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305.576.8570 | info@locustprojects.org | www.locustprojects.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

**LOCUST PROJECTS
ANNOUNCES TWO
SPEAKER SERIES:**

**CURATOR TALKS
Returns**

**ARTIST TALKS
Launches**

**Talks are FREE and
open to the public.**

[Register Here](#)

Free street parking.

Media Contact:
[Sid Wolf](#)
305.576.8570

LOCUST PROJECTS ANNOUNCES TWO SPEAKER SERIES
CURATOR TALKS Returns and New ARTIST TALKS Series Launches Spring 2026
with support from a CreARTE grant from
The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation



[MIAMI, FL] Locust Projects is proud to announce the return of its acclaimed CURATOR TALKS speaker series and the inaugural season of a new ARTIST TALKS series. Launching this spring, this FREE programming series brings some of today's most significant curatorial and artistic voices directly to Miami audiences.

CURATOR TALKS kicks off on Wednesday, March 25, marking Locust Projects' relaunch of the celebrated series it originally founded in 2013. ARTIST TALKS follows on April 8, inviting past Locust Projects exhibition artists back to Miami to reflect on their experience at the space and the evolution of their work and careers. CURATOR TALKS and ARTIST TALKS are made possible with a CreARTE grant from The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation, and CURATOR TALKS are presented by Vivant with additional support from the Grob Gift Fund, The Wege Foundation, and The Vagabond Hotel Miami.

Together, the two series deepen Locust Projects' long-standing commitment to expanding access to contemporary art and ideas in Miami — connecting local audiences with leading voices shaping the field, and providing Miami-based artists with invaluable direct feedback through studio visits with visiting curators.



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“We’re delighted to bring back CURATOR TALKS and launch an exciting new ARTIST TALKS speaker series,” says Lorie Mertes, Executive Director, “these dynamic speakers representing leading voices in contemporary art will activate our space as a hub for gathering and build lasting networks between artists and audiences across Miami looking for access to relevant, thought-provoking talks on new art and ideas.”

Since its founding in 2013, Locust Talks has become one of Miami's premier platforms for engagement with contemporary curatorial thinking. Now returning home to Locust Projects, CURATOR TALKS presents four curators per season — a mix of emerging and established voices — who share their curatorial vision and practice, the artists and ideas that fuel their work, and how they support artists across institutional and non-traditional contexts.

A defining feature of the CURATOR TALKS series is its commitment to meaningful local exchange: each visiting curator participates in studio visits with Miami-based artists, offering vital critical feedback and professional visibility to the city's creative community. This direct artist engagement remains central to the series' mission of broadening access to contemporary curatorial practice beyond major art centers.

In its inaugural season, the new ARTIST TALKS series invites past Locust Projects exhibition artists back to Miami to reflect on their time at the space and trace the arc of their practice and careers in the years since. Each talk offers Miami audiences a rare, in-depth conversation with artists whose work has been central to Locust Projects' programming — and whose practices continue to shape contemporary art.

CURATOR TALKS AND ARTIST TALKS SUPPORTED BY



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CURATOR TALKS

PRESENTED BY **VIVANT**[®]
JAMES E FULTON, MD, PHD



Amber Esseiva | Wednesday, March 25 | 7pm

Amber Esseiva is a Swiss-Senegalese-American curator and educator specialized in producing contemporary art exhibitions and programs by national and international mid-career and emerging artists. Esseiva is currently the Senior Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University (ICA VCU). A VCUarts alumna, Esseiva has been essential to the ICA's programming since joining the institution in 2016. Esseiva is also the Curator-at-Large for The Studio Museum in Harlem.

