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Very Sad Lab: *The Incubator*

A living, growing exhibition and resource lab for what to expect when you're expecting.

February 5 – March 19, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 5, 12 – 4pm
Programming details below.



Transformer is thrilled to announce *The Incubator*, a living, growing, site-specific installation, resource lab, and series of pre-plant-parent programs presented by Very Sad Lab, a houseplant rehabilitation and research-based community-engaged art project developed by artists Valerie Wiseman and Naoko Wowsugi.

Proceeding from an intersection of art, science, ecology, horticulture, and social practice, Very Sad Lab seeks to create a greener DC by connecting people to nature through plants. Through ongoing plant rehabilitation and research, Very Sad Lab is building positive, long-term relationships between plants and people that are rooted in intentional practices of attention and care of plants.

Over six weeks this winter, plants will grow inside *The Incubator* exhibition at Transformer, as both plants and prospective plant parents prepare for life together. Through the installation of an indoor nursery and creation of a resource lab, Very Sad Lab artists will create a space for plant/human connection. Providing accessible opportunities to understand plant/human relationships, Very Sad Lab will also host a series of preparatory online plant programs and create guided resources on new plant care. At the close of the exhibition on March 19, 2022, *The Incubator* plants will be adopted out to new plant parents throughout DC, creating a network of connections across the city.

As Transformer celebrates our 20th anniversary this year, Very Sad Lab: *The Incubator* reflects our organization's objectives to engage and empower the DC community through socially engaged and social practice art. Creating structures for social change by bolstering relationships between plants and people, and people with people, this artist-conceived and driven installation and plant adoption project seeks to help us navigate an increasingly dire world in which ecological responsibility and self-care are more important than ever before.

EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING:

Sat., Feb. 5, 2022, **THE INCUBATOR OPENING**

12 – 4pm: Visit *The Incubator* at Transformer. Open Hours to visit with the plants, drop off propagations and resources, and learn more with the artists outside the space. At Transformer from 12– 4pm; masks are required.

Sat., Feb. 12, 2022: **PLANT 101 WORKSHOP**

Start from the beginning. Learn how to prepare to take care of your plants including proper watering, finding your light, feeding techniques, and how to match with your perfect plant partner. New and seasoned plant parents are welcome. Share knowledge, share resources. This

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program will be presented virtually on Transformer's Instagram (@transformerdc) and website with the opportunity for a Q&A session with the artists.

Tues., Feb. 22, 2022: **02.22.22 AT 02:22**

Prepare your mind and body for plant parenthood with a Gong Sound Bath led by Naoko Wowsugi inside *The Incubator*. This program will be broadcast on IGLive at 2:22pm (EST); tune in to @transformerdc.

Sat., Mar. 5, 2022: **PROPAGATION & GERMINATION WORKSHOP**

Propagation is basic multiplication. Learn how to propagate and germinate plants from other plants including houseplants and common vegetables. Multiply the green, multiply the joy. This program will be presented virtually on Transformer's Instagram (@transformerdc) and website with the opportunity for a Q&A session with the artists.

Sat., Mar. 19, 2022, **BABY SHOWER & PLANT ADOPTION DAY**

1 – 6pm:

Celebrate growth! Now that you know what to expect when you're expecting, adopt a plant from *The Incubator*. At Transformer from 1–6pm; masks are required.

ONGOING:

Presenting a variety of Pre-Plant-Parenthood multimedia resources from Very Sad Lab and other horticulturists in the field. Resources available inside *The Incubator* and online via Transformer's website and Instagram.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

VERY SAD LAB is a houseplant rehabilitation and research-based community-engaged art project developed by artists **Valerie Wiseman** and **Naoko Wowsugi**. By rehabilitating sad plants, sharing resources, and providing plant education, Very Sad Lab aims to build sustainable and greener DC communities. Is your plant sad? Very Sad Lab offers a variety of services including plant evaluation, intake, rehabilitation, adoption, and plant care education. Very Sad Lab operates nomadically through collaborative pop-ups and via a Satellite Lab at Eaton House DC. More info contact verysadlab@gmail.com / @verysadlab.

Exhibition Hours at Transformer: Thursday – Saturday 1-6pm, and by appointment. Masks are required.

Image Credit: Very Sad Lab

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. Founded in June 2002 by artists & arts organizers, Transformer provides 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 innovative exhibition and programs partnerships with a broad & diverse range of individual and organizational partners.

t r a n s f o r m e r's 2021/22 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The Sachiko Kuno Foundation, Arts Forward Fund, Logan Circle Main Street Association, and Transformer's Visionary Leaders Circle – a growing group of individual donors & corporate sponsors.

Very Sad Lab: *The Incubator* is generously sponsored by:



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