

# locustprojects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents  
MOBILE STUDIO:  
Loni Johnson:  
*Remnants*

**Exhibition Dates:**  
September 10-  
November 6, 2021

**Related Programs:**  
OPENING RECEPTION  
Thursday, September 9  
6-8pm; masks and social  
distancing required

Care with Loni Johnson:  
*Remnants: What We Hold  
Sacred*  
Saturday, September 18,  
October 9, October 23 | 2pm

[Learn more here](#)

**Public Hours:**  
Wednesday to Saturday  
11am – 5pm

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Press kit and images:  
[Available here](#)

## LOCUST PROJECTS PRESENTS NEW INSTALLATION BY MIAMI-BASED MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST LONI JOHNSON On view September 10-November 6, 2021



Loni Johnson, *Remnants*, 2021. Photo by World Red Eye

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects presents *Remnants*, a new site-specific project by Miami-based multidisciplinary artist Loni Johnson. The exhibition opens to the public with a reception on Thursday, September 9 from 6-8pm, and is on view through November 6, 2021 Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11am-5pm. Admission is free.

"This installation is based on creating a safe space for Black women. To serve as a platform for Black women to be seen and to reflect on who we are. How we navigate through the world and beyond. This installation will propose and engage in thoughts of how ancestral and historical memory informs our existence in a society that continuously tries to silence and erase us." – Loni Johnson

During her residency at Locust Projects, Johnson will transform the Mobile Studio into a physical space to inform, heal, and offer counter-narratives that commemorate Black women and girls and celebrates their role in the community; a place where they can feel seen, apart from the world that continues to silence them and deem them invisible. In the words of poet Nayyirah Waheed, "All the women in me are tired". An offering to Black women, *Remnants* responds to this collective

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experience by providing a place for all of these women in us to rest, normalize vulnerability, and dismantle the myth of the Black Superwoman while also reconnecting with and honoring our mothers, our mothers' mothers and their mamas too.

The installation pays its respects to Black women through altars that include photos from the artist's matriarchy alongside traditional elements from the West African Yoruba cosmology that can be found and gathered in neighborhood botanicas and Dollar Stores. Everyday objects and decorations such as sequin, lace, and cowrie shells are offered as tributes together with hair beads, gold bamboo earrings, and mirrors – objects found in local beauty supply stores and used in women's' daily life to adorn and enshrine.

*Remnants* invites visitors to pause, breathe, and reflect within the space, offering welcoming, comfortable, and cozy seating and cushions. Painted the very same pink color Johnson lovingly remembers from her maternal grandmother's home, the space fosters a feeling of nostalgia and belonging. Johnson encourages visitors to engage with the work, presenting offerings within the space from which viewers can collect a piece of the installation to bring home with them, such as cowrie shells, hair beads, and candies, leading guests to ponder the question of what remains of them within the spaces they exit from.

The project will be accompanied by a series of public activations intended to engage and provide access to contemporary visual and performance art throughout Miami's varied communities. These programs within the public sphere will provoke intimate, inclusive dialogue between Miami's BIPOC communities, artists, and creatives of all ages, encouraging an exploration of creative expression and self-discovery.



## RELATED PROGRAM

**Care with Loni Johnson: *Remnants: What We Hold Sacred*  
Saturday, September 18 | 2PM**

Loni Johnson's residency at Locust Projects transforms the Mobile Studio into a physical space to inform, heal, and offer counter-narratives that commemorate Black women and girls and celebrates their role in the community. As part of her current exhibition, Johnson invites you to bring meaningful objects--such as photographs, memorabilia, crystals, jewelry, and more--and build small altars as offerings to your ancestors. Participants will be guided to contemplate how we claim, navigate, and hold space; how ancestral and historical memory informs where, when, and how we occupy spaces; and how we carry and honor our ancestors in the spaces we move through. The altars will be unified into a larger piece and installed as a collaborative work. [RSVP HERE](#).

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Loni Johnson is a multi-disciplinary visual artist born and raised in Miami, FL. As an artist, educator, mother and activist, Ms. Johnson understands that as artists, there is a cyclical obligation to give back and nurture our communities with her creative gift and it must be utilized to better our world. Through movement and ritual, the artist creates healing spaces for Black women and explores how ancestral and historical memory informs how, when and where we enter and claim spaces. Ms. Johnson graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from SUNY at Purchase College School of Art and Design.

Selected exhibitions and performances include: *Making Visible: The Studio Archives of Chire Regans and Loni Johnson*, WAAM at Dimensions Variable, Miami (2020); *Say Their Names*, Chire Regans/Vanta Black Memorial Mural Project Unveiling, Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami (2020); *Performans Fanm/Global Borderless Caribbean XII: Focus Miami*, Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center, Miami

(2020); *Homegoing*, NADA Art Fair, Miami (2017); *Offerings III*, Bas Fisher Invitational and O'Miami, Miami (2017); *Offerings II*, Common Field Convening, Miami (2016).

Ms. Johnson is a Teaching Artist at Perez Art Museum Miami, Co-Director of Visual Arts for National YoungArts Foundation's Miami Regional Program, and Chairperson for the National Visual Arts Selection Panel for National YoungArts Foundation. She received a Knight Champion Award in 2019 and is a frequent guest speaker, lecturer, facilitator, and performer. Photo by Gesi Schilling

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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 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 Children's Trust; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Incubator Grant; Diane and Robert Moss; Susan and Richard Arregui; Elizabeth Bailey; Cowles Charitable Trust; Diane and Werner Grob; Kirk Foundation; Diane and Alan Lieberman; Artis; and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.

**ART HAPPENS HERE.**