



## Rafael Domenech:

### *assembling beneath a desire for sabotage*

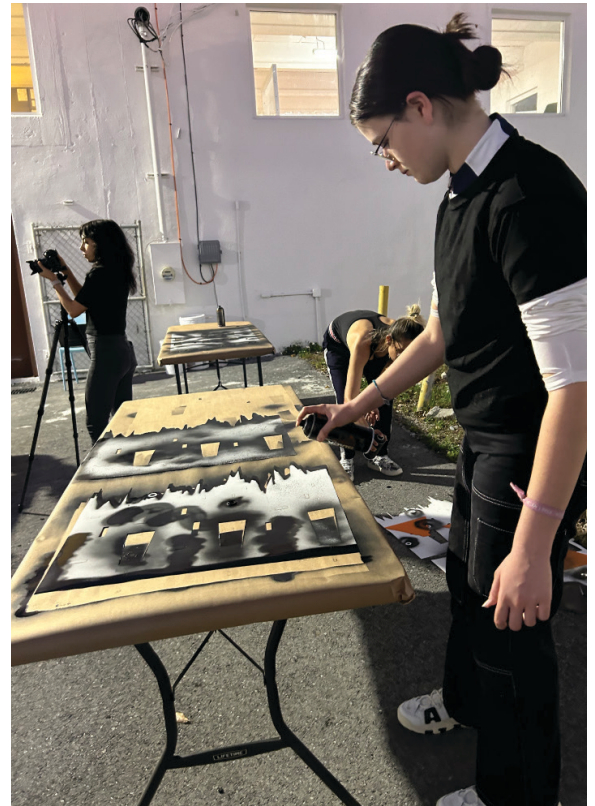
For the inaugural exhibition in Locust Projects' new home, Cuban-American artist Rafael Domenech has envisioned *assembling beneath a desire for sabotage*, a massive architectural environment that creates a pavilion-like setting activated by a sequence of events. Invited to take over Locust Projects new space in Little River prior to build-out of gallery walls, the project builds on the artist's recent pavilion for the 58th Carnegie International in Pittsburgh.

Domenech's architectural intervention at Locust Projects is intended to redefine the exhibition experience as an active machine for production and dialogue rather than a repository space for passive viewing. For "assembling", Domenech repurposes imagery from his Miami archive alongside a composite of texts to create a space that allows for affordance – a recognition of an architectural space in a state of transformation. Attendees can walk through the free flowing rooms, and layer their own experiences and ideas by participating in various activations.

Conceived as a series of "chapters" informed by Domenech's history of working with artist's books and experimental publishing formats, the activations will punctuate the run of the show, evolving in and through the community's active participation.



Left: Rafael Domenech, *assembling beneath a desire for sabotage*, 2023. Chapter 1 | Conversation with Talia Heiman, photo by Locust Projects.



Right: Rafael Domenech, *assembling beneath a desire for sabotage*, 2023. Chapter 2 | Social Factory, photo by Locust Projects.

#### Chapter 1 | Saturday, Feb. 18, 3pm: CONVERSATION WITH TALIA HEIMAN

A conversation in the in-progress installation on creative process and exhibition design between Rafael Domenech and Talia Heiman, who served on the curatorial team for the 58th Carnegie International in Pittsburgh, building on the artist's recent pavilion there and the work currently in progress at Locust Projects. The artist and Heiman discussed process, context, and the ways exile and its imaginings unfold and multiply throughout Domenech's practice.

#### Chapter 2 | Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6pm: SOCIAL FACTORY

A collaborative lamp-building workshop during the project's construction where participants created a collective poem-mural that will be deconstructed into individual fragments and turned into light sculptures incorporated into the exhibition that participants can claim when the exhibition is completed.

#### Chapter 3 | Saturday, Feb. 25: 25TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT DINNER

To mark a momentous moment in our history Rafael Domenech designed an interactive dining experience to celebrate Locust Projects' 25th Anniversary. Guests dined within a massive, pavilion-like setting intended as an active machine for production, exchange and dialogue evolving over the run of the show as a series of chapters. The interactive dining experience served as a "Gesamtkunstwerk," or a work of art itself with a performative twist on traditional interactions between guests and servers and where guests dressed in single-hued chic and monochromatic ensembles enjoyed a menu entirely in black and white.

#### Chapter 4 | Friday, March 3, 6-9pm: COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

For the celebratory opening of the new space, this public event marks a significant milestone as we officially open Locust Projects to the public! Domenech completed the construction of the pavilion, transforming the gallery into a series of free flowing rooms where people can walk through colorful mesh skirms and layer their own experiences and ideas with it. The event is a celebration of Locust Projects "as an incubator for a diversity of practices and voices for the city, as a space where artists can come and explore ideas without the financial pressure, with no objectives or goals outside of being there to make art," Domenech said.

Future Chapters: Come back for the exhibition's upcoming chapters/activations happening this spring including a sculpture garden exhibit and a conversation with Giampaolo Bianconi, associate curator of modern and contemporary art at the Art Institute of Chicago.



Rafael Domenech, *assembling beneath a desire for sabotage*, 2023. Chapter 4 || 25th Anniversary Benefit Dinner, photo by Locust Projects.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



**Rafael Domenech** (b. 1989, Havana; lives between New York, NY and Miami, FL) is an interdisciplinary artist and educator exploring notions of architecture and urban design, public gathering spaces, and publishing methodologies. He refers to his works as “publications,” and they take the form of pavilions, installations, and public programs, as well as experimental publications.

Domenech’s spatial interventions intersect publishing methodologies such as cutting, redacting, revising, and circulation as research tactics to amplify his interest in the exhibition model as an active machine for production rather than a repository space.

Recent exhibitions include: the 58th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; The Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; Passerelle centre d’art contemporain, Brest, France; Museum of Art and Design (MOAD), Miami.

His work has been exhibited at SculptureCenter, New York; Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City; LIST Center, MIT, Cambridge; The Bass Museum, Miami Beach; Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York; Phillip and Patricia Frost Art Museum, Miami; Bronx Museum of the Arts, among others. He holds an MFA from Columbia University. In 2015, he received his BFA from New World School of the Arts and in 2009 received a BA from the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes “San Alejandro” in Cuba.

Rafael Domenech, Courtesy of LagoAlgo, photos by Ada Navarro.

## 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.



Locust Projects 2022-2023 exhibitions and programming are made possible with support from: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Diane and Robert Moss; 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 Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Ruth Foundation for the Arts; Florida, Department of State; The Miami Foundation; Diane and Werner Grob; Susan and Richard Arregui; The Albert and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works Grant; VIA Art Fund | Wagner Foundation Incubator Grant; Funding Arts Network; Hillsdale Fund; Kirk Foundation; and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.

# ART HAPPENS HERE.

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