

t r a n s f o r m e r

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CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Julia Young
202.483.1102; info@transformerdc.org

t r a n s f o r m e r celebrates the 10th ANNIVERSARY of its SILENT AUCTION & BENEFIT PARTY

Tickets now on-sale for November 15th event at the Corcoran Gallery of Art



On **November 15**, Transformer will celebrate its **10th Annual Silent Auction & Benefit Party** at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, marking a decade of successful fundraising for this unique organization's year-round programming, exhibitions, and services to artists via one of the most highly anticipated events of the fall arts season in Washington, DC. The first arts organization in DC dedicated specifically to connecting and promoting emerging visual artists, Transformer was founded in 2002 and has grown into a visionary leader and stimulus for experimental art, a feat that would not be possible without the immense support amassed through its annual Auction.

Partnering with artists, curators, and a wide range of organizations, Transformer acts as both catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts through programs and services designed to educate artists about opportunities for sustainability, while developing audience through promotion and exposure. Transformer strengthens the creative community by acting as an epicenter for artists, collectors, curators, and supporters with exhibitions, programs, and events that connect the community around artistic display and discourse. The annual Auction is an extension of Transformer's mission, cultivating partnerships between galleries, artists, and local businesses.

Transformer's Annual Auction has grown significantly since its inception, evolving much like the organization itself. While retaining its cutting-edge aesthetic, both Transformer and its Auction have grown incredible support over the past ten years. First hosted by Fusebox Gallery in 2004, the initial Transformer Auction presented a modest yet dynamic group of artists - **Frank Day, Jae Ko, Pepa Leon, Maggie Michael, William A. Newman,**

1404 P Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 | 202.483.1102 | www.transformerdc.org

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Jose Ruiz and Dan Steinhilber, among others - who continue to champion Transformer's work and their peer artists through their Auction participation. The launch of the Transformer's Auction, also grew its committed Board of Directors, who helped to establish and grow a generous Host Committee of friends and supporters of the vivacious new non-profit, which continues to operate out of its 'micro-powerhouse' space at 1404 P Street, NW in Logan Circle. After

two successful Auctions at Fusebox, the DC community's incredible support of the organization through the event led to the need for a larger venue, and in 2006, the 3rd Annual Auction & Benefit Party was presented at Pepco's Edison Place Gallery.

With an increasingly larger Host Committee of individual donors, more than one hundred participating artists, and the introduction of Restaurant and Corporate Sponsors - **Buck's Fishing & Camping**, **Zaytinya**, **Paisley Fig** and **Rippeteau Architects PC**, **Timothy Paul Carpets + Textiles**, among many others continue to help support the event and the organization, Transformer's 4th & 5th Annual Auctions were hosted at John Dreyfuss' Sculpture Studio at Halcyon House. Beautifully re-enforcing Transformer's mission of broad collaborations and partnerships, the Auctions at Halcyon House raised the bar for Transformer's annual event, and set the ambitious tone it would pursue for its next five years.



A primary part of Transformer's mission is to create innovative collaborations with peer art spaces as well as larger cultural institutions both within DC and abroad in an effort to build increased opportunity for emerging artists and their audiences. The 6th & 7th Annual Auctions held at the Mexican Cultural Institute were a very successful turning point in Transformer's work to grow international relationships for artists with the introduction of Auction Diplomatic Chairs. Speaking at a pre-Auction event held at the Mexican Ambassador's residence,

then Ambassador Sarukhan, Diplomatic Chair of the 6th & 7th Annual Auctions shared the following remarks about

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Transformer: *"This wonderful organization has become an essential part of the DC arts scene, providing a platform for emerging artists to explore and present their work. They do this, moreover, not only locally or indeed nationally, but also at an international level, connecting and promoting visual artists through partnerships with institutions abroad, helping cement all important transnational ties that further enrich and stimulate this community."*

In 2011, Transformer solidified its ongoing relationship with the Corcoran via the Auction, yet another bold partnership for the organization that was initiated early on in Transformer's development via exhibitions of graduating Corcoran College of Art + Design artists. The 8th Annual Silent Auction & Benefit Party was presented at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, where it will be presented for the 3rd year in a row this November 15, 2013.



Having garnered ten successful years of support to showcase progressive and experimental artwork through its Auctions, Transformer is proud to present its **10th Annual Silent Auction & Benefit Party** over two floors at the Corcoran this year. This year's Diplomatic Chair, The Ambassador of Colombia, His Excellency Carlos Urrutia, Transformer's Board and illustrious Auction Host Committee, invite guests to an evening of artistic exploration and celebration **Friday, November 15, 8-11pm**. Auction attendees will enjoy savories, sweets, and drinks by many of D.C.'s finest restaurants, as well as dancing to music by DJs Yellow Fever and special guest DJ Natty Boom.

Transformer's 10th Annual Silent Auction & Benefit Party features 200 artworks by local, national, and international emerging and established artists. An extension of Transformer's overall cutting edge aesthetic, the Auction provides new and experienced collectors with a unique opportunity to purchase exceptional work by respected artists, selected by a nominating committee of curators, artists, and arts professionals, including: **Félix Ángel**, Artist; **Seth Adelsberger** and **Alex Ebstein**, Artists and Co-Directors of NUDASHANK; **Eames Armstrong**, Artist and Curator; **Cynthia Connolly**, Artist and Visual Arts Curator at Artisphere; **Maria Fernanda Currea**, Project Manager of Odeon Theatre Foundation; **Mia Feuer**, Artist and Assistant Professor of Sculpture and Art Foundation at George Mason University; **Tim Doud**, Artist and Chair of Fine Art at American University; **Victoria Greising**, Artist and Founding Member of Delicious Spectacle; **Carolina Mayorga**, Artist, as well as Transformer's staff and Board of Directors.

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Tickets are \$150 through November 1; \$175 November 2-14. Advance ticket purchase is required. Tickets can be purchased at <http://transformerauction2013.eventbrite.com> through November 14, 2013. Valet Parking will be available.

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 artist-centered non-profit visual arts organization, providing a consistent, supportive, and professional platform for emerging artists to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, build audiences for their work, and advance their careers. A catalyst and advocate for contemporary artists and emergent expression in the visual arts, Transformer connects and promotes emerging visual artists within regional, national and international contexts through exhibition and programs partnerships with artists, curators, commercial galleries, museums and other cultural institutions.

t r a n s f o r m e r's 2013/14 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/ NEA, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Bernstein Family Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, The Robert Lehman Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors, members of our Annual Auction Host Committee, and Corporate Sponsors.

Image credits: Image banner of selected art works featured in the 10th Annual Auction to be held at the Corcoran Gallery of Art November 15, 2013; 2nd Annual Auction at Fusebox Gallery; 4th Annual Auction at Halcyon House; 6th Annual Auction at the Mexican Cultural Institute; 9th Annual Auction at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Images of selected works from the 2013 Auction (l. to r.): William A. Newman, *Honeybee on Our Space*, 2013; Mariah Anne Johnson, *Pattern Study 2*, 2012; Francis Michael Terzano, *Lindsay*, 2010; Jae Ko, *Yellow*, 2012; Caitlin Teal Price, *RA-Print-26*, 2009; John Bohl, *Nail*, 2012.