

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

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CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Georgie Payne  
202.483.1102 or info@transformerdc.org

**FRAMEWORK PANEL #23:**  
*Connecting Communities Through  
Critical Discourse*

Wednesday, March 30, 2016  
6:30–8:30pm

NPR Studio One  
1111 North Capitol Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002



Attendance is FREE. Advanced Registration required: [transformerframework23.eventbrite.com](http://transformerframework23.eventbrite.com)

Transformer is proud to continue our ongoing *FRAMEWORK Panel Series* with **FRAMEWORK Panel #23: Connecting Communities Through Critical Discourse**. Examining the role of critical writing within the arts community through various models of coverage and criticism, panelists will include: **James McAnanaly**, Temporary Art Review (St. Louis, MO); **Taylor Renee**, Arts.Black (Detroit, MI); **Cara Ober**, BmoreArt (Baltimore, MD) and **Kriston Capps**, Washington City Paper (Washington, DC).

Exploring alternative artist-centered platforms and how arts communities can take/have taken the lead in nurturing critical discourse - this panel, co-moderated by **Victoria Reis**, Co-Founder, Executive & Artistic Director of Transformer, and **Andrew Limbong**, Assistant Producer of NPR's *Arts Desk* - will aim to investigate current models and imagine future possibilities for creating discourse and connecting communities.

Launched in December 2002, Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series engages local, national, and international 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 Connecting Communities Through Critical Discourse hosted by NPR at their Studio 1 theatre.

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."

Connecting Communities Through Critical Discourse is presented in tandem with the announcement of Transformer's **13th Annual Exercises for Emerging Artists Program – E13: Discourse**. Focusing on a different artistic discipline each year, *E13* will partner a group of emerging DC-based writers with a series of rotating mentors from the national arts writing community, for a rigorous critique process. Writers will be invited to participate in this year's Exercises via nominations by Transformer staff, Advisory Council, and area arts educators and curators.

## ABOUT THE PANELISTS:

**Kriston Capps** is a staff writer for CityLab, the urbanism site for The Atlantic, where he writes about architecture, housing, and design. His work has been published in Slate, New York, Artforum, and The Washington Post. Capps is a longtime art critic for Washington City Paper. Barbecue and Brutalism are two topics close to his heart.

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

**Taylor Renee** received her M.L.A from Harvard University in Museum Studies. She received her B.A from Howard University in Art History and Business Administration. Taylor has worked at the The Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art (Harvard University), and has been awarded with the Goldman Sachs Junior Fellowship at The National Museum of American History (Smithsonian Institutions). In 2015, she co-founded ARTS.BLACK, an online publication for art criticism from black perspectives. Taylor Renee is currently working as an arts administrator and writer in her hometown, Detroit, Michigan.

**James McAnally** is the executive editor and co-founder of Temporary Art Review. He 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. In his artistic practice, he works as a part of the collaborative US English. He is a 2015 recipient of the Creative Capital | The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant for Short-Form Writing.

**Cara Ober** is the Founding Editor at BmoreArt, Baltimore's daily online art and culture magazine since 2007 and now a new print journal. Ober earned an MFA in Studio Art from MICA in 2005 and has been published in ARTnews, Art Papers, Hyperallergic, BurnAway, the Baltimore Sun, Baltimore City Paper, and Urbanite Magazine. Although she loves penning an occasional juicy critique, her passion as a writer is economic, political, and professional empowerment for artists.

## ABOUT THE MODERATOR:

**Victoria Reis** is the co-Founder and Executive & Artistic Director of Transformer, a Washington, DC based nonprofit, artist-centered visual arts organization. Established in summer 2002, Transformer connects and promotes emerging artists locally, nationally and internationally through exhibitions, mentorship programs, and educational programs. Through Transformer, Reis has worked with hundreds of emerging visual artists, supporting them in the development and presentation of their work and their artistic careers. Reis began her career in contemporary visual arts at the National Association of Artists' Organizations/NAAO (1992-97), developing programs and field-wide initiatives in support of artist-centered and artist-run organizations and the artists they serve. Reis is a founding member of CommonField, a newly developing national alliance of artist-centered and artist-run organizations.

**Andrew Limbong** is an assistant producer for NPR's Arts Desk, where he produces, reports, and mixes arts pieces of all kinds. Previously, he was a producer for *Tell Me More* and produced segments, directed the program, and line produced the show. He originally started at NPR in 2011 as an intern for *All Things Considered*. Limbong received a Bachelor of Arts in English, with a minor in Journalism, from the State University of New York at New Paltz. Between graduating and arriving at NPR, he spent time living in Indonesia.

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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. 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.

The mission of **NPR** is to work in partnership with Member Stations to create a more informed public — one challenged and invigorated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of events, ideas and cultures. To accomplish our mission, we produce, acquire, and distribute programming that meets the highest standards of public service in journalism and cultural expression; we represent our members in matters of their mutual interest; and we provide satellite interconnection for the entire public radio system.

