

# locustprojects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Locust Projects presents**  
Shikeith: *The Language  
Must Not Sweat*

**Exhibition Dates:**  
April 18, 2019 to  
June 8, 2019

**Opening Event:**  
Thurs. April 18, 2019  
Reception: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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



Image: Still from *The Language Must Not Sweat*

Locust Projects is proud to present *The Language Must Not Sweat*, by artist and filmmaker Shikeith. This is Shikeith's first solo exhibition in Miami and is the first time this work has been shown publicly. The exhibition will open with a public reception on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 6:30-8:30pm.

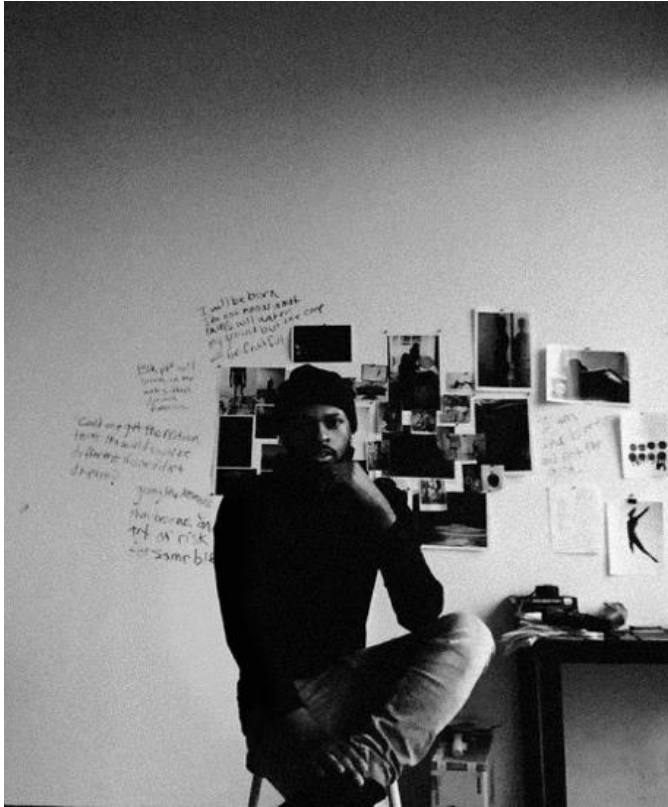
*The Language Must Not Sweat*, a five-channel video installation titled after an expression Toni Morrison used in a 1981 interview, mines what puddles at the core of the public and subconscious lives of black men. This immersive-installation ponders the symbolic moisture of blackness at the intersections of queerness and masculinity.

Inside the installation, suspended video projections of blue-black, fleshed bodies drenched in sweat beads, cycle through stages of flutter, stretch, exertion, and contemplation.

***Placed among the videos, the artist uses elements such as water, heat, and soil to render a psychic landscape or 'blue space' that expresses an alternative orientation for black queer men in relation to the world around them. The form of the space is unstable, yet encourages the act or instance of wandering both of a bodily and psychic level.***

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## About the Artist

Shikeith (born Philadelphia, PA 1989) is a multifarious artist. He received his BA from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA for Integrative Art (2010) and his MFA in Sculpture from The Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT (2018). He maintains overlapping practices as an internationally exhibiting visual artist (past projects include: MoMA, Seattle Art Museum, MAK Gallery, London, Wroclaw Contemporary Museum, Poland), film director (selected works: #Blackmendment, A Drop of Sun Under The Earth). He is also currently an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Art in Pittsburgh.

Recent and upcoming institutional solo shows: *Notes Towards Becoming A Spill*, Atlanta Contemporary (March-April 2019): 'Imagining Flesh Through Shadows,' Alexander Brest Museum & Gallery at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida (October 2019).

The artist's work attempts an assemblage of personal truths and wonder that focuses on the metamorphoses of Black men, especially within a society that denies these men their erotic

and reconciliatory potential and capital. It is the interior he considers—his own, as well as, other Black men or masculine people through emphasizing portraiture, sculpture, and film making to examine the fantastic as it relates and complicates personal autobiography and self-making.

Above Image caption: Shikeith in his studio, photo courtesy the artist

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## ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

LOCUST PROJECTS IS MIAMI'S LONGEST RUNNING ALTERNATIVE ART SPACE. WE PRODUCE AND PRESENT EXPERIMENTAL NEW ART AND IDEAS THROUGH ARTIST RESIDENCIES AND COMMISSIONED EXHIBITIONS, SUMMER ART INTENSIVES FOR TEENS, AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS ON CONTEMPORARY ART AND CURATORIAL PRACTICE. WE SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISTS WITH PROJECT GRANTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. **ART HAPPENS HERE.**

*Locust Projects 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 National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; The Kirk Foundation, Vhernier, donors to the Team LAB Annual Education Fund, Locust Projects Exhibitionist and Significant Other members.*