

The 2024 Locust Art Builders, exhibition image.



**LOCUST
PROJECTS**

LAND OF THE FREE, HOME OF THE LOST: **Locust Art Builders**

The 2024 LAB Exhibition
July 20 - August 3, 2023

Now in its 14th year, Locust Art Builders: Summer Art Intensive for Teens, aka LAB, is a unique five-week pre-college program for high school students with an interest in art, design, and exploring creative careers. Students are selected through an online open call process from schools across Miami-Dade County for the opportunity to learn from Lead Artist Mentors and other professional artists in a dynamic on-site program and build and art exhibition from scratch in Miami's longest running alternative art space. Each year's exhibition evolves as a unique and timely reflection of the current issues and ideas impacting youth today. This year's exhibition is titled *LAND OF THE FREE, HOME OF THE LOST*.



ARTISTS' STATEMENT

LAND OF THE FREE, HOME OF THE LOST provides us the opportunity to represent, deconstruct, and then criticize the American dream and its components. The nuclear family is a staple of this era, a time where economic and societal harvest was built upon the suffering and labor of those deemed unfit for the perfect America. Discredited as shameful and taboo, the issues that plagued these families were set aside and left to rot under the seemingly gleaming carpets.

The result is prevalent throughout *LAND OF THE FREE, HOME OF THE LOST*, the American ideals crumbling throughout the wallpaper and before you even reach the doorstep. Fully interchangeable, the two concepts of dollhouse and American dream are nothing but facades. The grey area of morality, seeping throughout the house, are reminders of the problems that plague society and stain the path of progress.

THE ARTISTS

Rosaly Almeida, Ksenia Armani, Jay Barkley, Melissa Briceno, Tai Campbell, Lada Chernous, Cami Davila, Emilio Ferrara, Alejandra Fidhel, Edgardo Giron, Julian Henriquez Vega, Sofiya Kishnarova, Ric Mondragon, Claudio Montiel, Veronica Olaciregui, Annatta Putlek, Samy Quintero, Dylan Rios, Adriana Sanabria, and Paloma Schiavone.

LAB INTERNS

Emilio Sandoval (New World School of the Arts and the University of Florida), Tainá Rocha (School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University), Dani Pearson (Miami Dade College), A'niyla Wright (Design and Architecture Senior High) and Sofia Soler (American University).

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Don Soffer Aventura High School, Downtown Doral Charter Upper School, Hialeah Senior High School, Miami Arts Charter School, New World School of the Arts, TERRA Environmental Research Institute.

LAB CO-DIRECTORS & LEAD TEACHING ARTISTS

Loni Johnson and Chire Regans

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, Locust Art Builder (LAB) 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 WaveMaker incubator grants and empower creative careers by supporting the administrative work of being an artist through professional development workshops and access to pro bono legal services through LegalARTLink.

Join the Locust Projects family today to support all the ways we nurture and inspire the NEXT GENERATION OF CREATIVES EVERY SUMMER. Learn more about Locust Projects sponsorship opportunities contact Nuria Richards, Director of Development at development@locustprojects.org.

Locust Art Builders: Summer Art Intensive for Teens 2024 is made possible through lead support from 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; State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts; Susan and Richard Arregui, Berkowitz Contemporary Foundation, The Kirk Foundation, Miami Salon Group, Cowles Charitable Trust, and the Friends of the Next Generation for their invaluable contributions.



ART HAPPENS HERE.

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