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Transformer FRAMEWORK Panel # 11: *Convergence of Eastern & Western Art in a Globalized World*

November 18, 2009
6:30 – 8 PM

Meridian International Center
Meridian House Drawing Room
1630 Crescent Place, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Transformer is very excited to be partnering with Studio Door China and the Meridian International Center in presenting our 11th panel in the on-going Transformer *FRAMEWORK Panel Series*. The *FRAMEWORK Panel Series* is designed to engage community leaders and artists in creating together a field guide to engage, stabilize, and support the individual emerging artist in our community.

This particular panel will explore the opportunities and challenges associated with the convergence of Eastern and Western art. With the globalization of the art world, and Eastern artists becoming more visible in the United States, our panelists - **Shigeko Bork**, Author, Curator, Art Dealer; **Amaryllis Fox**, Studio Door China; **Carol Huh**, Curator of Contemporary Art, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery; and **Jennifer Wen Ma**, Artist/Curator – will examine:

- How do national identities and artistic traditions inform critical and curatorial approaches?
- What are the most serious hurdles to multi-lingual, multi-cultural conversation? Are they as simple as linguistics? As complex as politics?
- How does the dialogue between artist and viewer differ from country to country? What role is played by gallerists, governments, and museums?
- For Western collectors, when is it appropriate to seek more information about the historical, cultural, and political context of foreign movements? When, if ever, might imposition of Western analysis prove beneficial?

The panel, which will start promptly at 6:30pm, will be moderated by Transformer Board Member **Allison G. Marvin**, Art Consultant, Sightline; Art Lawyer, Law Office of Allison G. Marvin. Opening remarks will be given by **Dr. Curtis Sandberg**, Vice President for Arts and Cultural Programs, Meridian International Center.

Launched in December 2002, Transformer's **FRAMEWORK Panel Series** is designed to engage artists, arts professionals, cultural leaders, and audiences in conversation to create an oral "field

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guide" to encourage and support individual emerging artists in our community, while also educating audiences, through the sharing of best practices within the contemporary art field. Presented two-three times per year, previous FRAMEWORK panel topics have included: *The Importance of the Curator*, *Financial Stabilization and Economic Opportunities for Artists*, *The Role of Community Organizations in Supporting Emerging Artists*, *Artist as Activist*, *The Role of the Arts Writer: Critiquing Arts Criticism*, *Collecting the Work of Emerging Artists*, *Art School Confidential: Rethinking Art Education*, and *Underexposed: Self-Publishing Your Photo Book*.

DIRECTIONS/PARKING: This FRAMEWORK panel will take place in the Drawing Room of the Meridian House, located at 1630 Crescent Place, NW. Guests are welcome to utilize the free parking in the Center's private lot: drive past the Meridian and White-Meyer Houses and turn right into the parking drive (it is the final driveway on the right on Crescent before you reach 16th Street). For further directions, please visit: www.meridian.org.

For further information on all previous FRAMEWORK Panels, participating panelists, and/or other Transformer programs and events, please contact us at info@transformergallery.org or call 202.483.1102.

Image: Paula Tsai, *Mound* (detail), part of Transformer's recent *Ink Storm* exhibition.

t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 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 2009/2010 exhibition series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/NEA, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

Meridian International Center

Meridian International Center, founded in 1960, is a non-partisan, not-for-profit public diplomacy institution dedicated to strengthening international understanding. Meridian builds sustainable global partnerships through leadership exchanges, international collaboration and cultural diplomacy. www.meridian.org.