

t r a n s f o r m e r

Sustainability Lab Schedule – May 2010

All programs are free and open to the public.

All programs take place at Transformer's 1404 P Street, NW project space unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, May 1

3 – 4pm: *The New Cultural Worker.* A presentation by *Sustainability Lab* artist-in-residence Jeff Hnilicka. Happy May Day! Celebrate Beltane (marking the end of winter) and International Worker's Day, by taking part in this interactive presentation as Jeff explores new methods of producing and consuming culture. Dream who you'll become this growing season and imagine new ways of organizing our communities.

Wednesday, May 5

1 – 5pm: *Is it Going to Last?* Engage with Transformer's artist-in-residence Jeff Hnilicka and his *Sustainability Lab* installation. Consider multi-faceted issues surrounding ideas of sustainability while contributing to the planning of activities for both *Sustainability Lab* and *Open Engagement*, a conference exploring similar themes in Portland, OR, May 14 – 17 (www.openengagement.info).

Audiences are encouraged to participate in brainstorming around emerging models of art, food, and cultural production. This installation will document sustainable community projects from around the country, along with ideas and feedback from the DC community. Contributions to this aggregating collection of histories, dreams, and schemes will travel with Jeff this spring to his projects in DC, Philadelphia, Portland, Chicago, Minneapolis, NYC, and many points in between.

6:30 – 8pm: *Intro to FEAST.* Join Jeff Hnilicka, co-founder of Funding Emerging Art with Sustainable Tactics (FEAST - www.feastinbklyn.org), for an overview of this recurring public dinner designed to use community-driven financial support to democratically fund new and emerging art makers. Learn about the 10+ sister projects across the country that use a democratic curatorial and funding model. Is this feasible for DC? Artists, designers, architects, city planners, chefs, cultural organizers, and the simply curious all welcome to participate.

Thursday, May 6

1 – 5pm *Is it Going to Last?* Engage with Transformer's artist-in-residence Jeff Hnilicka and his *Sustainability Lab* installation. Consider multi-faceted issues surrounding ideas of sustainability while contributing to the planning of activities for both *Sustainability Lab* and *Open Engagement*, a conference exploring similar themes in Portland, OR, May 14 – 17 (www.openengagement.info).

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6:30 - 8pm: *Dreams & Schemes* with the Jeffs. Join celebrated DC-based artist Jeff Spaulding and Transformer artist-in-residence Jeff Hnilicka in a discussion about sustaining your practice as a working artist, and the significance of un-executed ideas that live on in conceptual form alone. Price of "admission" for the talk: 1 unrealized/un-executed idea to share with the Jeffs and fellow attendees.

Friday, May 7

1 – 7pm: *Mini Empire Builder*. On Sunday, May 9, Jeff Hnilicka and a cohort of artists and cultural workers will be departing DC for *Empire Builder*: an epic train voyage to Portland, OR for *Open Engagement* - a conference on Social Practice May 14 – 17 (www.openengagement.info). *Empire Builder* is a series of guerilla public programs for fellow train-riders. On Friday, May 7, Jeff invites DC audiences to join him on the DC Metro Rail as he engages commuters in small-scale *Empire Builder* actions, including: short story book club, tarot readings, impromptu panel discussion, etc. Participants are encouraged to partake in one or all of three brief adventures throughout the day:

1:00pm at Dupont Circle (Connecticut Ave. & 19th St. NW entrance)

3:00pm at U Street (13th & U Sts. NW entrance)

5:00pm at McPherson Square (14th & I Sts. NW entrance)

Jeff will be holding a Transformer sign and a red balloon outside the entrance of each metro station at the designated meeting times & metro locations above. Participants must provide their own metro fare.

Saturday, May 8

1 – 6pm: *HIT BOOK! Workshop*. Join *HIT BOOK!* co-founder Jeff Hnilicka and fellow artist members of Hit Factorie (Brooklyn, NY) Sarah Sandman, Jenn Nielsen, and Kate Strathmann in the creation of a *Sustainability Lab* book at Transformer. Created by a group of Brooklyn-based artists, designers, chefs, arborists, and administrators, *HIT BOOK!* originated as a collaborative effort to create a book in one day. Each book is inspired by a timely theme like Freedom, DNC/RNC, Spring!, and Stimulus. Working diligently on a small but dutiful photocopy machine, each participant cuts & pastes, creating one or more letter size page. Once deadline approaches, the crew rush into full assembly line production mode and pump out a hot *HIT BOOK!* All contributors left standing receive a copy of their efforts. Participants are encouraged to bring in source materials for photocopying (typography, photo, nature books and

t r a n s f o r m e r

magazines, etc. etc.). Transformer will provide other necessary materials + snacks & libations.

9pm:

HIT BOOK! After-party Celebration at Comet Ping Pong!

After the *Workshop*, join the Hit Factorie artists and *Empire Builder* participants at Comet Ping Pong (5037 Connecticut Ave. NW) for a bon voyage celebration before their May 9 departure for the *Open Engagement* conference. Free *Sustainability Lab* Hit Books will be distributed, and the music of bands Sounds of Kaleidoscope, Tennis System, and Far-out Fang Tooth will be thoroughly enjoyed. Bands begin playing at 10:30pm, \$8. www.cometpingpong.com

*For more information on *Sustainability Lab* programs and events, please contact Transformer staff at 202.483.1102 or info@transformergallery.org.