Most recently, Esseiva curated the first contemporary art exhibition dedicated to the life and work of Amaza Lee Meredith titled *Dear Mazie*, (Sept 2024-March 2025). The exhibition includes commissions by AD-WO (Emanuel Admassu and Jen Wood), The Black School (Shani Peters and Joseph Cuillier), Lukaza Branfman-Verissimo, Kapwani Kiwanga, Abigail Lucien, Practise (James Goggin and Shan James), Tschabalala Self, and Cauleen Smith. Esseiva has also curated solo exhibitions by Kandis Williams, Naima Green, Jeremy Toussaint-Baptise, Dineo Seshee Bopape, Guadalupe Maravilla, and Martine Syms, among others. Esseiva received her M.A. in 2015 from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College (CCS Bard). She earned a B.A. in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Kristy Edmunds | Wednesday, April 29 | 7pm

Kristy Edmunds is the Director of MASS MoCA, one of the largest multidisciplinary contemporary art museums in the U.S. A globally recognized leader in the arts, she is known for her visionary approach and steadfast commitment to supporting artists across visual and performing disciplines. Edmunds was the inaugural recipient of the Berresford Prize from United States Artists, awarded by artists to honor those who create the conditions for others to thrive. In 2016, she was named a Chevalier (Knight) de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government in recognition of her contributions to culture. Prior to MASS MoCA, she served as Executive and Artistic Director of UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance; the

inaugural Consulting Artistic Director for New York's Park Avenue Armory; Artistic Director of the Melbourne International Arts Festival; and Founding Executive and Artistic Director of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) and its acclaimed Time-Based Art Festival (TBA) in Portland, Oregon. She currently serves on several boards and advisory committees, including United States Artists, YoungArts, Berklee College of Music, and the Cultural Economy Advisory Council for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



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CURATOR TALKS

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Ryan Inouye | Wednesday, September 30 | 7pm

Ryan Inouye is Kathe and Jim Patrinos Co-Curator of the *If the word we*: 59th Carnegie International and curator of International Art at Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, a role he was appointed to in 2023 after serving as associate curator of *Is it morning for you yet?*, the 58th Carnegie International. Prior to his work in Pittsburgh, Inouye served as senior curator at Sharjah Art Foundation in the United Arab Emirates, where he curated solo and group exhibitions and co-organized *Active Forms*, the 2018 edition of the annual March Meeting, which inspires dialogue around developments in contemporary art and culture. Prior, Inouye held the post of associate curator of Sharjah Biennial 12: *The past, the present, the possible* (2014–2015), which featured new works, site-specific commissions, and performances, and held curatorial positions at New York's New Museum, where he stewarded artist residencies, curatorial collaborations, and discursive programming, such as the Museum as Hub initiative and the 2012 New Museum Triennial: *The Ungovernables*. Previously, he served as curatorial assistant at REDCAT in Los Angeles. Inouye was the recipient of a Foundation for Art Initiatives grant and earned an MRes in Curatorial/Knowledge in the Department of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London, and a BA in English literature from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Rosario Güiraldes | Wednesday, October 14 | 7pm

Rosario Güiraldes is Curator of Visual Arts at the Walker Art Center. Born in Buenos Aires, she has over a decade of curatorial experience working across the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Recent exhibitions at the Walker include *Ways of Knowing* (2025), a thematic group exhibition featuring works by Anna Boghiguan, Petrit Halilaj, Sky Hopinka, and Gala Porras-Kim, among others, and *Walter Price: Pearl Lines*. In 2027, Güiraldes will organize the first U.S. retrospective of Afro-Brazilian artist, intellectual, and political leader Abdias Nascimento (Brazil, 1914–2011), supported by a Curatorial Research Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts. Prior to joining the Walker, she was a Curator at The Drawing Center (2017–2023), where she organized the contemporary drawing survey *Drawing in the Continuous Present* (2022); the historic exhibition *The Pencil is A Key: Drawings by Incarcerated Artists* (2019), and monographic exhibitions of Xiyadie, Fernanda Laguna, Ebecho Muslimova, and Guo Fengyi, among others.



