

Curated by
Asha Bukojemsky

Voiceover narrated in English by LA-based artist **Nour Mobarak**, and in Spanish by LA-based musician **San Cha**. Sound by **Luke Fischbeck**. Spanish translation by **Blanca S. Villalobos**.

Lavender House explores housing justice within the cultural landscape of Los Angeles, through the lens of a female tenant and her evolving relationship to the empty house next door, a rent-controlled building held from the market by real estate investors and left uninhabited for six years. *Lavender House* is part auto-fiction, memoir, and psychological thriller.

La narración en inglés fue grabada por **Nour Mobarak**, quien vive y trabaja en Los Ángeles, y en español, por la artista **San Cha**. Ambas viven y trabajan en Los Ángeles. El sonido fue realizado por **Luke Fischbeck**. Traducción al español de **Blanca S. Villalobos**.

Lavender House explora, dentro del panorama cultural de Los Ángeles, la justicia de la vivienda a través de la lente de una inquilina y su relación en evolución con la casa deshabitada que tiene al lado suyo: un edificio, controlado por el alquiler, que quedó deshabitado durante seis años y ha sido sacado del mercado por inversionistas del sector inmobiliario. Ofreciendo una historia encarnada de la relación entre inquilino y propietario, la ansiedad, la maternidad y la capacidad de recuperación. *Lavender House* es, al mismo tiempo, autoficción, memoria y thriller psicológico.

Eight years ago, I began recording accounts of every interaction I had with landlords and developers, compiling a substantial multi-volume binder of photographs, notes, documents. I never intended for these notes to form the basis of an artwork: I was collecting evidence to protect myself and fellow tenants from illegal evictions. But after years of observing and documenting, I began adding poems to the binder as a way of processing, as a kind of power reversal. The work poured out of me in the form of a video essay entitled “Lavender House,” orbiting the tenant-landlord relationship, a minor history of rent control, and the violence of real estate speculation and gentrification in Los Angeles. *Lavender House* embodies precarity, vulnerability, loss—but also the solidarity, resistance, agility, and resilience of tenants who are the heroes of this narrative.

Sarah Rara July 2021

Hace ocho años, comencé a registrar relatos de cada interacción que tenía con propietarios y desarrolladores, compilando una carpeta sustancial de varios volúmenes de fotografías, notas y documentos. Nunca tuve la intención de que esta carpeta se convirtiera en la base de una obra de arte, pues sólo recopilaba pruebas para protegerme a mí y a mis compañeros inquilinos de los desalojos ilegales. Tras años de observar y documentar, comencé a agregar poemas a la carpeta como una forma de procesamiento; una acción para invertir el rol del poder. El trabajo salió de mí en forma de un videoensayo que llamé *Lavender House*, el cual orbita la relación inquilino-propietario, una historia menor acerca del control de alquileres y la violencia de la especulación y la gentrificación inmobiliaria en Los Ángeles. *Lavender House* encarna la precariedad, la vulnerabilidad, la pérdida, pero también la solidaridad, la resistencia, la agilidad y la capacidad de recuperación de los inquilinos, que son los héroes de esta narrativa.

Sarah Rara Julio 2021

Works in the exhibition

1*Frequencies* 2021

Wall drawing

2*Untitled (Mosquito)* 2021

4k video, silent, 02:49

3*Lavender House / La Casa Lavanda* 2021

4k video with sound, 22:46

Voiceover narrated in English by Nour Mobarak and in Spanish by San Cha. Sound by Luke Fischbeck. Spanish translation by Blanca S. Villalobos.

