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E20: PRINTMAKING

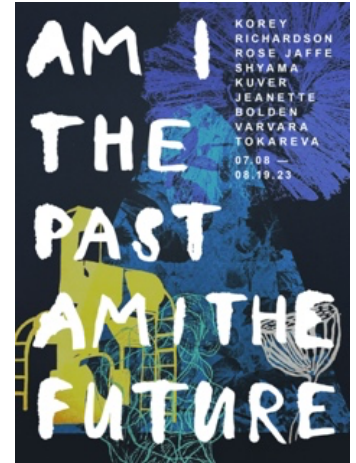
Am I the Past, Am I the Future

Transformer's 20th Annual Exercises for Emerging Artists

July 8 – August 19, 2023

Opening Reception / Meet the Artists: Sat. July 8 | 2 – 5 PM at Transformer

Washington, DC: Transformer is honored to announce *Am I the Past, Am I the Future* – the public component of *E20: Printmaking*. *E20: Printmaking* marks the 20th year Transformer's *Exercises for Emerging Artists* program, an annual peer critique and mentorship program for DC area based emerging artists.



Centered on a different artistic discipline each year of the program, *E20: Printmaking* has been supporting four artists – **Jeanette Bolden, Shyama Kuver, Korey Richardson, and Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva** – in their professional development and exploration of new techniques and approaches to printmaking. *Am I the Past, Am I the Future* is the culminating group exhibition of *E20: Printmaking*, with the artists collaboratively creating new artworks.

Launched in March 2004, Transformer's *Exercises for Emerging Artists* program supports emerging artists at growth points or crossroads in their professional and creative development. Intended to both advance artists' careers and build peer support, the *Exercises* consists of rigorous bi-weekly peer critique and mentorship sessions spanning several months each spring to stimulate and encourage the participating artists as they create new work. Facilitated by Transformer staff and an invited lead mentor, the participating artists receive insight and feedback from a series of guest mentor artists, curators, and other arts leaders. Details of Transformer's previous *Exercises for Emerging Artists* program disciplines, artist alumni and mentors can be found on our website: <https://www.transformerdc.org/exercises-1>.

E20: Printmaking has been led by mentor Rose Jaffe, a DC based visual artist working within mediums spanning mural painting, ceramics, printmaking, and digital illustration. *E20: Printmaking* artists received additional guidance and feedback from a series of guest mentors, including: John Fleissner, Gretchen Schmernerhorn, and Imar Hutchins. This year's *Exercises* has been coordinated by Transformer Program Assistant Camille DeSanto.

Throughout this spring's mentorship sessions, the participating artists learned about best professional practices in printmaking while also diving into the medium's social justice history, and the intersection between printmaking and memory. Mentees gained experience working within different print studios in the DMV area, including: Pyramid Atlantic, the University of Maryland printshop, and lead mentor Rose Jaffe's studio.

The artists collaboratively developed and individually created new works to be presented at Transformer in the group exhibition *Am I the Past, Am I the Future*. Taking a curious leap into rendering their inclinations about the future, the artists craft a branching response that touches upon honoring contributions of the past, testing developing tech, and reflecting on the ambiguous nature of the future.

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EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING:

Sat. July 8, 2023, 2 – 5 PM

OPENING RECEPTION / MEET THE ARTISTS

Join Transformer for the opening day of *Am I the Past, Am I the Future*. Meet *E20: Printmaking* artists: Jeanette Bolden, Shyama Kuver, Korey Richardson, and Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva.

Sat. July 15, 2023, 2 – 4 PM

ARTIST TALK WITH VARVARA SERGEEVNA TOKAREVA

Meet artist Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva and hear her speak about the use of AI in her personal art practice, and its effects on the visual arts landscape.

Thurs. July 20, 4 – 6 PM

ARTIST TALK WITH SHYAMA KUVER

Meet artist Shyama Kuver and hear her speak about her exhibition artwork and its connection to both past, present, and future, as well as its connection to indenture and immigration.

Sat. August 5, 1 – 4 PM

MINI STICKER WORKSHOP WITH KOREY RICHARDSON

Screen print your own 4 x 3 in sticker at Transformer! Learn about the screen printing process with hands-on instruction from artist Korey Richardson.

Sat. August 12, 2 – 4 PM

BOOKMAKING WITH JEANETTE BOLDEN

During this bookmaking workshop, participants will create a personal pictorial dictionary and expand upon the meaning of their chosen images as a group.

E20: PRINTMAKING ARTIST BIOS:

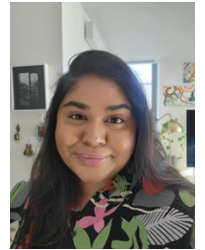
Jeanette Bolden graduated from the University of Maryland, majoring in Studio Arts with a minor in Art History in 2022. That same year Bolden interned at Pyramid Atlantic and co-taught the Hispanic Heritage Month Poster Internship Program. Her work was featured in the fall 2021 issue of *On Paper: Journal of The Washington Print Club*, and she received The Washington Print Club's 2021 Young Printer Award. Additionally, she contributed illustrations to the *Diamondback Newspaper Behind the Demands* project.



Bolden explores the relationship between body, memory, and iconography, examining concepts of lineage, identity, and collective consciousness. Bolden utilizes various mediums such as motifs, photos, collages, and cyanotypes and combines traditional and alternative printmaking techniques to connect these themes.

