

t r a n s f o r m e r

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Queer Threads CURIOUS SPACES

Transformer proudly presents *Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* – an exhibition collaboration exploring how artists are remixing fiber and textile tradition to explore contemporary LGBTQ+ identities and ideas.

Featuring solo artist installations:

Zoe Schlacter: *Darn*

Transformer | September 26 – November 14, 2020

André Terrel Jackson: *Crowns*

The Corner at Whitman-Walker | September 26 – October 24, 2020

Organized by Transformer and *Queer Threads* curator John Chaich, *Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* features solo artist installations by emerging queer artists at Transformer and The Corner at Whitman Walker. Additional online programming is presented in partnership with guest artists, The George Washington University Museum & The Textile Museum, and American University's Fine Art Department & The American University Museum. *Queer Threads: Curious Spaces* is supported by an award Transformer received from The National Endowment for the Arts.

Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES celebrates the six-year anniversary of *Queer Threads* – an evolving exhibition, initially presented at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art that featured an international, intergenerational mix of 30 contemporary artists exploring queer identity by remixing fiber craft traditions. The Washington, DC presentation of *Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* celebrates Transformer's ongoing collaboration with curator John Chaich, and seeks to engage and expand audiences for inventive and evolving visual expression. As social distancing continues to refine exhibition experiences, audiences will engage with works through each venues' glass doors or windows.

"*Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES* calls on the haptic power of fiber & textile to curiously reveal the textured spaces that queer lives are boldly and sensitively claiming today," notes Chaich. "Given the common urge to touch fiber & textile, viewing Schlacter and Jackson's colorful work through street-front windows evokes a curio cabinet, retail window, terrarium, or circus sideshow. There's an exhibitionistic/voyeuristic pleasure in viewing fiber art this way."



**Zoe Schlacter: *Darn*, at Transformer, 1404 P Street, NW
September 26 – November 14, 2020**

Visible like a diorama through Transformer's storefront window, Zoe Schlacter invites us into an exuberant, stylized, textured world. In this site-specific installation, the Brooklyn-based, Nashville-raised artist embraces everyday craft materials, reimagines traditional textile mechanisms, and celebrates the queer, creative impulse. Yarns extend from hand-made, wall-mounted, loom sculptures as paper mâché sculptures and fabric paintings dart across the floor. Referencing the playfulness of Memphis design and plasticity of objects of art and pleasure, Schlacter employs the sharpness of graphic design to wink at the perception of sexually graphic content. Through negative and positive space, they explore ideas of (w)holeness, visibility, and mending. Trans/forming the gallery by deconstructing the language of weaving, Schlacter embraces the potentiality of queer identity, style, and connection through fiber, form, and space.

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André Terrel Jackson: *Crowns at The Corner at Whitman-Walker,*
Community Window at 1377 R Street, NW

September 26 – October 24, 2020

Crowns celebrates Black, female-identified cultural icons as source of inspiration and identification for femme-presenting, BIPOC queer communities. Mx. Jackson has created a royal court of crowns fit for queens in a triptych of hand-crochets headpieces inspired by Nina Simone, Venus and Serena Williams, and Alice Walker and influenced by the elaborate church hats and decorative hairstyles they grew up idolizing. The artist transforms hardware into jewelry and rope into yarn to create the headpieces' flowing and undulating forms recalling braids, plaits, twists, and beads. The headpieces serve as both art objects and functional fashion, as seen in the nearly life-sized self-portrait also on view. Through the texture of the fibers and confidence of the model, the portrait demands visibility for the Black, queer body. Fittingly displayed within walking distance from the National Archives for Black Women's History at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in DC, this installation celebrates Black creativity, femme energy, gender nonconformity, and body positivity.



Visit www.transformerdc.org for curator and artist bios:

http://www.transformerdc.org/documents/Queer_Threads_Bios_PDF.pdf

Queer Threads: CURIOUS SPACES Schedule of Programming:

[Queer Threads: Expanded Views Artists Talks](#) September 17 – November 12

<u>T.J. Dedeaux-Norris</u>	Thursday, Sept 17, 6pm
<u>Paolo Arao</u>	Thursday, Oct 1, 6pm
<u>Oliver Herring</u>	Thursday, Oct 15, 6pm
<u>Sheila Pepe</u>	Thursday, Oct 29, 6pm
<u>Angela Hennessy</u>	Thursday, Nov 12, 6pm

American University's Fine Art Department & The American University Museum present a series of lectures by past, present, proto, and future *Queer Threads* artists: Paolo Arao, T.J. Dedeaux-Norris, Angela Hennessy, Oliver Herring, and Sheila Pepe. A queering of mediums, each of their practices uniquely merges fiber-based crafts with painting, sculpture, and installation. These lectures provide a glimpse into studio practices that defy formal expectations and question the function of identity in the making and circulating of art works.

