FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2012

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The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and The 5x5 Project Presents:

1x1 by Office of Experiments

at Transformer, March 23 – April 5, 2012

“Yes, I knew that you would tell me that your misfortune is none of our business, as if it didn’t exist. If only you were right…..” - Closing extract from ‘A Letter to a Japanese Friend’ by Daniel de Roulet, Fukushima Mon Amor.

“Tsunamis know no national borders, any more than oceans know their names, or radiation can be contained from the flow of water, filtered from the rain, cleaned from the sea or plied from our tears. How can people forget, how can culture respond or science calculate and society mitigate for the events of one year ago, a tragedy that will unfold through time and space beyond the confines of Japan’s national borders to affect and touch us all.” - Neal White, Office of Experiments

With this project, Office of Experiments are creating a distributed artwork in which 1000 vials of symbolic tears, collected water from Japan, will be used to water some of the 3000 Cherry Trees donated to Washington, DC by Tokyo 100 years ago. A temporary lab at Transformer on P Street will display the 1000 vials, which will then be distributed by volunteers. Mapped and documented online, the distribution of these vials address both the intimacy and scale of this disaster that transgresses the territories of society and culture. Further information and limited edition prints will also be available at Transformer.

“We hope that through multiple acts of remembrance in the public spaces of Washington, DC we can engage the public in social forms of art in which participation draws attention to a disaster whose natural origins have been amplified through nuclear technologies”, states collaborating artist Tina O’Connell.

Office of Experiments [OOE] is a London based art and research organization led by UK artist Neal White. For this project, OOE are working with Irish artist Tina O’Connell for this temporary public art project. OOE thanks Casey Smith, Akemi Maegawa and students at Corcoran for their help.

1x1, curated by Steve Rowell, is part of The 5x5 Project, commissioned by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Hosted by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the 5x5 Project includes five international curators who have each selected five artists to participate. The 25 temporary public art projects will encompass all 8 wards of D.C. and the stated goal of the project is to activate and enliven publicly accessible spaces and add an ephemeral layer of creativity and artistic expression to neighborhoods across the District. The 5 x 5 will be presented in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, one million plus people are expected to take part in the nation’s greatest springtime celebration.

For more details please visit: www.the1X1project.com
For more details on the 5x5 Project, please visit: www.the5x5project.com

To volunteer, please contact: info@o-e-o.org

1x1 lab hours at Transformer are: 11am-6pm, Mon-Sat, beginning Friday March 23 – Thursday, April 5, 2012.
Image: Spillage - Detail of limited edition embossed print by Tina O’Connell. The edition of 300 will be used to raise funds for victims of the Tsunami and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear catastrophe.

Transformer 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.