

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2017

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MERIDIANS LAB: Experiments In Art, Change & Praxis

Jess Solomon & Co.

April 8 – May 6, 2017

Opening Night: Saturday, April 8, 6:30-8:30pm

Transformer is proud to present *Meridians Lab*, a highly interactive, ephemeral site for cultural work, experimentation and the cross-pollination of ideas and experiences, led by activist & cultural strategist **Jess Solomon**.

Guided by a set of 'meridians', specific pathways in which notions of art, change and praxis are explored, this site-specific lab will delve into **Emergence, Feminine Economy & Radical Imagination**. Exploring these paths with a range of artists, instigators, question-askers, builders and organizers, *Meridians Lab* seeks to catalyze critical dialogue, creative practice, and world building that can live well beyond temporal space and time.

Solomon expands "Emergence, Feminine Economics and Radical Imagination are themes that have knowingly and unknowingly guided my practice over the last 10 years. *Meridians Lab* is a condensed, "view from the fish-bowl" of those themes in action. We are reimagining what 'The Gallery' and 'Exhibition' means; I'm excited and curious about what will be left behind. As a cultural institution, Transformer embodies all that this exhibition is about. I am honored to conspire with them."

Jess Solomon is a culture strategist who seeks to expand and deepen the role of art and culture in the social change sector. With roots in Baltimore and Washington, DC, she believes in leveraging creative processes and products to reimagine strategies for cultural transformation.

Experiments/Programming:

Saturday, April 8th, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

A People's HISTORY of DC Arts and Culture: 1997 - 2017

We kick off *Meridians* by building out a collective history of DC arts and culture from 1997 until today. What strategies for today can we learn from our collective cultural past? Native Washingtonian, long-time resident, new transplant? Add your history to the timeline. Co-produced with The General Store. Sounds by Les Talusan, DJ Pinstriped Rebel.

Wednesday, April 12th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

The Match: Catalytic Connections

Every organization working to make the world better should have a relationship with an artist. The Match is "speed-dating" for artists and changemakers.

Wednesday, April 19th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Wikipedia-edit-athon

We have the power to improve the narrative about DC arts and culture on Wikipedia. What's missing? What should be amplified? Let's foster more culturally equitable editorship.

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Wednesday, April 26th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Study Circle: Feminine Economics

Discussion: *Business Birthing Handbook* by Jennifer Ambrust- RSVP Required

Saturday, April 29th, 1pm - 4pm

Meridians Art Workshop: Recipes for Survival, Pleasure & Freedom

Create and share radical recipes in collective cookbooks as tools for more joy, creativity, connection, gratification, and power. Led by Jamila Zahra Felton of The Beat of Blossoms.

Saturday, May 6th, 5pm - 8pm

CLOSING: A People's FUTURE of DC Arts and Culture: 2017 - 2037 | We close out *Meridians* with your visions. Come help us build out a collective vision for the next 20 years of DC's arts and culture scene. Add your visions.

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

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.

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