<https://www.american.edu/cas/studio/visiting/>

[Queer Threads: Past, Present, Future](#) - Tuesday, October 6, 6pm

Just what's so queer about threads? The traveling exhibition and coffee table book, *Queer Threads*, has been committed to exploring contemporary fiber and textile practices by LGBTQ+ artists. In this slide lecture, curator John Chaich will explore the conceptual framework guiding *Queer Threads* group and solo exhibitions since 2014, reflect upon critical questions raised as the project has evolved, and preview its 2021 iteration at the San José Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Presented by The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum in collaboration with Transformer. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/120404925373>

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[Queer Threads: Curious Cabaret](#) - Tuesday, October 13, 7-8pm

An evening of readings and performances by a mix of emerging queer artist voices inspired by *Queer Threads: Curious Spaces*. Curated by Victoria Reis, Artistic and Executive Director of Transformer in collaboration with contributing artists. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/120422971349>

[Queer Threads: Fresh Voices](#) - Tuesday, October 20, 6-7pm

A conversation with curator John Chaich and artists André Terrel Jackson and Zoe Schlacter exploring how queerness informs their thread-based fiber practices and works on view at The Corner at Whitman-Walker and Transformer. Moderated by Caroline Kipp, Curator of Contemporary Art at The Textile Museum, and Victoria Reis, Executive & Artist Director of Transformer. Hosted by The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum in collaboration with Transformer. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/120407346615>

[Queer Threads: Mending 101](#) – Tuesday, October 27, 7-8pm

“Mending 101”, led by Sew Queer DC’s creator Molly Stratton and fellow mender Kat Brenowitz, will be a live skill-share event on how to fix some of the most common clothing snafus. The duo will talk about re-sewing buttons, patching, hemming and de-mystifying zippers. Using a combo of lecture and live demos, this “Mending 101” class will teach you everything you need to know to get started creating your own sewing kit and DIY-ing your own mends. Hosted by Transformer. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/122560705369>

Image Credits: Detail of Zoe Schlacter: *Darn*, 2020; André Terrel Jackson, *Williams*, 2017

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 creates and provides comprehensive platforms 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 program partnerships with a broad & diverse range of individual and organizational partners.

t r a n s f o r m e r's 2020/21 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Cross Currents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The Sachiko Kuno Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – a growing group of individual donors & corporate sponsors.

**THE
COR
NER**

The Corner at Whitman-Walker is dedicated to cultural expression as a life-force that allows us to recognize the world in its diversity and complexity, that encourages us to acknowledge and affirm otherness in all its forms as an essential part of existence, and that conveys a broader understanding of what needs to be learned and practiced in support of individual, communal, social and political empowerment and justice.

<https://www.instagram.com/thecornerdc>

GW



**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
THE TEXTILE MUSEUM**

The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum aims to foster the study and appreciation of art, history, and culture, both within the university and throughout the global community, through its affiliation with The Textile Museum and through its university collections, including the Albert H. Small Washingtonian

Collection. The Textile Museum expands public knowledge and appreciation—locally, nationally, and internationally—of the artistic merits and cultural importance of the world’s textiles. <https://museum.gwu.edu/>

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES

The American University Museum is a three-story public museum and sculpture garden located within the university's dynamic and multidisciplinary Katzen Arts Center. The region's largest university facility for exhibiting art, the museum has a permanent collection that highlights AU's Watkins Collection, The Rothfeld Collection of Contemporary Israeli Art, and the Corcoran Legacy Collection, in addition to our Alper Initiative for Washington Art. Rotating exhibitions emphasize regional, national, and international contemporary art. The museum's collections enable us to present the art history of Washington, while our Kunsthalle style ensures constantly changing, highly relevant and provocative programming.

<https://www.american.edu/cas/museum/>