

# t r a n s f o r m e r



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 2, 2002**

**Contact: Victoria Reis /**  
**Jayne McLellan**  
**202-544-4668**

Transformer proudly presents **BOOK** – an exhibition of artists' books and zines, September 14 – October 19, 2002. Public Reception: Saturday, September 14, 2002, 6-8 pm.

Artists' books, book art, sculptural bookworks, and zines – Transformer's third exhibition **BOOK** provides a sampling of work by artists exploring the rich genre of art expressed through book and magazine form. Defined by the artist visionaries who founded New York based non-profit artist-organization Printed Matter as "artwork for the page", the artist book medium is an accessible art form that applies visual techniques and structural invention to original texts and experimental materials.

Artists participating in **BOOK** include: **Ken Ashton, Carol Beane & Michael Platt, Cynthia Connolly, Stephen Gibson, Sara Greenberger, Lida Husik, Amanda Kleinman and Stephen Lewis.** The exhibition will also include extensive zine collections from the archives of Dischord Records, as well as Sound Collector publisher Laris Kreslins. A series of handmade artist books and zines incorporating hand-operated letterpress by Horse & Buggy Press and Hot Iron Press will also be on view.

Inspired by the work of Futurists, Dadaists, and the Fluxus group, artist books and zines are sites for a range of concerns or sensibilities to be expressed and communicated, be they personal, social or political. While wildly different, they often incorporate materials that are tactile and usually relating to the metaphor of the text. In the absence of text, the images and structure are the content that create an important link in the transmission and exchange of ideas. With total control over the end product, artist made publications provide a self contained "alternative space" for the presentation of artwork and artistic concepts.

Featuring examples such as flip-books, journals, photo books, and comics, along with accordion fold, multi-fold, bound and/or unbound volumes, the creations in **BOOK** involve the reader actively in the viewing process - not only to see the words on the page, but also to think about how the words, pictures, and physical form of the objects all contribute to their meanings.

Transformer's **BOOK** exhibition will include several ancillary programs throughout September and October including: an all day visit by the **International Artist Book Mobile on September 24** with book-binding and self-publishing workshops; poetry readings by participating **BOOK** artists Stephen Gibson and Carol Beane; and a talk on book conservation with **BOOK** artist Lida Husik.

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Transformer gallery is a non-profit alternative art space founded by curators and art organizers Victoria Reis and Jayne McLellan. Transformer seeks to connect and promote emerging artists through high quality, professional exhibitions and workshops, while providing much needed mentoring and peer-networking among local, national, and international artists. Partnering with artists, curators, alternative non-profit and independent art spaces, as well as commercial galleries, museums and other cultural institutions, Transformer serves as a catalyst and an advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts.

Transformer is located at 1404 P Street, NW Washington, DC 20005. Gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 6:30 to 8:30pm, Saturday from 1-6 pm or by appointment. Artists who are interested in submitting work to Transformer: please send slides, resume, artist statement and SASE for return of the work to: Transformer, 1404 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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