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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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E10: Conceptual Art

July 11 – August 17, 2013

Transformer is proud to present the 10th year of our *Exercises for Emerging Artists* program, featuring three individual exhibitions by artists **Adrian Parsons**, **Jane Claire Remick**, and **chukwumaa**.

Adrian Parsons: *EVERYNONE*

July 11 – July 20, 2013

Opening Reception:

Thursday, July 11, 6pm – Friday, July 12, 6pm

Jane Claire Remick: *ESL for Native Speakers*

July 25 – August 3 2013

Opening Reception and Class Registration:

Thursday, July 25, 4-8pm

chukwumaa: *Thee Urban(e)*

August 8 – August 17, 2013

Opening Reception and Performance: Thursday, August 8, 6-8pm



E10 Artist Talk: August 10, 4-6pm

Transformer is proud to present the 10th year of our *Exercises for Emerging Artists* program, a peer critique & mentorship series created to support artists at critical points in their professional growth and development, and advance their creative careers. *E10: Conceptual Art* features three individual exhibitions by artists **Adrian Parsons**, **Jane Claire Remick**, and **chukwumaa**, exploring concepts related to appropriation, linguistics & communication, and identity through conceptual and physical means.

Launched in March 2004, Transformer's annual *Exercises For Emerging Artists* series consists of comprehensive bi-weekly gatherings spanning four months, designed to stimulate and encourage the participating artists as they create new work. In addition to peer critique sessions, the participating artists received mentorship and critical feedback on their work from *E10* Guest Lead Mentor **Kathryn Cornelius**, *E10* Coordinator **Eames Armstrong**, Transformer Executive & Artistic Director Victoria Reis, and visiting mentors: **Alberto Gaitán**, **Rebecca Goyette**, and **Phyllis Klein** of **FabLab**.

E10 Lead Guest Mentor **Kathryn Cornelius** remarks, "The opportunity to work with and learn from these talented, thoughtful artists is a gift. Many of their ideas and inclinations are developed out of the messy aftermath of previous generations that also challenged the use and abuse of language, epistemology, and identity politics. Rather than reproduce a state that is comfortably numb or snark disguised as critique, the artists walk the viewer directly into the pyre. They take as material the constant vicissitudes of culture, and the lack of stability and cohesion among institutions and humanity.

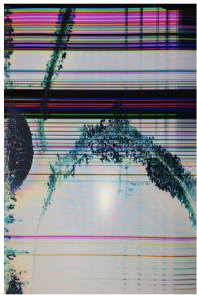
'The medicine and sickness cure each other' – Yunmen

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We are living in a time of transition. Relationships inherent to staid dualities illustrate the need for change, and mainstream media has nothing to say. These exhibitions ask us to look for legitimate ways to compare apples and oranges, to negotiate peace treaties between Yes and No, Us and Them. Harmony emerges from conflict. Let instability do its work."

E10 Coordinator **Eames Armstrong** states, "The artists were selected for their individual motivation, accomplishments and strength of their disparate practices, in addition to a common interest in the intersection of conceptual work and social practice. Through critical conversation and feedback, the artists worked out their own problems in part through answering each other's questions. The final exhibitions privilege process and concept. Transformer's support of artists, alternative practices, and process over product provided the essential time and space for these dynamic projects to be realized."



Adrian Parsons' installation *EVERYNONE* displays every one of his discarded ideas, collected over 8 years in written notes, transcribed in full on Transformer's walls during a 48-hour endurance installation. Questioning the commerce or carelessness of re-appropriation through producing a space-as-document, Parsons invites the public to take his concepts for themselves or delete the text through their own gesture of erasure.

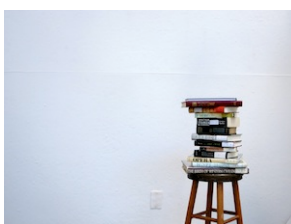
Adrian Parsons is an activist and performance artist whose work is based on aiding or subverting the body and its provocative interactions with systems. Parsons has shown at The Fridge, Flashpoint, NYC's Dorian Grey and The Warehouse in an offshoot of the DC Arts Fair. His continuing *Drone* series began as an imagined post-apocalypse through a POV helmet channeling the gaze of a remote curator atop the Gansevoort Hotel roof during Art Basel Miami Beach in 2009. He has collaborated with SUNY Buffalo's Matt Sargent in sound & video offerings, and more recently founded the performance art team Kool Raunch Collective with dancer Sebastian Rousseau of Korzo Theater Den Haag. Last year he gained international attention for a twenty-five day hunger strike promoting DC voting rights.



Jane Claire Remick's *ESL for Native Speakers* explores ways in which linguistic and contextual cues inform the parameters of daily interactions and the self. By sourcing language-instruction materials that emphasize communicative learning over literacy, Transformer is transformed into the *Transformer Institute Language Lab*. The viewer as student is asked to deduce and learn appropriate responses using role-play and interactive web applications.

Jane Claire says of her practice, "Influenced by my background in sociology and linguistics, I source symbolic and codified imagery from historical reference and media sources using tools like google image search or library archives. Just as in spoken language there is often a disparity between what is said and what is understood, there is often gap between what is seen and the concept associated with it. I aim to reveal and explore spaces of silence between what is stated and experienced while acknowledging that neither represents a definitive reality, evoking both social consciousness and the emotional tension of ambiguity."

Visit www.ESLfor nativespeakers.com to register for classes. Classes will be held at Transformer on Saturday, July 27, 1-2:30pm and 4-5:30pm, Thursday, August 1, 6-7:30pm, Saturday, August 3, 1-2:30pm and 4-5:30pm.



chukwumaa's *Thee Urban(e)* explores the complex intersection of education, affluence and race using the symbols of clothing, the book and metamorphosis. The adage goes 'know thyself, and adorn thyself accordingly', but it's never that simple when contending with another's gaze. chukwumaa states: "In external perception and actuality, education - and, by extension, intelligence - has always been a fraught arena for young men of color. For many it can be hopelessly out of reach or very difficult to

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attain. And when attaining education is directly conflated with success, this can be an especially sore situation. This conflation moves education into the realm of class marker, the way that possessions like a house, car or clothes can function."

Lagos, Nigeria born chukwumaa, (pronounced CHOO-KWOO-mah, all lower-case,) graduated from the University of Maryland in 2012. He has exhibited and performed at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, (e)merge art fair, Artisphere, Hillyer Art Space, and in public around Washington, DC and Maryland.

E10: CONCEPTUAL ART EXHIBITION HOURS: Each of the three *E10: Conceptual Art* solo exhibitions are open to the public for seven days each. Launching with a Thursday evening opening reception, public hours are offered from noon-6pm the following Friday & Saturday, and then the following week, Wednesday –Saturday, and by appointment.

Image credits: *E10: Conceptual Art* exhibition card image, collaboratively created by the E10 artists; Adrian Parsons, *EVERYONE* (study1.a), digital photo, 2013; Jane Claire Remick, Logo for The Transformer Institute Language Lab, digital image, 2013; chukwumaa, performance still and study for *Confessions of a Former Bookworm*, digital photo, 2013.

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 Robert Lehman 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.