

Still from Speaking in Code, video, 2025. On view in This Too Shall Pass.



This Too Shall Pass **Ema Ri**

January 31 - April 4, 2026

***Though we tremble before uncertain futures
may we meet illness, death and adversity with strength
may we dance in the face of our fears.***

- Gloria Anzaldúa

**LOCUST
PROJECTS**



Locust Projects presents Ema Ri: *This Too Shall Pass*. In keeping with Locust Projects' mission to support artists with opportunities to create experimental new work, this is the artist's largest, most ambitious show to-date.

This Too Shall Pass delves further into the intricate connections between the body, spirit, and the unseen forces of nature by incorporating large-scale video art alongside abstract wall drawings and sound art that's inspired by the natural world.

Ema Ri's work was first featured at Locust Projects in 2021 in a group exhibition titled, *A Landscape Longed For: the garden as disturbance* curated by past exhibiting artist and artist board member, Adler Guerrier, and Laura Novoa.

"I will never forget Ema's ephemeral floral sculpture formed by their embrace of a pile of hundreds of various species of floral petals – an abrazo grande – as a poignant portrait of his recently deceased grandmother situated beautifully in context with artists like Jim Hodges, Ebony Patterson and Cristina Lei Rodriquez. It's exciting to see the evolution and expansion of their practice over the years, and through this opportunity, for them to experiment and push their practice on a major scale into new realms."

– Lorie Mertes, Executive Director

Ri's brushless technique from their recent oil paintings is evident across the 25-foot wide by 10-foot tall white expansive curved wall marked by the artist's handwork with a brass brush, imbuing a golden "halo" when seen from certain vantage points.

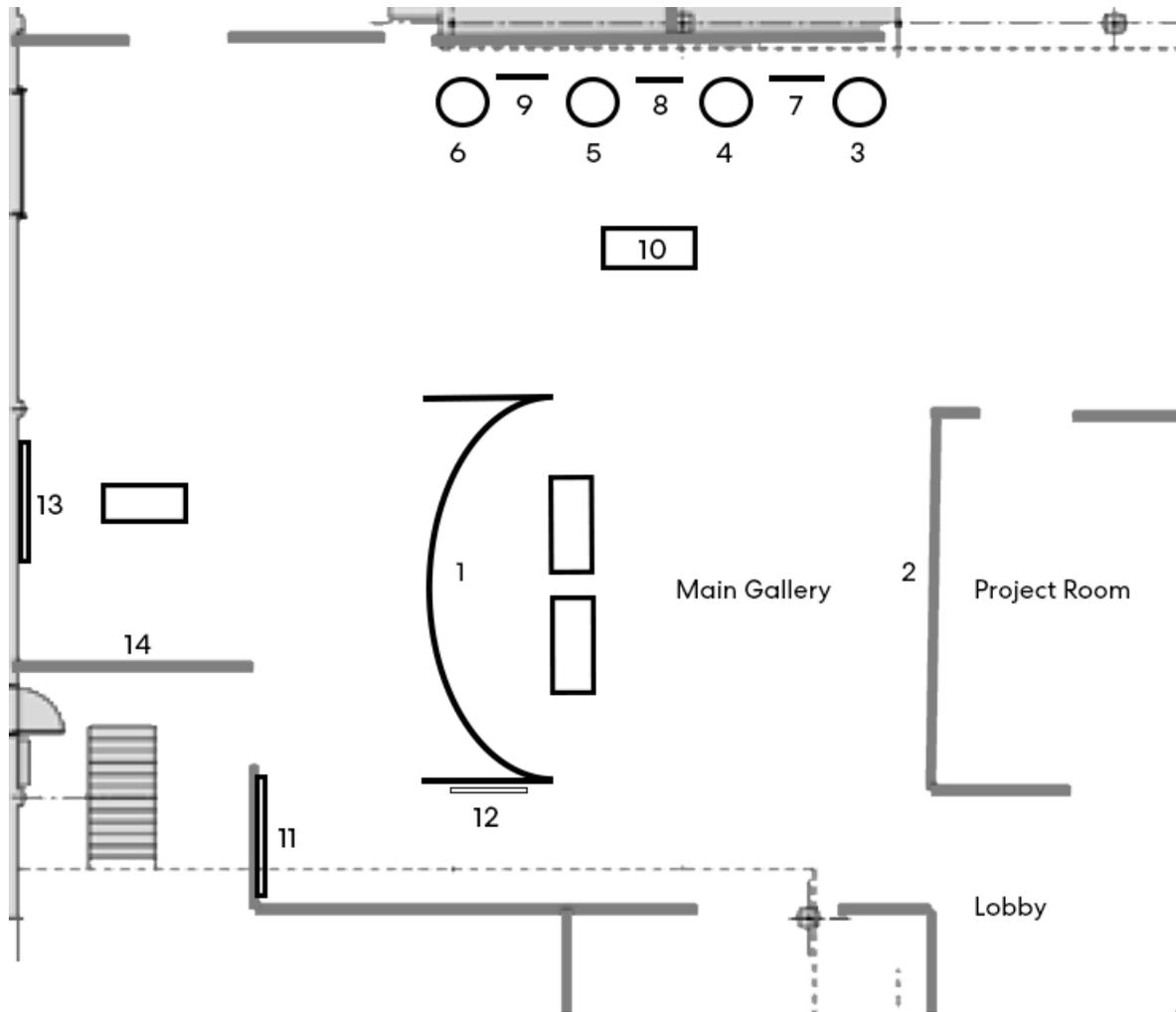
The all-black glossy opposite side of the wall pulses with a raw, tactile energy tracing the artist's physical use of their fingers, hands, nails, and body gestures, imbuing a visceral sensation that intimately melds material and process.