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Shyama Kuver's (she, her) artistic practice is inspired by her queer and Indo-Fijian identities, a love for postcolonial fiction, her ancestral legacy of indenture, and growing up in pre-tech San Francisco. From a young age, art was a place for exploration in her search for a sense of belonging. Without a solid national, racial, or ethnic identity, and complicated (mis)understandings of motherland monoliths, her artistic style speaks to the multicultural, spiritual, and experiential contexts that have shaped her life and career. Shyama is a community and self-taught artist living in Washington, DC. She also works in education creating equitable infrastructures for students who are system-impacted, parenting, and/or are returning to pursue their undergraduate degree as adults.



As mixed-media artist, **Korey Richardon** finds inspiration in the rich tapestry of African American culture, history, and the limitless possibilities of Afrofuturism. His artistic practice encompasses paintings, screen prints, and murals, allowing him to explore the intersection of past, present, and future through multiple mediums. In his work, Richardon strives to capture the essence of his subjects and convey the enduring impact they have on shaping our collective narrative. His belief that the legacy of these individuals, their stories, struggles, and triumphs, continue to inspire and pave the way for a brighter future powers his work. To visually represent this concept, he employs a continuous line technique in his portraiture. By using a single, unbroken line, he aims to convey the interconnectedness of generations and the seamless flow of influence from one era to the next. He hopes viewers will perceive the unbroken lineage of resilience, strength, and creativity that forms the foundation of African American culture. Richardon's goal as an artist is to engage viewers in a dialogue about the complex and multifaceted nature of African American identity and its connection to the broader human experience. By combining different artistic mediums and techniques, he aims to create visually compelling and thought-provoking works that resonate on both an emotional and intellectual level.



Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva (born in 1987) — is a visual artist, printmaker and graphic designer. She completed her MFA studies at Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Wroclaw, Poland with a major in Graphic Arts. After four years of fellowships in Europe, she is currently based in Maryland, USA where she continues her academic career at Department of Art, UMD. She is the owner of Printingmadnessforever studio (2017) with a focus on non-commercial projects in printmaking and calligraphy. Tokareva states she is a "Furious imposter syndrome fighter, chronic overthinker and amateur cyclist."

E20: PRINTMAKING LEAD & GUEST MENTOR BIOS:



Rose Jaffe is a visual artist, with mediums spanning mural painting, ceramics, printmaking, and digital illustration. Born and raised in the nation's capital, Rose loves calling Washington, DC home. She earned her BFA at the School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan and has pursued an art career full time after teaching middle and high school art in the city. She has painted over 30 murals nationally and internationally, including over 20 in DC. Her art has been featured in several publications and media channels including *The Washington Post* and *Washington City Paper* as well as on NBC, CNN, and DC Channel 9 News. The themes of her work include political activism, social justice, natural healing, and spiritual grounding. Her work is vibrant, colorful and often playful. She is dedicated to the work of harnessing the power of art to find connections, build community, spark conversation and create social change.

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John Fleissner is a printmaker and muralist from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended Maryland Institute College of Art, studying printmaking. After spending time traveling the country as a labor organizer, John attended Peck School of the Arts at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee to become a high school art teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools. John's involvement in education and the labor movement informs his art practices. He draws on traditions of relief print and muralism to make work that is relevant to the lives, hopes, and aspirations of working people. John's prints can be found around the world pasted to walls, on picket signs and in classrooms.

Gretchen Schmernerhorn is currently the Artistic Director at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, an art center dedicated to the contemporary creation of hand printmaking, papermaking, and the art of the book, in Hyattsville, Maryland. She received her MFA in Printmaking from Arizona State University, and since then, has completed artist residencies at The Women's Studio Workshop in New York, Columbia College Center for Book and Paper in Chicago, Seacourt Print Workshop in Northern Ireland, California State University and the Robert Rauschenberg Residency in Florida. Her prints, installations, and works on paper have been exhibited nationwide and internationally, and her work is part of the Montgomery County Public Art Trust, Anne Arundel Community College's print collection, and the Janet Turner Print Collection. She has received individual artist awards from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County. She has taught workshops at Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Snow Farm-New England Craft, Women's Studio Workshop, and the University of North Texas and is currently is part of the adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University, where she teaches Printmaking and Book Arts.

Imar Hutchins is an autodidact artist based in Washington, DC. He works primarily in collage and printmaking. Imar's portraits combine vintage black magazines, hate mail and other historical documents as well as found objects, tissue paper and new materials. He imagines that people themselves are collages—amalgams of countless disparate fragments and inputs. He 'remixes' his subjects in new and often 'Afro-past-ist' ways, but always drawing from (or challenging) a historical notion.

***Am I the Past, Am I the Future* Exhibition Hours at Transformer: Wed - Sat, 12 – 6 pm.**

Image Credit: *Am I the Past, Am I the Future* exhibition graphic elements by *E20: Printmaking* Artists Jeanette Bolden, Shyama Kuver, Korey Richardson, and Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva, and Rose Jaffe. Poster design by Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva. Photo of Varvara Sergeevna Tokareva by Michal Pietrzak.

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. *E20: Printmaking* is generously supported via a grant from The Robert Lehman Foundation.