

LIZN'BOW, Niñalandia Skycoaster, 2024. Rendering.



Niñalandia Skycoaster **LIZN'BOW**

Sept 7 - Nov 2, 2024

Locust Projects presents *Niñalandia Skycoaster*, a multimedia experience by Miami-based artists LIZN'BOW. The artists invite visitors to experience an immersive multimedia experience and embark on a virtual roller coaster ride based on the artists' *Niñalandia Mixed Reality Multiverse*, a queer-futurist post-apocalyptic version of Miami which brings together ideas from their nearly decadelong collaboration.

Visitors are invited to sit in Liz and Bow's 2006 Buick Rendezvous transformed into a roller-coaster cart custom-wrapped in hyper-maximalist digital collage and custom accessories. Once inside (seat

belts optional) participants are transported into a virtual theme park built by the artists using Blender, an open-source 3D-modeling software, and Three.js, an innovative JavaScript library that allows users to create interactive 3D environments. The animated video projections wrapping the gallery walls and the sound score create an environment where physical and digital realms unite.

Visitors wearing the VR Oculus 3 headsets will see iconic elements from Niñalandia zoom past them while riding their virtual Skycoaster—a jet-ski unicorn cow, a mountain of burning money, and giant leche jugs, all submerged halfway underwater and set against neon rainbows in undulating pink and purple skies. By presenting queer-coded imagery through nostalgic digital aesthetics reminiscent of early video games like RollerCoaster Tycoon and Mario Kart, Niñalanida Skycoaster encourages expansive approaches to familiar forms of entertainment, promoting a more inclusive worldview.

With the support of Locust Projects, *Niñalanida Skycoaster* aligns with contemporary trends in art and technology that prioritize interactivity, accessibility, and worldbuilding. This project is not just a display but a platform for discourse, challenging traditional exhibition norms and inviting conversation within the vibrant context of Miami-inspired iconography.

Niñalandia Skycoaster was a “Curator’s Pick” selected by Executive Director Lorie Mertes from the artists’ applications to open calls in 2023 and 2024 for both the Knight Digital Commissions series and Project Room.

***Niñalandia Skycoaster* is a Knight Digital Commission.**

RELATED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Locust Late @ The DiLL

Thursday, September 26 | 7-10pm

Workshop with Arcbo T and DJ Set by Liz Ferrari Ouch

Little Haiti Little River Art Days

Saturday, October 19 | 12-5pm

Highlighting arts and culture offerings in the neighborhood on a quarterly basis

Closing Event

Saturday, November 2, 2024 | 12-5pm

Swap Shop and Makers Mart



LIZN'BOW, Self portrait.



LIZN'BOW, photo courtesy of the artist.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Liz Ferrer and **Bow Ty's** work spans various mediums including digital art, tech, sculpture, music, video, and performance art. Through a queer and comedic lens, their work together has been building a reputation for critiquing American and Latin pop. Their most recent projects together are femme reggaeton band **Niña** and new media collaborative **LIZN'BOW**.

Niña is a feminist reggaeton duo featuring Liz and Bow, they started this body of work to bring diverse voices to the traditionally male genre of reggaeton.

LIZN'BOW is a new media body of work in which they use media technology, digital tools, and community building exercises as vehicles to visualize, play, and explore different social and creative possibilities.

Liz's and Bow's work has been featured at MOCA North Miami, Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, The Bass Museum, Young at Art Museum, David Castillo Gallery, Mana Contemporary, Squeaky Wheel, Borscht Film Festival, Eternal Family TV, The Miami Herald, iii Points Festival, Wassaic Projects, Cunsthaus, The Koubek Center, Davey Fest, Museum of Modern Art Santo Domingo, Index Performance Art Festival Santo Domingo and Miami, Albright Knox Center Buffalo, Burchfield Penney Art Center, and The Art Institute of Chicago.

Liz and Bow are recipients of a Creative Capital Wild Futures Award, NEFA Development & Touring Grant, Knight Art Challenge from the Knight Foundation, Franklin Furnace Award, PAM CUT Labs Fellowship, Locust Projects' WaveMaker Grant, Oolite Arts Ellies Award 2019 and 2022, LMCC Creative Engagement, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Sundance Short Film Miami Intensive Fellow, City Arts Corps Grant New York, and a Borscht Film Festival Commission.

Liz and Bow have been awarded residencies and fellowships at MacDowell, Headlands, and Ucross for 2024. They have attended Collar Works Elizabeth Murray Residency, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Knight Sundance Short Film Miami Intensive, Caldera Arts Residency, Squeaky Wheel, Mana Contemporary Studio Residency, En Residencia, Tempus Projects, ACRE, La Sierra de Santa Marta Residency in Colombia, and the former Miami nonprofit, Cannonball.

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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