

locustprojects

3852 North Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33127
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Locust Projects presents
MOBILE STUDIO:
Victoria Ravelo:
Hidden in Plain View
June 10-August 7, 2021

Related Programs:

PREVIEW
Thursday, June 10
6-8pm; masks and social
distancing required

Public Hours:

Wednesday to Saturday
11am – 5pm
APPOINTMENTS OPTIONAL
[Link to make appointments](#)

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Press kit and images:

[Available here](#)

LOCUST PROJECTS PRESENTS SEVENTH LAB MFA EXHIBITION: VICTORIA RAVELO: *HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW* June 10-August 7, 2021



Victoria Ravelo, *Untitled (fragments)*, 2020. Sugar, molasses, eleke beads, achiote, human hair. Photo by Evan Rosato.

[Miami, FL] Locust Projects presents *Hidden in Plain View*, the seventh edition of the LAB MFA summer exhibition program featuring Victoria Ravelo, MFA candidate at the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Temple University. The exhibition opens to the public with a preview and reception on Thursday, June 10 from 6-8pm, and is on view through August 7 from 11am-5pm. Admission is free. Masks required.

Ravelo will be in residence June 1-30, during which time she will transform the storefront Mobile Studio into a working laboratory in which she will create sugar sculptures daily. The use of sugar references the ties of the local community to the Caribbean and the impact the sugar industry has had on the Caribbean as well as its historical significance and influence globally. Although initially only available to those in the ruling class and used as an opulent display of wealth, sugar evolved to become so accessible that those outside of this class developed their own traditions associated with it that continue today.

The amorphous sculptures will capture and reflect natural light with an almost amber-like appearance, alluding to its past as a precious colonial product. Locals from the community will be invited to collaborate by donating materials that have personal significance (for example: items of clothing, handwritten notes, etc.), which will be embedded into the sculptures in an act of preservation that exalts these everyday objects and transforms them to create new associations. Ultimately, the altering and processing of these objects will form something autonomously new that still bears visible traces of its earlier forms, capturing the spirit and presence of a people within an area in a specific moment in time.

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Above: Victoria Ravelo sugar sculptures, detail view from *A Place for Us: Tyler School of Art and Architecture* at Temple University 2021 MFA thesis exhibitions, 2021.

“The goal is to expose unifying threads within the multiplicity of shared experiences that exist within Locust Projects’ surrounding communities – predominantly composed of working-class people of the Caribbean and Latinx, African American diaspora – and connect their individual narratives with that of greater Miami as a whole.” – Victoria Ravelo

The work recognizes the forgotten histories of sugar while bringing people together in the shared space of the present. As the sugar sculptures are exposed to the elements, they will physically morph and change over time. The organic process mimics our own bodies changing with time and age, and brings to mind Felix Gonzalez-Torres’s works with candy such as *“Untitled” (Portrait of Ross in L.A.)*, 1991, that change form through visitor interaction.

The project is intended to serve as a space for exchange, where one can come in and leave with something in return for what they have offered. Whether it's a piece of candy, or a greater sense of community, everyone is meant to take something home with them from the space. Every individual offering comes together as a whole to build new histories; a transmuting of the old to create something new.

The finished collaboratively-created installation, on view from July 1 through August 7, serves as an archive of local memory and maps the cultural landscape of Miami's diverse communities through space and time.

This project was selected as part of Locust Projects’ annual LAB MFA Open Call by panelists Donnamarie Baptiste, curator and arts and culture producer; Christian Curiel, professor at Yale School of Art and Locust Projects alum (2019); Whitney Humphreys, artist, teacher, and Locust Projects LAB MFA alum (2019); and Elizabeth Withstandley, video installation artist and co-founder of Locust Projects.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Victoria Ravelo was born in Miami to Cuban exiles. Her work reconciles the multiplicity of experiences shared by first-generation Americans, utilizing abstraction to address the ways we (re)interpret and (re)make the world(s) we navigate and inhabit.

Ravelo earned her BFA from the University of Miami in 2015, and her MFA from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture, Temple University in 2021. Recent exhibitions include: *La casa vacía* with Grupo *Ánima* in Havana, Cuba; but when you come from water, The Chapter House, Los Angeles, CA

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(2021); outlaw culture: or higher ground, curated by William Cordova at Bridge Red Studios, Miami, FL (2018); and solo exhibition, Now, at Miami Dade College, Homestead, FL (2016).

Above: Victoria Ravelo in studio, photography by Leah Frances

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 2020-2021 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; Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; Hillsdale Fund; the Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Incubator Grant; Funding Arts Network; The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui; Kirk Foundation; Miami Salon Group; Scott Hodes; Jones Day; Community Recovery Fund at The Miami Foundation and the Wege Foundation; and the donors to the Still Making Art Happen Campaign and Locust Projects Exhibitionist members.

ART HAPPENS HERE.