

Wendy Wischer, Still from Open Water.



# Open Water

## Wendy Wischer

Feb 13 - April 5, 2025



Locust Projects presents *Open Water*, a newly commissioned immersive, multi-media installation by Wendy Wischer. The project is a poetic reflection on the ocean—both the vast seas and the ocean that resides within us. Through non-linear storytelling, sound, and projected video, it explores the vulnerability of loving something as it fades away. The ocean's surface remains unchanged, but beneath it lie secrets, beauty, and wildness we are losing, leaving mysteries forever undiscovered.

With footage from the artist's residency in the arctic ocean and a diaristic approach to storytelling, *Open Water* immerses the viewer with four large, curved rear projection video screens and a sound composition of nature songs mixed with melodic spoken and abstract scores played in 5.1 surround sound. A SoundTube-spotlight speaker in the center of the circle provides an intimate sound experience to the visitor standing in the center of the circle of screens of the artist reading a poetic, non-linear, open letter to the ocean, and a meditation on the water that connects us all.

With this work, the artist attempts to redefine our shifting relationship with nature, exploring boundaries where the visible meets the invisible, and

technology intertwines with portrayals of the natural environment. They aim to translate data into personal meaning, merging science, mythology, and universal connections seeking to deepen our bond with the environment and each other, addressing the climate crisis through emotional engagement.

In describing the opportunity to experiment and create a new work at Locust Projects, the artist talks about how it has expanded her technical capabilities, allowing her to map four channels onto four extended surfaces viewable from two sides, while pushing at the boundaries of a shaped screen, and integrating multiple ways of experiencing sound within a single installation realizing their vision to create an immersive environment where viewers can move through the space and receive input from different sources and perspectives.

**“I have long been interested in how viewers physically engage with a space, and the ability to encourage movement through the media itself adds a new dimension to my artistic vocabulary in ways that will continue to transform my creative trajectory.”**

**- Wendy Wischer**

**Credits:**

Video recording and editing: Wendy Wischer  
Curved Steel frames: John Mack  
Original Sound Composition: Wendy Wischer  
Original musical score by Alto Depeña  
Voice: Wendy Wischer

**Technical info:**

Software: Premiere Pro with AVF Batch Converter for HAP Q codec, Mad Mapper for video mapping and playback, Adobe Audition for sound

Hardware: Mac Mini, Sonnet Puck, SoundTube FP6020 II Parabolic Speaker, Yamaha YHT-495OU 5.1 Home Theater System

The artist wishes to thank the staff at Locust Projects for their support, which has been integral in the realization of Open Water's complex installation.

**Open Water is supported by the Knight Foundation's Digital Commissions initiative, which fosters artistic exploration at the intersection of art and technology.**

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



Wendy Wischer, Photo by Daniel Buttrey.

**Wendy Wischer** currently lives and works in central Connecticut. She received an MFA from Florida State University, 1995 and a BFA from the University of Wisconsin Madison, 1993. With investigations in a variety of media from sculptural objects to installations, video, projection, sound, alternative forms of drawing and public works, much of the artwork is based on blurring the separation between an intrinsic approach to working with nature and the cutting edge of new media.

The artist's conceptual focus is on environmental issues; finding pathways, and creating experiences, that translate data into personal meaning. Through her creative explorations, often in collaboration with scientists, engineers and community collaborators, a wide range of data types are investigated to link nature with technology, science with mythology and personal identity with universal connections, while addressing our current climate crisis in hopes of finding impactful ways to connect people more deeply with the environments they live in and with each other.

She is the recipient of numerous grants including the Pollock-Krasner Grant, the South Florida Consortium, the Florida Individual Artist Fellowship, and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums Visual Arts Fellowship among others. Wischer has exhibited nationally, and her work is part of several public collections including the Pérez Art Museum Miami, Art Bank Art in Public Places Miami, Art in Public Places Miami Beach, the Boca Museum of Art in Boca Raton, Florida, the Colorado State Art Collection and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums Collection.

## 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.



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# ART HAPPENS HERE.

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