

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Julia Young  
202.483.1102 or info@transformerdc.org

**CONNECT: Art + Community**  
October 4, 2013, 2-3pm

(e)merge art fair  
Capitol Skyline Hotel  
10<sup>th</sup> & I "eye" Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
Room 1, "The Magnolia Room"

Presented by The Washington Post



Transformer is proud to announce **CONNECT: Artists + Community**, taking place October 4 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual (e)merge art fair. Developed and produced collaboratively by the (e)merge panel series and Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series, this panel will focus on how artists build communities to support themselves in their work through various means & formats including: artist support networks, community engagement, alternative economies, and artist-run spaces.

Panelists include: **Abigail Satinsky**, Threewalls (Chicago, IL); **James McAnally**, US English and The Luminary (St. Louis, MO); **Ryan Frank**, The Granary/The Wassaic Project (Wassaic, NY); and **Margaret Booser**, Red Dirt Studios (Washington, DC). The panel will be moderated by **Silvana Straw**, Artist, Cultural Organizer, and Philanthropic Advisor (Washington, DC). The discussion will be recorded for podcast.

## ABOUT THE PANELISTS:

**Abigail Satinsky** is the Associate Director at threewalls in Chicago and co-founder of InCUBATE, a research collaborative dedicated to art economies and initiators of Sunday Soup, an international micro-granting initiative. She co-edited the most recent PHONEBOOK, a directory of artist-run spaces and projects across the United States (published by threewalls) and co-founded the Hand in Glove conference, a national convergence on grassroots arts organizing and administration. She regularly writes on socially engaged art practices for publications and exhibition catalogues, recently taught a course on the subject at University of Illinois at Chicago, and is working on a book project on a regional history of socially engaged art in Chicago. She is involved with ACRE, a residency program based in Chicago and Wisconsin, co-organizing the visiting artist program.

**James McAnally** is an artist, curator and critic whose work seeks to create a space of expanded authorship and exchange, considering the role of the artist within a broader landscape of production, conception, and consumption. He is a founder, Co-Director, and Curator of The Luminary, an incubator for new ideas in the arts based in St. Louis, MO. He also serves as the executive editor and co-founder of Temporary Art Review, a national platform for contemporary art criticism that focuses on artist-run and alternative spaces. McAnally has presented lectures at Washington University in St. Louis, the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, Chatham University, University of Missouri - Columbia and, most recently, served as a Visual Arts panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. In his artistic practice, he works as part of US English, a collaborative that explores collective identity, spatial politics, and forms of protest through a diverse collection of text, sound, objects and interventions, often initiating large-scale projects in public space.

**Ryan Frank** is an artist and curator based in Brooklyn, NY. His work has been exhibited at venues including

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Recession Art, the Invisible Dog Art Center, the Re Institute, 112 Greene Street, and the Dumbo Art Festival. From 2010-11 he was an artist-in-residence at the Wassaic Project and since 2012 he's overseen art installation for the organization. Recent curatorial projects include *Assembly Required: A Sukkah Salon*, *Ode Hotel* at the Wassaic Project, and *Used Books* at the Winkleman Gallery Curatorial Research Lab. In addition to his work as an artist and independent curator Ryan is the Collection Director and Director of Education at The Granary, a private exhibition space located in Litchfield County, CT.

**Margaret Boozer** lives and works in the Washington, DC metro area. She received a BFA in sculpture from Auburn University and an MFA in ceramics from New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Her work is included in the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Museum of the City of New York, The US Department of State, The Wilson Building Public Art collection and in many private collections. Boozer taught for ten years at the Corcoran College of Art and Design before founding Red Dirt Studio in Mt. Rainier, MD where she directs a ceramics and sculpture seminar. Recent projects include a commissioned installation at the US Embassy in Djibouti and writing a chapter for U. S. Geologic Survey's **Soil and Culture**. Recent exhibitions include **Swept Away: Dust, Ashes and Dirt** at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. She is especially proud of receiving the 2012 Arts Excellence Award from the Prince Georges Arts and Humanities Council.

## ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

**Silvana Straw** is a poet, writer and performer. Her solo performances have been commissioned by The Washington Performing Arts Society and Dance Place. She has performed in venues throughout the U.S. including: GALA Hispanic Theater and Dance Place (Washington, DC); Galleria de la Raza (San Francisco); The Nuyorican Poets Café (NY); Out North (Anchorage, Alaska); and The Art Institute of Chicago. A long-time artistic collaborator of Guillermo Gómez-Peña, their work together includes *The Dangerous Border Game* and *Apocalypse Mañana*. Her work has appeared in publications such as *The Huffington Post*, *Gargoyle*, *Conversations Across Borders*, *Ethno-Techno: Writings on Performance & Activism*; and on the Library of Congress "Poet and the Poem" Podcast. A veteran of the DC poetry and performance scene and DC's original Poetry Slam Champion, she has founded and produced numerous performing arts events and series from The Kennedy Center to The Black Cat. Silvana has over 20 years experience as a philanthropic leader committed to serving the greater Washington region's non-profit sector and residents. As Senior Philanthropic Advisor for The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, her work has focussed on strengthening the safety-net; improving outcomes for disconnected youth; and advancing the region's arts and cultural sector. From 2002-2007, she led the Creative Communities Initiative, with funding from The Ford Foundation/LINC, focused on advancing the work of artists in communities. She also serves as philanthropic advisor to major donors, helping them invest strategically and facilitating their charitable giving.

Launched in December 2002, **Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series** engages DC, national, and internationally based artists, arts professionals, cultural leaders, and DC audiences in conversation to create an oral 'field guide' to encourage and support individual emerging artists in our community and educate audiences through the sharing of best practices within the contemporary visual arts. Presented 2-3 times per year in collaboration with a broad range of educational and cultural institution partners, *CONNECT: Art + Community* is the 18<sup>th</sup> panel in Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series. Transformer's 2013/14 FRAMEWORK Panel Series is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence grant, "to encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans".

The **(e)merge art fair** evolved out of the **(e)merge panel series**. For its 10th annual Academy BFA/MFA exhibition in 2010, CONNERSMITH gallery organized a panel discussion focusing on needs and interests of emerging artists, which, due to popular demand, evolved into an ongoing series. The (e)merge art fair was launched the following year. The topic of the first (e)merge panel discussion was how emerging artists form communities and why this is important. Because this topic is so vital to the support of emerging art, the (e)merge art fair revisits it now with new insights at the fair this year.

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Students with valid ids will be given free admission to the fair Friday, Oct. 4, 12:00-3:00pm so they can attend the **CONNECT: Artists + Community** panel discussion without charge. All other attendees must purchase (e)merge art fair passes: <http://www.emergeartfair.com/visitor-info/>

Image Credit: Allora and Calzadilla, *Problems and Promises*, *The Thing Quarterly* (San Francisco, CA), from the exhibition *A modest occupation*, on view at Transformer September 14 – October 26, 2013

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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.

Transformer's 2013/2014 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/ NEA, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors, members of our Annual Auction Host Committee, and Corporate Sponsors.

The **(e)merge** art fair connects emerging-art professionals from around the globe with collectors, curators and cultural decision makers in Washington, DC. The **GALLERY PLATFORM** features participating galleries in hotel rooms on designated floors. The **ARTIST PLATFORM** features a vetted selection of works by unrepresented artists throughout the hotel's public areas and grounds. (e)merge's two exhibition platforms inspire a new echelon of art collectors and provide curatorial access to the latest movements in emerging art. The third edition of (e)merge takes place October 3-6, 2013 at the Rubell Family's Capitol Skyline Hotel, in Washington, DC.