

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Transformer is very pleased to present:

NILAY LAWSON:

*If You Didn't Know What This Was,
Would You Know What This Is?*

November 1 – December 6, 2008

OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, November 1, 7-9pm

ARTIST TALK: November 8, 2008, 2pm



Continuing our commitment to highlight the work of exceptional DC-based emerging artists, Transformer's 6th Annual DC Artist Solo Exhibition presents the work of Nilay Lawson in her first solo exhibition. Staging artistic interventions throughout Transformer's project space to create a comprehensive presentation of her 2-D and 3-D work, Nilay explores the seemingly banal issues of daily life and their broader implications on her art-making processes. Questioning whether or not her artistic endeavors only truly exist in the conceptual form, when a project can actually be considered "finished", and if the objects she creates are merely remainders of larger artistic production - Nilay's paintings, drawings, and mixed media installations featured in *If You Didn't Know What This Was, Would You Know What This Is?* document her obsessive consideration of objects and belongings used, consumed, and often discarded.

As someone who is constantly outside in the city for both work and recreation, Nilay is continually influenced by the people she encounters, and the physical components of the city itself. While she is partly transforming the gallery with the stylized elements of a familiar indoor home setting (installing hand-painted, mock wooden floorboards, and simulating unfinished paint jobs on the edges of the gallery walls), she is also bringing much of the external city indoors. A group of gnawed-at chicken bones, found on the street and memorialized by the artist through a process of electroform copper-plating will be on display, as well as a collection of found gun-shaped pieces of wood. Further documentation of objects used and discarded can be found in Nilay's video game-esque, looped animation of trash being passed or apparently floating by on the sidewalk, and her diorama composed entirely of a spectrum of seeds and pits obsessively collected from various organic matter she's consumed over several years. While Nilay's fascination with organic and temporal matter is highly present, her initial training as a graphic designer is also apparent in her frequent use of text throughout her work. *If You Didn't Know What This Was, Would You Know What This Is?* features an installation of molded concrete alphabet letters, and appropriated snippets of conversations overheard on the street in a series of limited edition prints.

Representing both her personal and general considerations of the world around her, and the intimate and universal meanings of objects and occurrences, this comprehensive exhibition is composed of Nilay's newest artistic ideas alongside long-contemplated concepts that she felt she was finally able to realize through this show with Transformer. Along with the aforementioned works, the gallery is brimming with additional paintings and small, surprising installations waiting to be discovered. About the exhibition, Nilay sates, "It compiles many endeavors I have approached to date as an artist. I'm releasing the evidence of my art experiences."

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Nilay Lawson was born in Wertzburg, Germany in 1980. As the daughter of an Army dad, she spent the earlier part of her childhood moving around and traveling frequently. Her family was an adventurous one that spent many weekends exploring and making trips, even after moving to the US in 1990. Nilay recalls that, no matter where they were, her father always maintained a creative environment and had a studio in their house filled with books, notebooks composed of short stories, and piles of paintings and collages. Nilay finished her last years of high school in Laurel, MD before attending the Corcoran College of Art + Design, Washington, DC, where she majored in Graphic Design and studied printmaking. Since earning her BFA in 2002, Nilay has continued to live and work in DC, exhibiting her art in the city and beyond.

EXHIBITION HOURS: Wednesday - Saturday, 1-7 pm & by appointment.

For further information, please contact Victoria Reis or Marissa Long at: info@transformergallery.org or 202.483.1102.

TRANSFORMER 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 is 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 Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

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