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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 21, 2021 CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Katie Lee 202.483.1102/info@transformerdc.org

Envisioning Benefit Exhibition + Online Auction

American University's Katzen Arts Center November 6 – 21, 2021

Transformer is honored to announce *Envisioning*, a Benefit Exhibition + Online Auction. The artwork in *Envisioning* is being presented via a two-week exhibition at American University's Katzen Arts Center, November 6 - 21, with an accompanying online art auction for the purchase of artworks via Transformer's website.

This very special benefit exhibition and online auction features an impressive array of 100+ artworks in a variety of mediums, dimensions and prices, by a dynamic diversity of DC & national artists. All sale proceeds from *Envisioning* support the participating artists and Transformer's innovative year-round programming, exhibitions, and services.



Envisioning is inspired by artists, and Transformer's work over the past 18 months, reimagining programs, collaborations and events in response to limitations and challenges the pandemic has imposed. We are envisioning a vibrant, forward-thinking future of exciting possibilities as we approach Transformer's 20th anniversary in 2022! Many of the artworks featured in *Envisioning* reflect on this theme and consider the future artists are imagining.

For the first time, Transformer is presenting our Annual Auction in a virtual format, making collecting art and supporting artists even more accessible. Our traditional one-night event has been reimagined with a two-week exhibition presented within the Rotunda at American University's Katzen Arts Center, allowing collectors the opportunity to leisurely visit and view the strong selection of artworks in-person, and an accompanying online auction for the purchase of artworks to expand collector networks for the participating artists.

Artists have been invited to participate in *Envisioning* via a nominating committee comprised of DC artists and arts leaders, including: Christopher Addison, *Addison/Ripley Fine Art*, Zoë Charlton, *Artist, Professor of Art, Collaborator & Co-Director, American University MFA Studio Art Program;* Tim Doud, *Artist, Professor of Art, Collaborator & Co-Director, American University MFA Studio Art Program;* Katie Lee, *Exhibitions & Programs Manager, Transformer,* Victoria Reis, *Executive & Artistic Director, Transformer;* Jennifer Sakai, *Artist, Educator & Curator,* Sheldon Scott, *Artist,* and Virginia Shore, *Art Consultant.*

Envisioning highlights the exceptional relationship Transformer has established with American University's MFA Studio Art Program. Transformer is proud to be working with American University's MFA Studio Art Program professors and students, connecting our programming with the University's curriculum in its MFA Professional Practices course.

Serving as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts, Transformer connects and promotes emerging arts leaders with vital resources to elevate them and their work, and engages growing audiences with new and best practices within the evolving contemporary arts field. Transformer is honored to continue stimulating and impacting the cultural landscape of DC and beyond with *Envisioning*.

Envisioning public exhibition hours at American University's Katzen Arts Center are Friday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm. Admission is free; no reservations required. Visit American University's <u>website</u> for health and safety protocols details. *Envisioning* online auction launches November 6. Registration details can be found at www.transformerdc.org.

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Participating *Envisioning* artists include (as of 10/21/21):

Nick Abriola Aphra Adkins Geoffrey Aldridge Courtney Applequist Eames Armstrong Joan Belmar BHARF Jessica Cebra Mei Mei Chang Shiloah Symone Coley Lely Constantinople Amber McKay Cruz Frank Hallam Day Muse Dodd Tim Doud Aubrey Dunn Edgar Endress Hyunsuk Erickson Yacine Tilala Fall Mahsa R. Fard Martina Fornace Adrienne Gaither Maps Glover Carol Brown Goldberg Alexis Gomez

Felipe Goncalves Kyle Hackett Jason Hamacher Katie Hartley Rania Hassan Mira Hecht Max Hirshfeld Leslie Holt Sarah J. Hull Imar Hutchins Rose Jaffe Clarence James Charles Philippe Jean-Pierre Kaitlin Jencso LA Johnson Wayson Jones Chandi Kelley Micheline Klagsburn Yar Koporulin Victor Koroma Nilay Lawson & David Armacost Jessica Frances Grégoire-Lancaster Hatnim Lee

Traci Marie Lee Andrea Limauro Katana Lippart Marissa Long Kate MacDonnell **Timothy Makepeace** Nicole Maloof Isabel Manalo Jaimes Mayhew Felicita Felli Maynard Carolina Mayorga Andy McIntyre Stephanie Mercedes Jackie Milad Chris Mills Ziad Nagy Saehyun Paik Marc Pekala Alanna Reeves Mojdeh Rezaeipour Brian Rideout Amber Robles-Gordon MichaelAngelo Rodriguez Robin Rose Matthew Russo

Jennifer Sakai Kate Samworth Carlos Santana Sheldon Scott Matt Sesow Farrah Skeiky Hannah Spector Zach Storm Renee Stout Lynn Sures Lisa Marie Thalhammer Kelly Towles Dan Treado Antonia Tricarico Nina Vitale Cristian Wicha Julie Wolfe Naoko Wowsugi Jenny Wu You Wu Yuriko Yamaguchi Meena Yi Ruri Yi Trevor Young Monsieur Zohore

ENVISIONING EXHIBITION PROGRAMS:

SAT, NOV 6, 11AM - 4PM: CURATORIAL WALK THROUGHS + ARTIST TALKS

A series of guided walk-throughs of *Envisioning*, led by Transformer's staff & select Artist Nominating Committee Members with *Envisioning* artists, at American University's Katzen Arts Center. Each walk-through will run approximately 45-60 minutes and have a limit of 20 attendees. Advance registration and completion of American University's Health & Safety Agreement required. To register, please visit <u>https://bit.ly/Envisioning-ProgrammingRegistration</u>.

SAT, NOV 13, 11AM - 4PM: CURATORIAL WALK THROUGHS + ARTIST TALKS

A series of guided walk-throughs of *Envisioning*, led by Transformer's staff & select Artist Nominating Committee Members with *Envisioning* artists, at American University's Katzen Arts Center. Each walk-through will run approximately 45-60 minutes and have a limit of 20 attendees. Advance registration and completion of American University's Health & Safety Agreement required. To register, please visit <u>https://bit.ly/Envisioning-ProgrammingRegistration</u>.

+ ADDITIONAL ONLINE PROGRAMMING: Follow us on Instagram @transformerdc for Envisioning artists highlights.

Envisioning Image Credit: LA Johnson

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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. Founded in June 2002 by artists & arts organizers, Transformer's mission is to connect, elevate, and serve a diversity of emerging artists and arts leaders. We develop innovative, multi-faceted exhibition and program platforms, both independently and through global partnerships, to present artists' evolving ideas and work, advance new and best visual arts practices, and engage audiences with emerging contemporary art. Transformer is committed to diversity, professional excellence, artist equity, open dialogue, expansive cultural exchange, and freedom of artistic expression.

t r a n s f o r m e r's 2021 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, The National Endowment for the Arts Art Works, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The Sachiko Kuno Foundation, Truist Foundation, and our Visionary Leaders Circle – a arowing aroup of individual donors & corporate sponsors.



American University is a leading student-centered research university where College of Arts & Sciences partners with key organizations in the Washington, DC, region, and around

the globe to better the human condition, learn from a vast array of experiences and internships, create meaningful change, and address society's current and emerging challenges.