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# locust projects

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**Locust Projects Honors Founding and Current Board Chairs Dennis & Debra Scholl and Founding Artists Elizabeth Withstandley, Westen Charles & COOPER at 20th Anniversary Benefit Dinner**



**Honorees left to right:** Locust Projects founding and current board chairs Dennis & Debra Scholl, Founding Artists Elizabeth Withstandley & Westen Charles

(MIAMI, FL — November 13, 2018) — This past Saturday, **Locust Projects**—Miami’s longest running alternative nonprofit art space—hosted its **20th Anniversary Benefit Dinner** honoring **Debra and Dennis**

**Scholl**, current and founding board chairs, and the three artist founders, **Westen Charles**, **Elizabeth Withstandley** and **COOPER** at **The Standard Spa, Miami Beach**.

Co-chaired by **Munisha Underhill** and **John Joseph Lin**, the sold out event drew one-hundred and fifty friends and supporters of Locust Projects and was sponsored by Art Miami, Fendi, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Northern Trust, Phillips, TOD'S, and Vhernier.

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The event commemorated twenty years of supporting artists in the heart of Miami, and raised critical funds to support Locust Projects in its mission to provide contemporary visual artists the freedom to experiment with new ideas without the pressures of gallery sales or limitations of conventional exhibition spaces.

As Locust enters its third decade, the space and its supporters remain committed to its ideals and to the important role it plays in the South Florida art ecosystem and the art world at large. Locust Projects will always be a place that welcomes, embraces, and empowers artists.

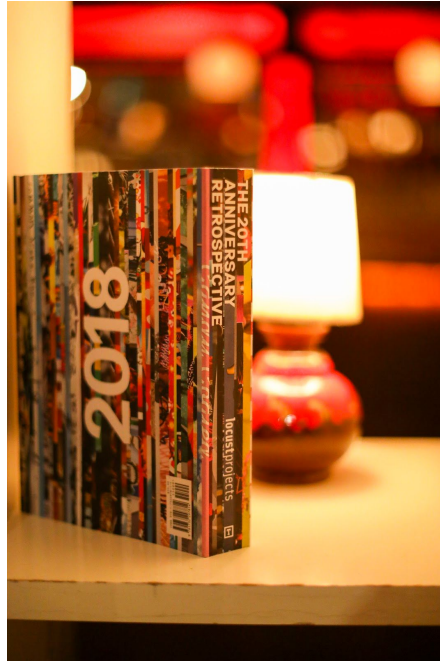
**IMAGES:** [Available for press use here.](#)

**Photo Credit:** ©WorldRedEye

The evening kicked off with cocktails and music by **The Rhythm Foundation** in the Lido lounge followed by Executive Director **Lorie Mertes**, who presented the crowd with a preview of ***Locust Projects: The 20th Anniversary Retrospective*** publication by Tra Publishing.

You can pre-order your copy of the book here:

<https://trapublishing.com/collections/vendors?q=Locust%20Projects>



Published by Tra Publishing

"It was hard not to take notice when, in 1998, three artists announced that they had opened a space in a warehouse in a little-known neighborhood called Wynwood," said **Lorie Mertes**, Locust Projects Director. "The evening honors and celebrates a legacy of art and artists who were visionary pioneers (even if they did not know it then), and Debra and Dennis Scholl, our current and founding board chairs, who knew Locust Projects was onto something important for Miami."



Locust Projects Director Lorie Mertes





**Honorees left to right:** Locust Projects founding and current board chairs Dennis & Debra Scholl, Founding Artists Elizabeth Withstandley & Westen Charles

Following cocktails, a convivial gathering of friends ventured outside to enjoy a multi-course meal under the stars and a performance choreographed by Monica Lopez de Victoria of the **TM Sisters**.





Clockwise left to right: Dinner at The Standard Spa, Miami Beach; Performance by Monica Lopez de Victoria of the TM Sisters; The Rhythm Foundation

Notable Miami artists, art leaders, collectors, curators, gallerists and patrons converged to support Locust Projects, including **Claire Breukel**, **David Castillo**, **Bonnie and Jim Clearwater**, **Rosa de la Cruz**, **Sylvia and Alfredo Cubiñá**, **Alex Gartenfeld**, **Nick Korniloff** and **Pamela Cohen**, **Diane and Alan Lieberman**, **Ilona Oppenheim**, **Vivian Pfeiffer**, **Stefanie and Evan Reed**, **Victoria Rogers**, **Jessica and Franklin Sirmans**, and **Alexa Wolman**.

And that's just to name a few!





**Top image:** Nick Korniloff, Franklin Sirmans, & Pamela Cohen; **Left image:** Sylvia Cubiñá & Stefanie Reed; **Right image:** Ilona Oppenheim & Munisha Underhill





**Top image:** Alexa Wolman, Stephanie Johnson, & Kelley Johnson; **Left image:** Darryl Gibson, Donnamarie Baptiste, Antonia Wright & Adler Guerrier; **Right image:** Maria Beguristain, Victoria Rogers, & Erin Newberg; **Bottom image:** Adriana Vergara, Vanessa Amor, Aramis Gutierrez, Cristina Lei Rodriguez, & Claire Brukel



Co-chairs Munisha Underhill and John Joseph Lin

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## ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

Locust Projects is a not for profit exhibition space dedicated to providing contemporary visual artists the freedom to experiment with new ideas without the pressures of gallery sales or limitations of conventional exhibition spaces. Local, national and international artists are encouraged to create site-specific installations as an extension of their representative work. Locust Projects supports the local community through educational initiatives and programming that are free to the public.

## CONNECT

Instagram: [@locustprojects](https://www.instagram.com/locustprojects)

Twitter: [@locustprojects](https://twitter.com/locustprojects)

Website: [www.locustprojects.org](http://www.locustprojects.org)

#LocustProjects



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