

Kerry Phillips: The patience of ordinary things, 2024. Detail.



**LOCUST
PROJECTS**

The patience of ordinary things **Kerry Phillips**

May 18 - Aug 3, 2024

Locust Projects presents *The patience of ordinary things*, a newly commissioned installation by Miami-based artist Kerry Phillips that delves into the complex emotions and experiences surrounding aging, memory loss, and the essence of human connection. In a bold leap in her practice, Phillips immerses us in the deeply personal narrative of her aging parents' care through interplay of video, moving projections, and spatial design that evokes an emotive response and fosters a communal space for shared reflections on life, loss, and legacy. The exhibition opens at Locust Projects on Saturday, May 18, 2024 with an Opening Night Reception from 6 to 9pm.

In a significant departure from the work featured in her recent solo Bass Museum show in fall 2023, Phillips' massive, site-specific installation in Locust

Projects' 2,600 sq ft Main Gallery features first-person narrative video exploring the minutiae of daily life through repetitive, seemingly mundane tasks, such as folding laundry or playing cards, which seem to anchor her mom to the present.

At the heart of the exhibition visitors will encounter moving image projections traversing the gallery, casting an abstract ink wash landscape on the gallery's perimeter walls, encircling a long-held "heirloom," symbolizing the abstract fluidity of memory and time.



Kerry Phillips: The patience of ordinary things, 2024. Still.

Beyond its visual and interactive elements, the exhibition serves as a meditation on the narratives we construct to make sense of aging and mortality and the real difficulty of dealing with one of our great modern taboos. The patience of ordinary things provides an intimate perspective on the profound themes of aging, memory, and human experience, a modern memento mori, probing the shifting perspectives and changing dynamics of family, community, and self-awareness, offering a space for visitors to confront their fears, hopes, and expectations around death and remembrance, reflecting on the universal threads that connect us across the temporal divide.

Phillips' proposal was selected from over 150 proposals in 2022 from Locust Projects' Open Call for the Main Gallery by a review panel including: Amy Galpin, Executive Director and Chief Curator Museum of Art and Design at Miami Dade College and former Chief Curator at the Frost Museum of Art at FIU; past Locust Projects exhibiting artists: Glexis Novoa (2003); Jon Pylypchuk (2004); and Leila Weefur (2022); and coordinated by LP Co-founding artist Elizabeth Withstandley.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kerry Phillips is an installation artist whose artwork borders on performance and social practice. Phillips' work with found objects is intuitive, often site-specific, and steeped in remembrance and storytelling. She uses common objects in unexpected ways, working collaboratively with viewer-participants to reveal an exchange of value, the importance and limitations of memory, and the vitality of play.

Phillips earned an MFA from University of Arizona and has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at the Orlando Museum of Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Boca Raton Museum of Art, and Bridge Red Projects. Her most recent solo exhibition, *Between the mundane and the miraculous* was held at the Bass Museum August - October 2023.

She has exhibited and completed residencies in Ohio, Vermont, New York, North Carolina, and internationally in Berlin, Krakow, Mexico, and France. Her work is held in the collections of the Orlando Museum of Art, The Girls' Club, and Mosquera Collections. Originally from Texas, Phillips works in Miami and, contrary to her family's wishes, doesn't paint pretty pictures. She is represented by LnS Gallery in Miami.

Photo of Kerry Phillips courtesy of the artist.



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 2023-2022 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; State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; The Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui; Diane and Werner Grob and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.

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