

# locustprojects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents  
Whitney Humphreys:  
*Command Center*

**Exhibition Dates:**  
July 13, 2019 to  
July 27, 2019

**Opening Event:**  
Saturday, July 13, 2019  
Reception: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

**Related Programs:**  
Lunchtime at Locust: Artist  
Talk with Whitney Humphreys  
Wednesday, July 17, 2019,  
noon

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



Image: Aesthetic and conceptual inspiration for *Rocket with Hoopskirt*

Locust Projects is proud to present The *Command Center* by Whitney Humphreys, a current dual Masters' degree-seeking student at San Francisco Art Institute. She is the sixth MFA-degree candidate featured in our LAB MFA summer open call since 2013.

The installation in Locust Projects' Project Room allows visitors to enter an alternate plane of reality, where a distant and mysterious machine known as the *Rocket with Hoopskirt* is in a perpetual state of pre-departure, monitored from across the country. Inspired by her thesis on gendered machines, the project centers on the 1928 test flight of the "hoopskirt" rocket, a liquid-fueled invention by rocketry pioneer, Robert H. Goddard. The artist's site-specific construction addresses the role that Florida itself has played in the history of rocketry and the impact the project of space travel has made on the state's cultural, political, economic, and physical landscape.

Built from found and recycled materials, Humphreys' installation reimagines systems of control by inviting engagement yet denying manipulation. Jumbled streams of imagery and noise emissions engulf the space in obscure, but familiar messages, offering a portal into narratives that embody intersections between and across gendered associations that are culturally attributed to the mechanical. And, engaging directly with both personal and collective histories, this project examines the complex web of influences that have shaped both real and imagined relationships between human and non-human beings and objects.

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## About the Artist

Whitney Humphreys is a San Francisco Bay Area artist and teacher currently pursuing a double Masters in San Francisco Art Institute's Dual Degree program, where she has held the position of 2018 Co-Director for the Legion of Graduate Students. Upon completion, she will earn an MFA in studio practice, with a focus in printmaking and sculptural installation, as well as an MA in the History and Theory of Contemporary Art with her thesis titled *Gendered Machines*.

Having grown up in California with a creatively, politically, and academically driven family and community, she has been studying art her entire life. Culminating in a practice rooted deeply in processes of research, her work addresses modes of knowledge production and representation that impact constructions of identity, examined through an Intersectional Feminist lens. She has exhibited throughout the Bay Area during her career as an artist, muralist, designer, maker, event coordinator, and instructor.

Image: Whitney at work in the studio.

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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' exhibitions and programs 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; the Hillsdale Fund; The State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; the Team LAB Annual Education Fund; Locust Projects Exhibitionist and Significant Others Members.*

**ART HAPPENS HERE.**