



Ronny Quevedo: *ule ole allez*

Locust Projects presents *ule ole allez*, a new site-specific installation by Ecuador-born, Bronx-based artist Ronny Quevedo that honors the passion for play found in Miami's Caribbean, Central, and South American soccer and futsal communities. *ule ole allez* is one of three new exhibitions opening at Locust Projects in the Design District with a public reception to Meet the Artists on Tuesday, November 29, from 7-9pm.

As an extension of Quevedo's drawing practice, the artist has invited local players to activate the gallery on November 20 and 21 by playing futsal matches with chalk and ink covered balls. As a form of collaboration their play and movements will be captured through marks left behind on the gallery's walls and floors creating an accumulation of color and action. The gallery floor presents a colorful, abstract field as a space for creative expression through a sports game in which players add to the existing markers of futsal and soccer. Creating a vestige of community action, *ule ole allez* presents a new development in Quevedo's creative trajectory with an exhibition that conflates drawing and sculpture through physical interactions with the gallery and the viewer by inviting Miami's soccer community to participate in its creation.



Ronny Quevedo, *astro*, 2021. Wax on paper on panel. 14 x 18 x 1 5/8 in (35.6 x 45.7 x 4.1 cm). Courtesy the artist and Alexander Gray Associates, New York © 2022 Ronny Quevedo

A series of small drawings and sculptures accompany a new video work that foregrounds play as a transformative and empowering act of migration and movement. Filmed in advance of the installation, Quevedo interviewed former Colombian national team player Luis Carlos Perea about his Coroncoro Soccer Club and Valentina Simon, commissioner of the all female AGC League, to gain insight into their experiences in establishing leagues in Miami. Overlaid with footage of other local leagues, Quevedo's video pays tribute to the notion of duality and adaptability as part of play and starting a fresh in a new city. Combined, the live matches, floor drawing, and new works serve as a metaphor for the collective migrant experience.

For Quevedo, the experience of displacement is defined by adaptation, memory, and transformation. The defined movement of sports echoes this adaptability. Games like futsal enable a subversive transformation in players, freeing them from oppressive societal rules and expectations. By centering sports, Quevedo invokes an architectural and narrative space where boundaries are malleable, limits are negotiable, and competition is a generative force for evolving identities.

Quevedo first became interested in the parallels between play and migration after reflecting on his experience playing in indoor soccer leagues—operated by migrant Latin American and Caribbean communities—in New York City. Establishing a connection between physical actions and inheritance and memory, the artist explains that “The act of passing—passing down, passing on, passing the ball—offers generative contemplations of my points of origin.” The passion for futsal in Haitian, Central, and South American communities in Miami is significant and complements the artist's own experience in New York City. This connection is reinforced by the threat of gentrification to the sites for this ritual of play. *ule ole allez* honors the contribution of play and ritual in these communities by recording their engagement with the space and its impact in the development of contemporary fields of sculpture, drawing and printmaking.

Additional support for this exhibition has been provided by Funding Arts Network.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Ronny in Studio, Photo by Ross Collab

Ronny Quevedo (b.1981) incorporates and subverts aspects of abstraction, painting, collage, cartography, and sports imagery in a practice spanning installation, drawings, and prints. Deeply engaged with notions of identity and the intersection of mainstream and historically marginalized cultures, Quevedo reenvisioning pre- and post-colonial iconographies, offering nuanced examinations of personal and social histories. This recuperation of indigenous languages of abstraction, the revalorization of their associated labor, and the centering of a living connection between contemporary and centuries-old cultural markers remain key to Quevedo's ongoing practice.

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; The Miami Foundation; Susan and Richard Arregui; Florida, Department of State; Hillsdale Fund; 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; Diane and Werner Grob; Kirk Foundation; and the Incubator Fund Supporting Sponsors and Friends.

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