

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

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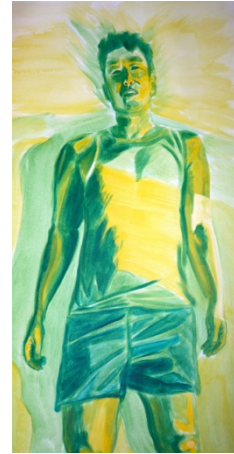
## *Golden Looking Hour* *Anthony Le*

March 11 – April 15, 2023

Meet the Artist Reception at Transformer:  
Saturday, March 11, 2023, 2 – 4 PM

March 18 | 3 - 4 PM: Artist Talk

April 1 | 3 - 4 PM: Artist Tea Time & Discussion on Self-Image



*Washington, DC:* *Golden Looking Hour* at Transformer features paintings by Anthony Le in his first Washington, DC solo exhibition. The exhibition features portraits of fellow DC artists that question the social construct of identity, and how it can be limiting from the outside looking in, but be expansive from the inside looking out. The portrait series celebrates the diversity of DC artists while also subverting the cultural expectations that come with being based in the nation's capital.

"DC artists are often expected to be political activists and to represent the racial and/or gender groups they may be part of. Although DC artists do make work about these issues, the assumption that they 'should' is intrusive and can limit a fuller understanding of their art. For this series, I asked fellow artists to take photos of themselves as a response to being put into boxes due to their residence and/or outward identity. The portraits are based on these photos. I am excited about how the paintings look back at you in subversive ways, ranging from ambivalence to a conscious confrontation to being looked at," explains Le.

The painted figures bask in golden hour light that Le describes as "imbuing a restorative energy of contemplation, autonomy and self-determination." The portraits express an intimacy conveyed through life-sized scale, a warping of interior space and a limited color palette that gravitates around golden hour yellow.

The paintings are situated within a site-specific installation at Transformer, featuring a trompe l'oeil brick pattern as a framing device to reinforce the construct of access into identity and a visual metaphor between interior and exterior personhood. The trompe l'oeil, made with linocut prints on paper, creates the illusion of being surrounded by two-story buildings where the paintings are windows to peek into voyeuristically. The trompe l'oeil covers three sides of the exhibition space, creating a sense of enclosure like a panopticon. The two levels of paintings reinforce the feeling of being observed as much as you're observing the paintings. The installation is especially apropos to the Transformer space which was previously an alley indent. The history of this alleyway was previously explored in artist Rebecca Key's 2010 Transformer exhibition *Archetype* in the same space.

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

## EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING:

Sat. March 11, 2023, 2 – 4 PM

### OPENING RECEPTION / MEET THE ARTIST

Join Transformer on our opening day of *Golden Looking Hour* and meet artist Anthony Le.

Sat. March 18, 3 – 4 PM

### ARTIST TALK / MODERATED BY ASHLEY JAYE WILLIAMS

Join us at Transformer for a conversation with artist Anthony Le on the themes of *Golden Looking Hour*, moderated by artist Ashley Jaye Williams. Le and Williams share a life and home studio and are co-founders of the Model Mutiny art collective.

Sat. April 1, 3 – 4 PM

### ARTIST TEATIME & DISCUSSION ON SELF-IMAGE

Join us at Transformer for a communal teatime with artist Anthony Le. *Golden Looking Hour* features portraits of local artists. Join Le in conversation with some of these artists about their self-images. Other artists & audiences are encouraged to join in this conversation as this teatime is a celebration of the local community.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

**Anthony Le** (born 1985 in Chattanooga, TN, and lives in Washington, DC) is a Vietnamese American multidisciplinary artist. His work centers Asian Americans and other allies in fictional narratives that explore identity as an expansive tool to find moments of confusion, humor and empathy. Le is self-taught and works with acrylic, pastels, printmaking, sculpture and fashion. In 2021, he presented a solo painting exhibition at Tiny Art Gallery NYC titled "My So-Called Asian Life." In 2023, Le will present his first solo exhibition in DC at Transformer. He is a DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Fellow (2023), and his work is in the DC Art Bank Collection (2021). His work has been included in exhibitions at Touchstone Gallery (2020), Homme Gallery (2021), Target Gallery (2022), Legacy DC Gallery (2022), Foundry Gallery (2022), Hill Center Galleries (2022, 2023), Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park (2022). He has shown work in group exhibitions curated by No Kings Collective (2021), Monochrome Collective (2020), Latela Curatorial (2022) and Petworth Arts Collaborative (2018). He has received support from 51 for 51 (2021) and Mozaik Philanthropy (2021). Le is a co-founder of the Model Mutiny art collective with his artist spouse Ashley Jaye Williams. Le received his BLA at Pennsylvania State University (2009).

**Exhibition Hours at Transformer: Wed - Sat, 12 – 6 pm.**

Image credit: *Tom*, Anthony Le, 2022.

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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. Founded in June 2002 by artists & arts organizers, Transformer provides 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 innovative exhibition and programs partnerships with a broad & diverse range of individual and organizational partners.

**t r a n s f o r m e r**'s 2023/24 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Corcoran Women's Committee, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, The Sachiko Kuno Foundation, The National Endowment for the Visual Arts, Truist Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Transformer's Board and Advisory Council, and The Visionary Leaders Circle – a growing group of individual donors & corporate sponsors.