4*Tactics* 2021

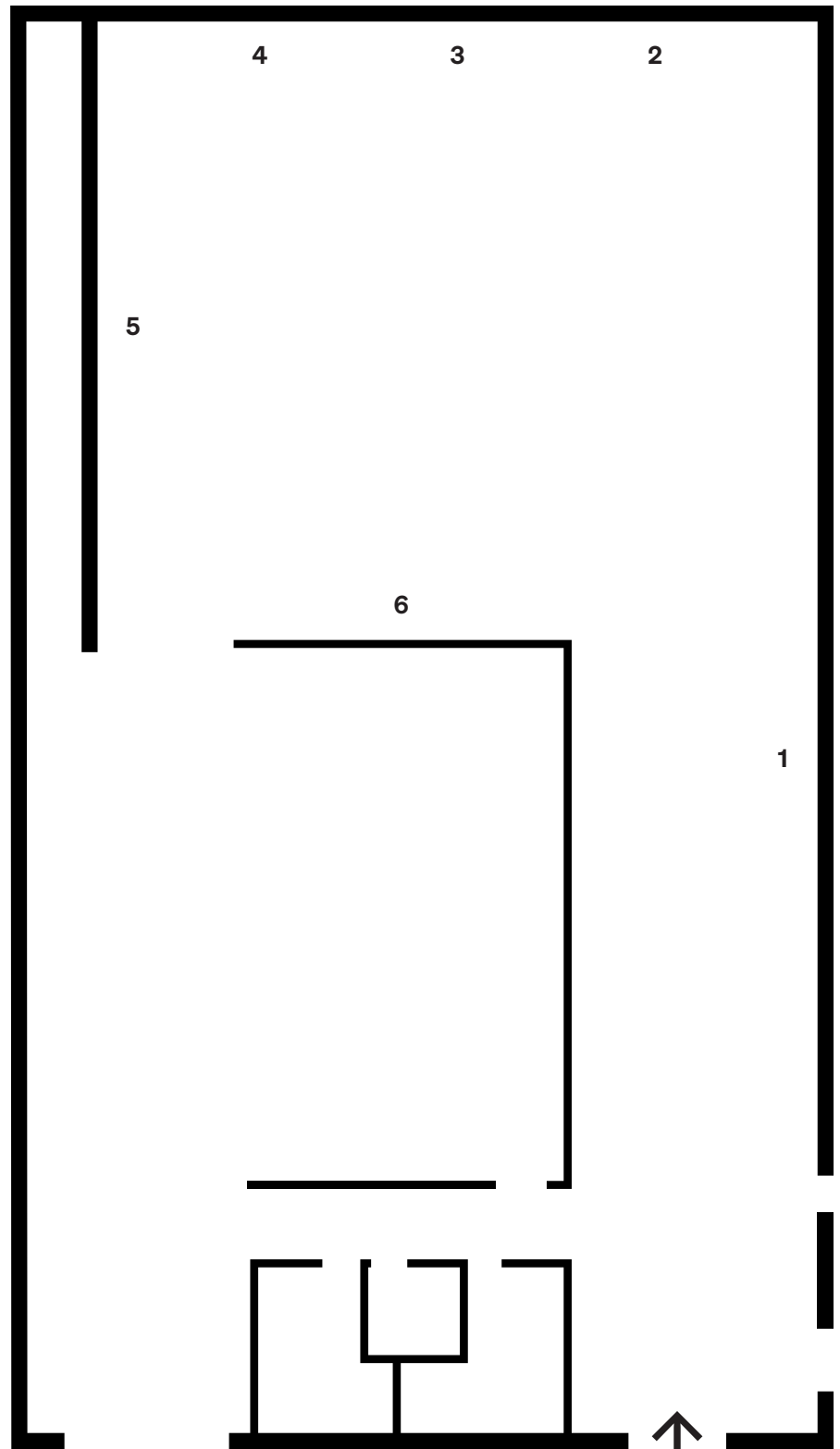
4k video, silent, runtime

5*Door to Lavender House* 2021

Wall drawing

6*Window to Lavender House* 2021

Wall drawing





About the contributors

Sarah Rara

Sarah Rara is an artist based in Los Angeles and Western Massachusetts working with film, video, sound, and performance. She is a primary organizer of the ongoing project Lucky Dragons. Her work, solo and in collaboration, has been presented at such institutions as the Whitney Museum of American Art (as part of the 2008 Whitney Biennial), the Hammer Museum, the Centre Georges Pompidou, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN, London's Institute for Contemporary Art, PS1 in New York, REDCAT and Human Resources in Los Angeles, MOCA Los Angeles, the 54th Venice Biennale, Documenta 14 in Athens, and the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, among others. Rara is a 2018 recipient of the LACMA Art + Technology fellowship, and is currently Assistant Professor of Moving Image at Williams College.

Asha Bukojemsky

Asha Bukojemsky is a Canadian/American independent curator and writer based in Los Angeles. Her practice brings together artists and audiences to generate critical discussions about the construction of identity in a shifting geopolitical landscape. Since 2017 she has produced Marathon Screenings, a series of salon-style film & video presentations, as well as public projects and exhibitions in collaboration with a range of institutions including: JOAN; 18th Street Arts Center; Active Cultures; Richard Neutra VDL House (all in Los Angeles, CA); Creative Migration (Bangkok, TH); Syndicate (Vilnius, LT), amongst others. She graduated with an MLITT from University of Glasgow and a BFA from Concordia University, Montreal. She is the current Program Director at *X-TRA* contemporary art journal.

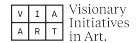
Marathon Screenings

Marathon Screenings is a series of salon-style film and video presentations that invites international and LA-based artists to share their work and engage in meaningful dialogue. The program includes films that range from short, conceptual videos to feature-length experimental documentaries, with performances, readings and lectures. The films challenge existing narratives, focusing on the construction of identity, decolonization, and the politics of memory in a shifting geopolitical landscape.

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Oregon Contemporary would like to recognize that our programming is held on the traditional lands of the Chinook, Cowlitz, and many other Nations. We take this opportunity to offer respectful recognition to the Native communities in our region.

**Oregon
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