

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

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CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Katie Lee  
202.483.1102 or [info@transformerdc.org](mailto:info@transformerdc.org)



## *Looking In/Looking Out*

Spring 2021 storefront exhibition series

Featuring solo installations by artists:

**Absurdly Well:** *Unrestricted Heritage*

March 20 – April 10, 2021

**Armando Lopez-Bircann:** *Arma the Oracle: Extended Reality (XR)*

April 24 – May 22, 2021

**Yacine Tilala Fall:** *Trying to be Whole (Living in Parts: Blood, Body, and Faith)*

June 5 – July 3, 2021

This spring 2021, Transformer presents *Looking In/Looking Out* - a series of three solo storefront exhibitions by DC-based artists **Absurdly Well**, **Armando Lopez-Bircann**, and **Yacine Tilala Fall**.

Each artist will be creating site-specific installations in Transformer's storefront window space, with public programs taking place in person and within online formats. Seeking to encourage audiences to look within themselves and outward at the world, Well, Lopez-Bircann, and Fall explore and present personal and overarching social themes toward increased understanding and empathy of our shared humanity. The artists will be communicating and engaging audiences through a range of visual mediums and multiple public platforms.

With *Unrestricted Heritage*, artist **Absurdly Well** will represent a diversity of black icons in fresh ways. Seeking to build awareness of Black History beyond 'Black History Month' and reflecting on the turbulent and historical milestones experienced in Washington, DC since the Covid-19 pandemic began, *Unrestricted Heritage* will feature a depth of field installation inside Transformer's storefront with corresponding art actions throughout the Logan Circle area. Working with Naima Costello, an expert stencil craftswoman, Absurdly Well will incorporate mixed media elements and color theory in the presentation of this new work.

**Armando Lopez-Bircann** shares their vision of an ethical queer future with *Arma the Oracle: Extended Reality (XR)*. In their Tarot-inspired performances, Lopez-Bircann's alter ego, Arma Dura, will summon the cyber faeries, wield the Glitchblade, and channel other guides in this oracle card reading. Through Lopez-Bircann's wearable sculptures and augmented-reality attire, which explore non-binary and binary gender aesthetics, they push the limits of what types of reality - both virtually and physically - are possible, and present alternative futures to strive towards.

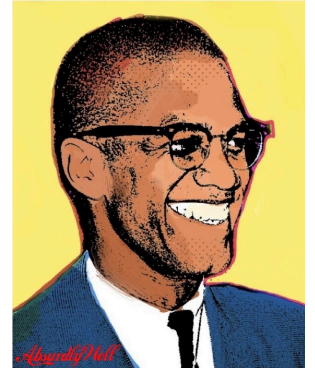
With *Trying to be Whole (Living in Parts: Blood, Body, and Faith)*, **Yacine Tilala Fall** breaks apart her body into three foundational parts - body, blood, and faith - in her attempt to find place within the world. Fall's identity is inextricably tied to her parents' immigration to the United States by way of Dakar, Senegal; her religious beliefs, social attitudes, and gender expressions have been shaped by the perspectives and priorities that her parents have chosen to bring or leave behind. By incorporating the use of materials echoing home, including sisal, raw clay, and incense from Dakar, into her performative practice, Fall attempts to explore the complexities of identity, while navigating the ripple effects of generational trauma.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Absurdly Well is a multi-disciplinary abstract painter, street artist and clothing designer. Since 2017 the artist has anonymously served political print stencils in public space bearing the Instagram handle signature @AbsurdlyWell in Coca-Cola font stencil. The artist's iconic works are intended to uplift the public and create community awareness, featuring portraits of AOC, Elijah Cummings, and Oprah, and phrases like "Wash your Hands", "Go-Go vs Everybody". Works have been profiled in *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Informer*, *WAMU.com* and on social media. Absurdly Well is a Washington DC favorite and is well known throughout the DMV area.

Image Credit: Absurdly Well, *Untitled (Malcolm X)*, 2021



Armando Lopez-Bircann is a Latinx artist who engineers wearable sculptures, digital media and performances. Their practice is framed by immigrant narratives, genderfluid expression and digital native sensibilities. They are currently based in Washington, DC.

Image Credit: Armando Lopez-Bircann, *The Eco Fem Nom 1*, 2021

Yacine Tilala Fall is an interdisciplinary conceptual artist currently based in Washington D.C. She received a BFA from the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design. Inspired by her Senegalese and Mauritanian heritage, her work and practice speak to the human body and its entangled relationship with labor, history, and faith. Using natural materials, she investigates concepts of heritage, ritual, and function through performance, sculpture, painting and installation.

Image Credit: Mahnoor Soofi, *Trying To Be Whole (Living in Parts): Head Study*, 2021



Image Credit: Yacine Tilala Fall

**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 connects and promotes a diversity of emerging artists & emerging arts leaders within local, national and international contexts. Our mission is to create and cultivate innovative exhibition and programming collaborations and platforms for emerging artists and arts leaders to explore and present experimental artistic concepts, foster cultural dialogue, build audiences for new & best practices in contemporary visual art, and advance artists' careers.

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