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FRAMEWORK PANEL #22: *Practice as Product*

Wednesday, October 7
6:30–8:30pm

Goethe Institut
812 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Attendance is FREE.



Transformer is proud to continue our ongoing *FRAMEWORK Panel Series* with **FRAMEWORK Panel #22: *Practice as Product***. Addressing artistic practices that take an innovative approach to the understanding of artistic product, this panel will feature three artists - **Tobias Sternberg**, Temporary Art Repair Shop, (Berlin, Germany); **Chloe Bass**, *The Book of Everyday Instruction*, (New York, New York); and **Chris Woebklen**, (New York, New York) - who each employ distinctive strategies to engage with their audience and to bring their work into new public, professional, and personal spheres. The approaches taken by these artists reassess the product of artistic labor by looking closely at the exchanges and circumstances that accompany their processes.

The panel will be moderated by **Andrew Holtin**, Associate Professor of Art and Director of the AU MFA Studio Berlin Program, Studio Art Program in the Department of Art, American University (Washington, DC).

Practice as Product is presented in tandem with the launch of *The Temporary Art Repair Shop* at Transformer, October 3 – 31, 2015. An ongoing project conceived of and run by Berlin-based artist **Tobias Sternberg**, *The Temporary Art Repair Shop* is a mix between a simple repair shop and a sculptor's studio, with the artist inviting the public to drop off an object for repair, transfiguring received items into sculptural objects. *The Temporary Art Repair Shop* is organized in collaboration with Andy Holtin, Associate Professor of Art and Director of AU's MFA Studio Berlin program and supported by American University Department of Art.

Launched in December 2002, **Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series** engages DC, nationally, 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 to educate audiences through the sharing of best practices within the contemporary visual arts. *FRAMEWORK Panels* are presented 2-3 times per year in collaboration with a broad range of educational & cultural institution partners. Transformer is honored to have *Practice as Product* hosted by the Goethe Institut.

Transformer's 2015/16 *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."

ABOUT THE PANELISTS:

Tobias Sternberg is a multidisciplinary visual artist who for the last decade has been active in the European art scene. His prolific output spans installation, sculpture, video, collage, performance and text pieces, all approached

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from the dual perspective of a sculptor and a storyteller. Breaking with traditional art market demands to stick to one easily recognizable style, Sternberg is part of an emerging generation of artists defining themselves by the core interests of their practices rather than the visual surface of their output. At the heart of all his projects lies a playfulness and a dark humor paired with the desire to communicate this with his audience. Sternberg's full artist bio is available at tobiassternberg.com.

Chloë Bass focuses on the co-creation of performances, situations, installations, and publications, all dedicated to deep questioning of the everyday. Her current project, *The Book of Everyday Instruction* (2015 – 2017), is an investigation into one-on-one social interaction. She holds a BA in Theater Studies from Yale University, and an MFA in Performance & Interactive Media Arts from Brooklyn College CUNY. Bass is currently in residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace program. You can learn more about her projects and writing at chloebass.com; she welcomes correspondence at info@chloebass.com.

Chris Woebken is a German-born artist collaborating with scientists, organizations and artists to propose new methods and tools for collaboratively prototyping, experiencing and impacting future scenarios. Chris is co-founder of the Extrapolation Factory, an initiative focusing on developing methods and tools for collectively developing future scenarios, embodied as artifacts in familiar, present-day contexts. Chris holds an MA in Design Interactions from the Royal College of Art London and has been a visiting scholar at NYU's Environmental Health Clinic. Chris is an adjunct professor at NYU's ITP and a part time faculty critic at RISD's Industrial Design program. Chris' full bio is available at chriswoebken.com.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

Andrew Holtin received his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University's Sculpture and Extended Media program. His work uses technological systems to create performative objects and interactive installations, incorporating an exploratory range of materials and processes. Holtin currently works as half of the collaborative duo Causality Labs, pursuing projects that explore mechanism as metaphor for human experience and perception. His work has been exhibited internationally at locations including Galerie35, Berlin, Germany; Museo Antropologico y de Arte Contemporaneo, Ecuador; Museo Universitario Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City; Planetario Alfa Science and Culture Museum, Mexico; and nationally at museums, galleries, and universities from New York to Portland to Florida. Holtin teaches all levels of Sculpture, addressing traditional media as well as installation formats, kinetic and interactive systems, and digital audio and video.

Image Credit: *Balanced Judgement*, 2013, Tobias Sternberg

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 2015/2016 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Bernstein Family Foundation, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, The JBG Companies, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The S&R Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

Goethe Institut, founded in 1990, is a center for German culture and language based in Washington, DC. From its location in the lively downtown Washington, the Goethe-Institute reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events. Mutual understanding among nations by promoting international cultural dialogue: this is the ambitious mission of the Goethe-Institut. On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe.

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