

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## *Before The Law*

March 14, 2015 – April 25, 2015

### Opening Reception:

Saturday, March 14, 6-8pm

Featuring a vocal performance by Slaveya

### Artist Talk & Workshop:

Saturday, April 11, 3pm



In their first collaboration, Philadelphia based artists **Jane Carver** and **Raúl Romero** present an exhibition of performance, sound and video at Transformer. Using Kafka's parable *Before the Law* as a point of origin, the works presented explore the tensions between absolutism and relativity. The parable appears in Kafka's book *The Trial*, which celebrates its centennial anniversary this year. Embodying the story's tale of a man's untenable pursuit to understand Law and its complications, the artists explore the malleable relationships between sounds, images and their forms.

In this exhibition, Jane ushers in diaphonic tonal sounds, Bulgarian folk music and performance to accompany Raul's video works. This crossing of sound and video culminates in creating a space of action with a live sound performance acting as a soundtrack to Raul's videos. Diaphonic sounds, found in Bulgarian culture, create a striking tension, which reminds the listener that sound is a physical force. Jane was introduced to diaphonic singing through *Les Mystere Des Voix Bulgares*, a volume of different folk ensembles re-released in 1986 by Peter Murphy, the singer from Bauhaus.

**Raúl Romero** is a member of the Philadelphia artist collective Space 1026, and a 2015 Artist-in-Residence at RAIR. He holds a BA from the University of South Florida. He has exhibited at Fleisher Art Memorial, Pentimenti Gallery, The Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, and in Tampa, FL at The Museum of Science and Industry, The Tampa Museum of Art and The Contemporary Art Museum, where he was awarded The William and Nancy Oliver Gallery Prize by Anne Pasternak for the 32nd Annual Juried Exhibition.

**Jane Carver** is the Artist-in-Residence at The Association for Cultural Equity: The Alan Lomax Archive and co-founder of the performance series Low Stakes at Hunter College. She sings with the Bulgarian women's choir, Yasna Voices, and will be traveling this August to Koprivshitsa for the National Festival of Bulgarian Folklore. She has performed at AUX Space at Vox Populi, Queens Museum, The American Folk Art Museum, and in the art and sound festival *Groundswell* at Olana in Hudson, NY.

Jane and Raul both participated in *Promised Land*, Transformer's 2014 summer artist residency and exhibition in Asbury Park, NJ.

Image: Jane Carver & Raúl Romero, *Before The Law*, 2014

**EXHIBITION HOURS: Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm and by appointment.**

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**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 2014/15 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 Robert Lehman Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The S&R Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors, members of our Annual Auction Host Committee, and Corporate Sponsors.

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