

t r a n s f o r m e r

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CONTACT: Victoria Reis
202-483-1102

TRANSFORMER is very pleased to present our fourth installment of *The Exercises*, a unique peer critique and mentorship program for emerging artists:



E4: Station to Station

July 11 – August 4, 2007

Featuring a series of week-long, individual exhibitions by **Rebecca C. Adams**, **Carolina Mayorga**, **Rob Parrish** and **Fereshteh Toosi**, *E4: Station to Station* presents new works in video, sound, mixed media performance and conceptual installation these artists developed over a several month process of peer critique and mentorship organized by Transformer and guest curator **Niels Van Tomme**.

Launched in March 2004, *The Exercises for Emerging Artists* was created to support artists at critical points or crossroads in their professional growth and development. Consisting of a series of gatherings at Transformer, the program is designed to stimulate and encourage participating artists as they create new work. In addition to several peer critique sessions, the artists receive mentorship and feedback from area gallerists, more established artists, professors, and curators. This year's mentors included UMBC's Associate Professor of Visual Arts Steve Bradley, composer and visual artist Alberto Gaitán, Transformer's Executive Director Victoria Reis, The Corcoran's Curator of Photography and Media Arts Paul Roth, Provisions Library Executive Director Don Russell, and *E4: Station to Station* guest curator Niels Van Tomme.

Seeking to build this year's *Exercises* to include discipline specific leadership that would further benefit the participating artists' overall experience, Transformer's Executive Director approached Niels Van Tomme to guest curate the *E4* program. Niels Van Tomme, an independent curator, art critic and the co-director of ICP/A (International Curators Program Antwerp) states: "I wanted to involve artists who could further transform the gallery into an experiential space; into temporary *stations* of media art. Each of the artists bring a very specific approach to Transformer in establishing a relationship between their work, the gallery space and the audience."

Beginning in March through June 2007, the artists participated in facilitated bi-weekly meetings discussing the challenges they face as artists, the inspiration that helps propel them forward, as well as their artistic intentions and goals. *E4: Station to Station* opens up the program, presenting the results of these artists' *Exercises* experience to the public for interaction and feedback.

July 11 – 14 Carolina Mayorga: *New Trends in South American Cuisine*

Don't miss the launch of the revolutionary South American style recipe that will change the way you've thought of cooking. Cook it, taste it, buy it, all at Transformer. **Opening Event:** July 12, 6:30 – 8 PM

Carolina Mayorga lives and works between Washington, DC and Bogotá. She has had one-person exhibitions in Colombia, Mexico, the University of Kansas and in the Washington D.C. area. Social and political issues have always been at the core of her art: traditional rituals, issues of migration and identity, and the current global war. Carolina states: "*New Trends in South American Cuisine* introduces 'Newspaper

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Soup', an actual meal for some in Colombia. For this project, I use my own image as a cultural stereotype to sell the product to the American audience. The work will be presented in the form of video, installation and performance art."

July 18- 21 Rob Parrish: *Jack*

Mixing elements from the television series "24", the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Advisory System, and archival footage, this installation explores the sensation of being an object of manipulation. **Opening Event:** July 19, 6:30 – 8 PM

Rob Parrish is an Arlington, VA based video artist. His work has been shown at Curator's Office in Washington DC, The Pioneer Theater in New York and Pixelodeon at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. He has won two Rosebud Awards given for filmmaking excellence in the DC/Maryland/Virginia area. Rob states: "Lying is of course endemic to humanity. As soon as we talk we lie. Art is a lie trying to talk about truth. My work has always been concerned with the lies we tell ourselves and the lies our culture attempts to make truth. My video *Jack* attempts to recreate something of the sensation of being surrounded by heavy-duty propaganda. This is necessary to explore because the awareness that you are receiving propaganda is not always fully effective in remaining free from its effects."

July 25 – 28 Rebecca Adams: *Compulsory Figures and ∞*

Using sound and large street drawings to interpret an archaic division of figure skating, this indoor and outdoor installation captures the sonic environment of practicing compulsory figures on ice, while visually striving to reproduce similar exercises on pavement. **Opening Event:** July 26, 6:30 – 8 PM

Rebecca C. Adams was born in Bogotá, Columbia and lives and works in Northern VA. She has had exhibitions at Artworks in Richmond VA, Black and White Gallery in New York, and the Contemporary Artists Center in North Adams MA. She teaches in Fairfax County, the Art League School, and the Arlington Arts Center. Rebecca states: "*Compulsory Figures and ∞* extends my practices of sound and installation into the realms of performance and drawing. The installation juxtaposes soundscapes of precise etchings on ice with clumsy, impermanent markings on pavement to approach notions of absence and revitalization, and the philosophy of athletic performance."

August 1 – 4 Fereshteh Toosi: *You're not as green as you are cabbage-looking.*

The accounting firm of H&R CABBAGE will calculate your personal carbon emissions with a free report to take home. Bring in a reusable water bottle or coffee mug and enjoy a freshly carbonated Italian soda while you wait. **Opening Event:** August 2, 6:30 – 8 PM

Fereshteh Toosi is an interdisciplinary artist that uses video, sculpture, and performance to explore cultural difference, exotica, and popular mythologies. Her work has been shown at Groupe Intervention Vidéo in Montréal, Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Space 1026 in Philadelphia and the Boston Center for the Arts. Fereshteh states: "For the show in August, I will set up a fictional accounting firm called H&R CABBAGE in the gallery space. I will calculate visitors' personal carbon emissions with a free report to take home. For the opening event, I'm hosting a screening of slide lectures about sustainable living, created by various artists and activists."

Images (left to right): **Carolina Mayorga, Rob Parrish, Rebecca Adams, Fereshteh Toosi**

Exhibition Hours for **E4: Station to Station** are Wednesday – Saturday, 1–7pm & by appointment

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, D.C. based 501(c) 3 non-profit, artist-centered visual arts organization that connects and promotes emerging artists locally, nationally and internationally. Partnering with artists, curators, art spaces and other cultural entities, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts. Transformer's 2006/2007 exhibition series is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

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