One feels the artist's movement in making – a caressing of the canvas, a scratching, carving away. In the installation's dark and light walls, the flower/resin-encapsulated columns, the oolite stone sourced benches, paintings, and Rorschach-like videos from their DVCAI residency in Surinam – there is a heartfelt sense of a physical and psychological "seeking" and "knowing" for something within and outside.

Ema's show was selected from 650 open call applications for the Main Gallery by a review panel including Juan Roselione-Valadez, Director of the Rubell Museum and past exhibiting artists Rafael Domenech (2023) and Rosario Marquardt of R+R (2000).

This Too Shall Pass is a Knight Digital Commission.





LIST OF WORKS

1. *Ouroboros*, center installation includes brass brushed drawing on drywall, industrial paint, plaster, plexiglass mirror, and video projection
2. *Jungle Juice*, video projection
3. *Flower Column I*, resin and subtropical flowers, 40 x 10 x 11 inches
4. *Flower Column II*, resin and subtropical flowers, 40 x 10 x 11 inches
5. *Flower Column III*, resin and subtropical flowers, 40 x 10 x 11 inches
6. *Flower Column IV*, resin and subtropical flowers, 40 x 10 x 11 inches
7. *The Map is Not The Territory I*, mud plaster and subtropical flowers, 14 x 12 inches
8. *The Map is Not The Territory II*, mud plaster and subtropical flowers, 14 x 12 inches
9. *The Map is Not The Territory III*, mud plaster and subtropical flowers, 14 x 12 inches
10. *You are here, lifted up from above*, oolite limestone, 24 x 24 x 48 inches each
11. *Yerba Mala Nunca Muere I, II, and III*, oil on canvas, various sizes
12. *Yerba Mala Nunca Muere IV*, oil on canvas, 25 x 26 1/2 inches
13. *Wild Tongues*, oil on canvas, 48 x 36 inches
14. *Speaking in Code*, video projection

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Ema Ri, photo by Jayme Kaye Gershen

Ema Ri received their Bachelor in Fine Arts and Minor in Art History, University of Florida at NWSA, Miami in 2017. Solo Exhibitions: *To Live Without a Dying Sun*, Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami (2025); *In So Deep*, Spinello Projects, Miami (2023); *Undercurrent*, Spinello Projects, Miami (2021); *Ouroboros*, Dimensions Variable, Miami (2020). Group exhibitions: *A Landscape Longed For: the garden as disturbance*, 2nd Iteration, Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, St. Augustine, FL (2024); *It was always about you*, Oolite Arts, Miami Beach (2023); South Florida Consortium Exhibition, MoCA, North Miami (2023); *Landscape of Realities*, Oolite Arts, Miami Beach (2023); *You Know Who You Are*, El Espacio 23, Jorge Pérez Private Collection, Allapattah, FL (2022); *Lean-to*, Oolite Arts, Miami Beach (2022); *A Landscape Longed For: the garden as disturbance* curated by Adler Guerrier and

Laura Novoa, Locust Projects, Miami (2021). Awards: South Florida Cultural Consortium Grant 2023; Oolite Arts' Ellie's Creator Award 2022; Locust Projects' WaveMaker R+D and Implementation Grant 2021-2022. They were a 2025 artist-in-residence in Surinam with Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator. Ri is represented by Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami.

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.



KNIGHT
FOUNDATION



The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



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ART HAPPENS HERE.

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