

# t r a n s f o r m e r

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## BLOODLINES

Curated by Martina Dodd

May 20 – June 24, 2017

Opening Night: Saturday May 20, 6-8pm

### *The Crowning*

A Performance by Tsedaye Makonnen:

Thursday, May 25, 6:30-7:30pm

### *ajé's Cosmic Performance Meditation:*

Saturday, June 3rd 8-9pm



Transformer is proud to present *Bloodlines*, a group exhibition curated by Martina Dodd. Seeking to challenge the societal norms and restraints imposed on the female form, *Bloodlines* explores the external and internal pressures and pleasures of the body.

Drawing from their own personal and collective experiences, artists **Lisa Hill**, **Tsedaye Makonnen**, **Samera Paz**, **Iman Person** and members of the **àjé collective** examine the corporeal connectivity of their ancestral histories through works on paper, sculpture and performance. Works featured in *Bloodlines* tow the line between fascination and repulsion, directly addressing the stigmas associated with a woman's menstrual cycle, while subtly exploring the effects of time on the physical and social body by shifting the meaning and interpretation of selfhood.

Martina expands; "Through abstract renderings, Paz and Person both use their own menstrual blood as a medium, placing the viewer at the will of the material, while Hill's fragile yet imposing installation also commands attention as she references the invisible inheritance passed down from mother to offspring by reproducing the shedding, scarring and regeneration of skin on handmade paper. Through the exhibition's performance programming Makonnen highlights the intense physicality of birth while the àjé collective's performance explores the narrative ecologies of 'moonblood'."

**Martina Dodd** is a DC based art historian and curator. Her concept driven shows have touched on topics relating to race, gender and power dynamics. She is intrigued by the ways in which value is placed on art and seeks to examine the social impact material culture has on society.

### Artist Bios:

**The àjé collective** is a queer Black trans-media exploration of the erotic complexities of menstrual blood.

**Lisa Hill** is a fine artist, graphic/interactive designer, and educator. She is the Assistant Dean for the Communication Design Program at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and has also taught at Johns Hopkins University and the Corcoran College of Art + Design. Her fine art work is represented nationally in many private collections and has exhibited her work nationally and internationally. She was awarded an honorary grant from the Arts Council of Montgomery County, Maryland. She received her B.A. in Fine Arts/Graphic Design from the University of Florida and her M.F.A. in Studio Art from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).

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**Tsedaye Makonnen** is an Ethiopian-American interdisciplinary artist. Recurring themes presented in her work are identity, migration, colorism, womanhood, ritual and kinship. She's drawn to conveying the African Diaspora's creative responses to assimilating, destroying and recreating the Self within new territories. As of late, she has been connecting the migrations of the Diaspora taking place in U.S. cities and abroad through performance art, sculpture and installations. She considers herself a performance and installation artist, creating sculptures, experiences and participatory pieces that implicate the audience. Makonnen has performed in D.C. at the Corcoran Gallery, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery and Smithsonian National Museum of African Art.

**Iman Person** is an interdisciplinary artist working in Atlanta, Georgia. Her work engages with the dichotomies of self-hood and magical consciousness through the ethereal lens of nature. Person embeds qualities of the feminine, memory and ritual through drawing, installation, and performance in order to mend the logical and mystical bodies, and incite exploration of these forgotten spaces. Through the mergence of these ideals, Person believes a resurrection of the contemporary divine-body can be made and in turn positively affect our new synthetic landscape. In 2010 she received her B.F.A from Georgia State University and has become a fixture both in exhibition spheres and public art arenas. In 2012, she was included in Barbara Archer Gallery's, "Talent Loves Company", and named one of the 30 most influential artists in Atlanta. She is a member of the Atlanta based collective, Dashboard Co-Op, is a 2011 Hambidge fellow and is 2013-2014 Walthall fellow.

**Samera Paz** is a 22-year-old photographer, visual artist, organizer and art student at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. Originally from Washington D.C. she began photography at the age of 16. Her interest in photography led into advocacy work where she studied how to use art to create social change in my community. She is pursuing a career as a photojournalist and war photographer.

**EXHIBITION HOURS:** Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm and by appointment.

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**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, 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.

**t r a n s f o r m e r's** 2016/17 Transformer's 2016/17 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Altria, The Artery Group, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, Philip L. Graham Fund, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Metabolic Studios, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, SunTrust, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.