightweight papier-mache that is projection-mapped to visualize signaled mycorrhizal communication as a burst of light and energy traveling from one root tip to another.

The project reflects on the rhizomatic and interconnected nature of south Florida's subsoil ecosystems through the use of field recordings using geophones that record land-based ecologies and hydrophones that record water-based ecologies, and including materials gathered from surrounding natural areas.

*Rhizomorph* is supported as part of Knight Digital Commissions.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Tyson Houseman** is an Indigenous (Nehiyaw/Plains Cree) interdisciplinary video artist, puppeteer, and filmmaker, and **Jessica Reisch** is a creative technologist, motion designer, and educator. Tyson's practice focuses on aspects of contemporary Indigeneity, and the intersections between live video performance and time-based media, while Jessica works in collaboration with biological rhythms and ecosystems, focusing primarily on fungal life. Their collaborative, research based art practice aims to recontextualize human-centric perspectives as embedded within a broader and more inclusive multispecies framework in response to a rapidly shifting global climate. Their work is guided by a

sustainable and land-informed practice that draws from Houseman's Indigenous Nehiyaw background and teachings, employing methodologies of reciprocity and exchange between humans and place-based ecologies and utilizing sustainable artmaking and technology practices.

Tyson Houseman and Jessica Reisch. Photo courtesy of the artist.

## 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.



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