

# locustprojects

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Locust Projects presents

PROJECT ROOM:

R. Eric McMaster: *Drift*

### Exhibition Dates:

April 22 – June 18, 2022

### Related Programs:

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, April 22 | 7-9pm

### Public Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday

11am – 5pm

### MEDIA CONTACT:

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Press kit and images:

[Available here](#)

## LOCUST PROJECTS PRESENTS NEW TWO-CHANNEL VIDEO INSTALLATION BY AUSTIN-BASED ARTIST R. ERIC MCMASTER

April 22 – June 18, 2022



R. Eric McMaster, Still from *Drift*, 2022.

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects presents *Drift*, a new two-channel video installation by Austin-based artist R. Eric McMaster, opening with a public reception on Earth Day, Friday, April 22 and on view through June 18, 2022, Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11am-5pm. Admission is free.

*“Drift serves to highlight the poetics of separation and loss, the beauty of the inevitable, and the awe of nature in all of its complexity.”* — R. Eric McMaster

*Drift* is a two-channel video installation featuring two musicians playing an original, reactive composition as they are set adrift in the ocean on separate, custom-built rafts. As the musicians physically drift away from one another, their ability to hear each other diminishes causing the duet to slowly fall apart.

To produce *Drift*, a scouted location was selected south of Miami at the start of the Keys. The Keys have a rich history of separation and loss and also serve as a geographical divide between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Vulnerable to sea rise and hurricanes, the Key’s region is a perfect contextual backdrop for the recorded action, as a sense of serene, but inevitable loss looms over the area and is further emphasized by the dissipation of the duet participants.

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The custom rafts the musicians float on were made out of the same curly maple as violins. The decorative 'flame' of this wood echoes that of the instruments used in the performance; the instrument a vessel of transporting sound, the boats a vessel for transporting musicians. The 'flame' of the wood also plays with the eye in a similar way that water reflects dancing light on the underside of floating objects.

Salt water was collected at the site of the shoot, boiled down until salinity saturation is achieved, and then the solution was allowed to crystallize on the rafts and instruments. Additionally, saltwater was applied in an aerosol fashion on the Project Space's walls, creating a sparkling luminences to the space. The process of evaporating, of allowing the water to leave the salt behind, echoes again a sense of loss and separation.

*Drift* serves to highlight the poetics of separation and loss, the beauty of the inevitable, and the awe of nature in all of its complexity. At a glance, the project may seem like it was just shot with the site as a backdrop, but through the project, the site pushed back collaborating with the same resistance of a material when sanded; nature addressed in the same way as material and actions. Nature, like another collaborator, willing its influence on the project.

"We all contain water in about the same ratio as Earth does, and salt water in the same ratio that oceans do. We are poems about the hyperobject Earth." – Timothy Morton



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

R. Eric McMaster's work aims to disrupt the familiar using materiality, context, or space as a means of highlighting absence, humor, and/or awe.

R. Eric McMaster has exhibited at the Hiroshima MOCA, Japan; the Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin; The Contemporary Austin; Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio; Vox Populi, Philadelphia; Antenna Gallery; New Orleans, the Lawndale Art Center, Houston; and Austin's Testsite, among others. R. Eric McMaster was born in Clarion, Pennsylvania in 1979. He received a BFA from Pennsylvania State University (2003) and an MFA from Arizona State University (2008). He currently lives and works in Austin, where he teaches in the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Austin.

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

Locust Projects is a registered 501c3.

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