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ARTIST TALKS



Trenton Doyle Hancock | Wednesday, April 8 | 7pm

For more than two decades, Trenton Doyle Hancock (b. 1974, Oklahoma City, OK, lives Houston, TX) has been constructing his own fantastical narrative that continues to develop and inform his prolific artistic output. Part fictional, part autobiographical, Hancock's work pulls from personal experience, the art historical canon, comics and superheroes, pulp fiction, and myriad pop culture references, resulting in a complex amalgamation of characters and plots possessing universal concepts of light and dark, good and evil, and all the gray in between. Trenton Doyle Hancock exhibited at Locust Projects in 2019.

His talk launches the ARTIST TALKS series. [Learn more here.](#)



Tania Candiani | Wednesday, September 9 | 7pm

Tania Candiani (b. 1974 Mexico City, lives Mexico City) Candiani's practice revolves around expansive notions of translation, extending into experimental terrains where visual, sonic, textual, and symbolic languages converge. Her projects delve into the resonances of sound and the politics of listening, exploring their capacity to transform human and more-than-human perceptions, attuning to the histories, ecologies, and technologies of communication. Tania Candiani exhibited at Locust Projects in 2023. [Learn more here.](#)



Bethany Collins | Thursday, October 8 | 7pm

Bethany Collins exhibited at Locust Projects in 2018.

Bethany Collins (b. 1984 Montgomery, AL, lives Chicago, IL) is a multidisciplinary artist whose conceptual practice examines the relationship between race and language. Centering language—its biases, contradictions, and ability to simultaneously forge connections and foster violence—her works illuminate America's past and offer insight into the development of racial and national identities. Drawing on a wide variety of documents, ranging from nineteenth-century musical scores to US Department of Justice reports, she erases, obscures, excerpts, and rewrites portions of text to bring to the fore issues revolving around race, power, and histories of violence. Bethany Collins exhibited at Locust Projects in 2018. [Learn more here.](#)



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IMAGE CREDITS

1. Amber Esseiva, photo courtesy of the artist. 2. Kristy Edmunds, photo by Greg Nesbit. 3. Ryan Inouye, photo courtesy of the artist. 4. Rosario Güiraldes, photo by Adrianna Glaviano. 5. Trenton Doyle Hancock, photo by World Red Eye. 6. Tania Candiani, photo by Marcela Moreno. 7. Bethany Collins, photo by Ross Collab.

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF LOCUST TALKS

Locust Talks was founded by Locust Projects in 2013 with support from the Knight Foundation as a curatorial speaker series with studio visits for local artists. From 2013 to 2017, the series presented talks by Michael Darling, Fairfax Dorn, Peter Eleey, Lauri Firstenberg, Massimiliano Gioni, Louis Grachos, Jens Hoffmann, Tina Kukielski, Anne Pasternak, Jenelle Porter, Mary Ceruti, Nancy Spector, Franklin Sirmans, Ali Subotnik, and many others, with Miami artists benefiting from curator studio visits throughout.

From spring 2018 to spring 2024, Talks was co-produced and presented with Oolite Arts, featuring 36 talks that supported more than 180 Miami-based artists with studio visits. Speakers during that period included Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Naomi Beckwith, Valerie Cassel Oliver, Erin Christovale, Lynne Cooke, Adrienne Edwards, Rita Gonzalez, Deana Haggag, Rujeko Hockley, Helen Molesworth, Humberto Moro, Diana Nawi, Larry Ossei-Mensah, Jose Roca, Nato Thompson, Olga Viso, Hamza Walker, Julie Rodrigues Widholm, Heidi Zuckerman, and critic Jerry Saltz, among many others.

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 professional development resources.

Locust Projects Receives Major 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 State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Ruth Foundation for the Arts; VIA Art Fund; The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation at The Miami Foundation; Diane and Werner Grob; Diane and Robert Moss; Susan and Richard Arregui; María Bechily and Scott Hodes; Sarah Arison / Arison Arts Foundation; Vivant Skincare; The WEGE Foundation; Funding Arts Network; Cowles Foundation; Kirk Foundation; and the INCUBATORS.

