

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2009

CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Marissa Long
202-483-1102

Transformer is proud to announce our first international presentation of Washington, DC artists abroad with the exhibition *Give & Take / Da y Toma* at Garash Galeria, Mexico City, July 30 – August 20, 2009

Advancing our mission to build a broad network of support for emerging artists, their ideas and work, and to further contemporary art dialogue within Washington, DC and beyond, Transformer is very pleased to announce the continuation of our artistic exchange with Mexico City and Garash Galeria, with the upcoming *Give & Take/ Da y Toma* exhibition.

Following the success of the *ID-entity* exhibition presented September 12 – October 18, 2008 at Transformer and the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, DC, which highlighted the work of ten Mexico City-based emerging artists, *Give & Take/ Da y Toma* at Garash Galeria (July 30 – August 20, 2009) will present the work of five DC-based emerging artists - **Holly Bass, Breck Brunson, Nilay Lawson, Solomon Sanchez, and Chakraphan Rangaratna (aka Señor Tangcito, aka Tang)** – each of whom will be exhibiting internationally for the first time.



Garash Galeria, Mexico City

The artists in *Give & Take/Da y Toma* are creating new, conceptual works that focus on the dynamics of exchange. Through artistic action, installation, and the creation of artist built environments, the participating artists investigate aspects of competition, fair play, ownership, equality, and stewardship. Responding to and inspired by cultural differences and similarities, the global economy, human nature and the natural environment, the artists in *Give & Take/Da y Toma* playfully challenge audiences to think about and interpret common and uncommon interactions.

Transformer is thrilled to be able to provide the participating *Give & Take/Da y Toma* artists the opportunity to spend ten days in Mexico City (July 22- August 1, 2009), where they will meet with peer emerging artists as well as arts leaders, install their work, engage with audiences through an opening reception and artist talks, and experience aspects of life in another federal city. Committed to expanding Washington, DC based emerging artists' networks, while also building greater understanding for the work of emerging artists based internationally, Transformer will continue developing opportunities for artistic exchanges with other international cities in upcoming exhibition seasons.

Give & Take/Da y Toma is made possible in large part by the substantial award of a \$20,000 grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, with matching support from individual contributions. Many thanks to The Ambassador of Mexico, His Excellency Arturo Sarukhan, and Mrs. Veronica Valencia-Sarukhan, for their championing of this project.

About the artists:

Through performances, lectures, video, and other mixed media work, **Holly Bass** explores personal identity, focusing on "what it [means] to be Black in the 21st Century." Drawing upon childhood memories and family history, her work in *Give & Take/Da y Toma* will touch on subjects of racial identity and cultural access. Constructing a small room containing a series of interactive pieces including musical, "pay-per-view" storybooks and antique banks, Holly's installation reflects on the alienation she experienced as an African American child living in London, and her means of emotional escape.

t r a n s f o r m e r

While often giving the intentional first impression of presenting artistic exercises in either absurdist or straight-forward humor, **Breck Brunson's** work contains a charged subtlety that reflects a much deeper consideration of societal ideals. Breck's multi-layered project for *Give & Take/Da y Toma* will explore ideas of competition and ownership through a series of interventions in Garash's gallery space, including a gated-off paper staircase, and an inconsequential racetrack for two.

Since receiving her BFA from the Corcoran College of Art + Design in 2002, **Nilay Lawson** has relentlessly pursued her art-making to, as she says, "record scenes, people and wordplay, then translate them into pictorials. [Her] goal is to amuse, entertain and relate to what [she] believes are similar notions in all of us." Constantly outside in the city for both work and recreation, Nilay is influenced by the people around her and elements of the city itself. Her work in *Give & Take/Da y Toma* will document the parallels and contrasts that surface in transferring her personal, daily activities in one federal city to another, whether the activities be eating, playing, exploring, or dog-walking.

Rich with symbolism and metaphor, **Solomon Sanchez's** artwork strives to relate personal problems to larger cultural predicaments by engaging audiences to question apparent connections in the work, to subvert solutions into problems, and vice versa. For *Give & Take/Da y Toma*, Solomon will investigate perceptions of "foreign" culture, how those perceptions relate to economics, as well as "the inevitable forces that time and nature have on civilizations." Focusing on spatial interventions, Solomon will present a series of installations including a sandcastle left to disintegrate under the slow influence of four standing fans, and a number of soccer balls adorned with adhesive Rolls Royce logos, a reference both to shared cultural values and to language ("rolling R's").

Señor Tangcito's bold, highly stylized, and meticulously rendered work explores his relationship to nature as well as emotional and personal experiences. Often serving as visual diaries of his international trips, the colorful, geometric, landscape-evoking shapes Tangcito paints on the walls of his exhibition spaces provide a backdrop for more intricately-rendered drawings and installation details, including small architectural elements, various drawn characters, and minimal text, all of which communicate a fond, celebratory interpretation of the wonder he takes away from his travels and the people he encounters along the way. For *Give & Take/Da y Toma*, Tang will create a site-specific installation of these unique and intricate works.

For more information on ***Give & Take/Da y Toma*** and other Transformer programs and exhibitions, please see our website: www.transformergallery.org, or contact us at 202.483.1102, or info@transformergallery.org.

Located in a beautiful former mansion at Álvaro Obregón 49, in the Colonia Roma neighborhood of Mexico City, **Garash Galería** was founded by Rodrigo Espinosa to represent dynamic emerging artists in Mexico City and to present excellent international emerging talents. www.garashgaleria.com

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, D.C. based 501(c) 3 non-profit, artist-centered visual arts organization that connects and promotes emerging artists locally, nationally and internationally. Partnering with artists, curators, art spaces and other cultural entities, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts. Transformer's 2008/2009 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 Robert Lehman Foundation, The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.