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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christy Gast: *Inholdings*

March 8 - April 12, 2014
Opening Reception March 8, 7-10pm
Conversation with the artist: April 12, 7pm
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm

Locust Projects is pleased to present *Inholdings*, an exhibition of new work by Miami-based artist Christy Gast. The two works in this exhibition, a full-scale textile replica of a Nike Hercules missile and a single-channel video entitled *War Drums (Nuclear Clock)*, refer to the Hole-in-the-Donut region of the Everglades. The works in *Inholdings* shift the focus between natural, cultural and desired histories by appropriating craft traditions to document a place.

The missile sculpture, Gast's largest textile work to date, is suspended in the main gallery as if stored in a hangar awaiting activation. It is constructed from botanical textile designed and printed by the artist, which overlays images of tomato bushes, Brazilian pepper trees and lovegrass. Remnants of agriculture, invasive species and native flora compete for surface space and reference particular moments of conflict in the landscape.

The single channel video installation *War Drums* was shot in one of the few existing stands of pine forest in Dade County. The camera pans the horizon in a continuous circle once per minute, moving like the second hand of a clock. At 12 o'clock the camera passes a woman playing traditional Afro Cuban rhythms on a conga. At 6 o'clock, the camera pans another drummer playing snare cadences, military drum corps style. Embodying the cultural conflicts of the Cold War, the drummers pass beats between themselves as they listen deeply to, and interpret, the sounds of the forest.

Hole-in-the-Donut, the site Gast examines for *Inholdings*, is marked by invasions and colonizations, both ecological and geopolitical. It is a deforested pine rockland in the Everglades that was plowed for tomato fields in the early 1900's. A HM69 Nike Missile base located there housed three nuclear warheads and was on high alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The base closed in 1979; the farms foreclosed decades earlier. Brazilian pepper invaded the fallow fields, and eradication required scraping the fields to the fossilized limestone bedrock. Lovegrass is the first native plant to recolonize this moonlike terrain.

Gast's work stems from extensive research and site visits to places she thinks of as "contested landscapes," which exhibit evidence of conflict in human desires. She traces, translates or mirrors those conflicts through her art practice.

ABOUT CHRISTY GAST

Christy Gast's work has been exhibited at museums and galleries internationally, including MoMA/P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Artist's Space, and Harris Lieberman Gallery in New York; PAMM, the Bass Museum of Art, the de la Cruz Collection, Casa Lin and Gallery Diet in Miami; L.A.C.E. and High Desert Test Sites in Los Angeles; Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich; and Centro Cultural Matucana 100 in Santiago, Chile. She is currently engaged in an ongoing research residency in the Subantarctic forests of Tierra del Fuego, Chile. Since 2010 she has directed the Artists in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE) program, bringing artists to live and work in the Everglades for a month at a time. Gast is represented by Gallery Diet in Miami.

ABOUT LOCUST PROJECTS

Locust Projects is a not for profit exhibition space dedicated to providing contemporary visual artists the freedom to experiment with new ideas without the pressures of gallery sales or limitations of conventional exhibition spaces. Local, national and international artists are encouraged to create site-specific installations as an extension of their representative work. Locust Projects supports the local community through educational initiatives and programming that are free to the public.

Locust Projects' exhibitions and programming are made possible with the support from: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; Cowles Charitable Trust; Cultural Advancement Program; Florida Department of State; Galt & Skye Mikesell; Hannibal Cox Jr. Foundation; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; NEA Art Works Grant; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners; Youth Enrichment Program. Special thanks: Bazzurro Designs, Everglades National Park, Funding Arts Network, Gallery Diet, Gesi Schilling Photography, Tom Tom Magazine, and University of Oregon Printmaking Department.