

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HomoCats: Fight the Power February 8 – March 15, 2014

Exhibition Opening Reception:
Saturday, February 8, 6-8pm

Pussy Pop Performance: Purrrformance Art Party

Saturday, February 8, 9pm-2am

Black Whiskey

Be My Forever Valentine: Cat Adoption Day

Saturday, February 15, 12-3pm

Transformer



Transformer presents NYC-based artist J. Morrison's *HomoCats: Fight the Power*, a large-scale installation exploring both the abundance of cat culture on the Internet (such as *I Can Has Cheezburger*) and the intersection of art & activism. Morrison's drawings, prints, and related multiples utilize the popularity of the feline as a vehicle to address socio-political concerns. Humorous and playful, the *HomoCats'* banners and slogans brazenly counteract phobias and debunk cultural stereotypes, propose equal rights, examine global health concerns, and challenge social norms.

In recent years, cats have taken over the internet and ascended to a dubious new throne in pop consciousness. More recently, these same cybercats have invaded the art world, most famously during the Walker Art Center's Internet Cat Film Festival. Everybody loves cats, but does everyone love HomoCats?

Paying homage to historic queer symbols such as the rainbow flag and pink triangle, Morrison's exhibition features a new wallpaper and digital photography installation created specifically for Transformer. Statements such as "We eat homophobes for dinner" and "We are fatigued with gay marriage" encapsulate concerns of our human condition. Exhibited during Valentine's Day, the *HomoCats* question the state of modern love.

Morrison first created his pantheon of *HomoCats* during a 2010 residency at the Anderson Ranch in Colorado. Versions of the *HomoCats* have been presented at the NY and LA Art Book Fairs, exhibited at BGSQD in NYC, Lorem Ipsum in Boston and the Brooklyn Fireproof Gallery in NY. This installation at Transformer will be the largest exhibition of the series.

J. Morrison is a multidisciplinary Brooklyn-based artist working in print, performance, and curatorial projects. He often favors using the art of the ephemeral, multiples, and take-away pieces within his practice. His work has been exhibited in venues including MoMA PS1, NY; the MACRO Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome; KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; all of the NY/LA Art Book Fairs, Printed Matter, NYC; P.P.O.W, NYC; BGSQD, NYC; Forever & Today, NYC; Exit Art, NYC; White Box, NYC; ISE Cultural Foundation, NYC; MOCA Cleveland, the Art Institute of Boston, and Boston University. His multiples have been featured at the New Museum Store, NYC; Printed Matter, NYC; Art Metropole, Toronto; Bloomingdale's, NYC; Cinders, NY; and through Visual AIDS, NYC. The artist was included in Transformer's 2012 *Remixed Messages* group exhibition. *HomoCats: Fight the Power* is his first solo exhibition in Washington, DC.

HomoCats: Fight the Power Programming:

Pussy Pop Performance: Purrrformance Art Party

Saturday, February 8, 9pm-2am at Black Whiskey - \$10

t r a n s f o r m e r

Inspired by J. Morrison's *HomoCats*, Transformer in collaboration with Animals & Fire present a night of performance art exploring the intersection of the freedoms of club culture, fashion and digital politics. www.facebook.com/animalsandfire
Proceeds support Animals & Fire.

Be My Forever Valentine: Cat Adoption Day

Saturday, February 15, 12-3pm at Transformer

Transformer in collaboration with Homeward Trails, hosts a special Valentine's weekend cat adoption event to support and promote feline rescue and adoption. www.homewardtrails.org

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

Image: J. Morrison, *We Are Tired of Homophobia*, 36 x 48", digital C-print, 2014

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 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.