

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 13, 2007

CONTACT: Victoria Reis
202-483-1102

Transformer, in partnership with Civilian Art Projects, is pleased to present:

FRAMEWORK Panel #6 – *Collecting the Work of Emerging Artists*

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 from 6:30 – 8pm at

CIVILIAN
ART PROJECTS

406 7th Street, NW, 3rd Floor (7th & “D” Streets)

Collaborating professionally for the first time since working as co-directors at Transformer, Civilian Art Projects’ Director Jayme McLellan and Transformer’s Executive Director Victoria Reis are thrilled to partner together in presenting this exciting and timely panel. **FRAMEWORK Panel #6 - *Collecting the Work of Emerging Artists*** – moderated by collector and arts enthusiast Philip Barlow and featuring several esteemed area art collectors including: James Alefantis, Monica Bussolati, Allison Cohen, Melvin L. Hardy, and Dr. Michael Pollack – will focus on how each participating panelist developed his or her current art collection, the importance of collecting the work of emerging artists, as well as where the panelists look to purchase work.

Attendance for this event is free, but seating will be limited. RSVP your attendance to info@transformergallery.org or call 202-483-1102.

Launched in December 2002, Transformer’s **FRAMEWORK Panel Series** seeks to expand critical arts dialogue while simultaneously engaging and developing Washington’s contemporary arts audience through moderated panel discussions with a diverse cross-section of cultural leaders and experts. 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*, and *The Role of the Arts Writer: Critiquing Arts Criticism*.

FRAMEWORK guest speakers have included: Sasa Glavan, Center for Contemporary Art (Ljubljana, Slov.); Jose Dominguez, DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities (WDC); Celia O’Donnell, Creative Capital (NY, NY); Kathy Freshley, The Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation (WDC); Helen Frederick, Pyramid Atlantic (Silver Spring, MD); Kathleen Gilrain, SmackMellon (Brooklyn, NY), Glenn Harper, *Sculpture Magazine* (WDC) and Andy Grundberg, Corcoran Museum of Art (WDC), among others. Working to build a stronger arts infrastructure in DC, Transformer has presented the **FRAMEWORK Panel Series** in partnership with The Corcoran College of Art & Design, The Goethe Institute, The Warehouse Theater, and Provisions Library.

Among other topics, the participating panelists in **FRAMEWORK Panel #6** will discuss: *What does it mean to have a collection? What are the elements that transform an art buyer into an art collector? How do you buy art, and how do you approach planning and budgeting? What themes are important to you in developing a cohesive collection, and what role does the work of emerging artists play in this scheme?* Following the moderated conversation, a question and answer discourse with the audience will take place. Afterwards, attendees are invited to stay for refreshments and further conversation.

FRAMEWORK Panel #6 – *Emerging Art Collections & Collectors* Panelist and Moderator bios:

James Alefantis is an entrepreneur as well as a creative and passionate supporter of artists. James is the owner of two of Washington’s finest, art-centered restaurants, Buck’s Fishing & Camping and Comet Ping Pong. These businesses support a diverse array of Washington’s most talented emerging artists and venerable institutions - including the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, the Washington Ballet, Transformer, and more. Additionally, James, with his husband, David Brock,

1404 P Street NW Washington DC 20005 (202) 483-1102 / www.transformergallery.org

t r a n s f o r m e r

politico and Founder of Media Matters for America, support the improvement of the national political and media environment. Their art collection focuses on emerging artists working with social identity as well as work by artist friends and Transformer artists. James joined the board of Transformer in December 2003. He was elected President of the Board of Transformer in December 2006.

Philip Barlow has been an avid art collector for over 15 years, focusing primarily on artists from the Washington DC area. He has been actively volunteering at the District of Columbia Art Center for 17 years, and on the board of the DCAC for 8, serving as chair of the Visual Arts Committee. Philip has served on the Steering Committee for Artomatic, and recently served as a juror to help select new media work for the upcoming ArtDC art fair. Last summer, Philip curated a show at Addison/Ripley Gallery. He has spoken about collecting local art at various venues including DCAC, The Phillips Collection and local art galleries, and has been featured in an article on young collectors in the Washington Post Magazine.

Monica Bussolati is the founder and creative director of Bussolati Associates, a design|marketing studio located on 14th Street, NW. Her art collection is almost exclusively housed in the studio and is mostly contemporary art, but also includes some antique drawings and lithographs. She enjoys trading her studio's graphic design services for art, whenever she can.

Allison Cohen is a native of the DC area. She received her B.A. in Comparative Literature, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Haverford College in 1993, and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998. She is admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia and Maryland. In June 2004, Allison launched two businesses: an art consulting firm, Sightline, and a law practice, Law Office of Allison G. Cohen. As an art consultant, Allison provides her clients with tailored and unique artwork options for their homes and offices. She, herself, is an avid collector of contemporary painting and photography.

Melvin L. Hardy is Director, Corporate Relations for University of Maryland University College, and with wife Juanita, is Co-Founder of Millennium Arts Salon in Washington. A native of Philadelphia, he graduated from Villanova University (1971) and Columbia (1974). Through training with the Arts and Business Council of Philadelphia, he serves on the board of Brandywine Printmaking Workshop where he started his visual arts exposure and print collecting and consulted with Bob Blackburn's Printmaking Workshop in New York. He is an annual presenter at the National Black Fine Art Show in New York. His collecting emphasis is on historical and contemporary Afro-Americana visual art, and related books, manuscripts and catalogs in the context of modern American Art.

While **Michael Pollack** is a native Washingtonian, he participated actively in New York's very vibrant art scene while living there in the late 1980's. It was during this time that Michael met Keith Haring, who gave him a drawing he'd made personally for Michael and his wife. Michael has been collecting ever since. After returning to the Washington area, he received a juried gallery space in the Rockville Arts Place where he stayed as a practicing artist for 2 years, his time there culminating in an exhibition at the now defunct Plum Gallery. Michael has since turned his full attention to collecting, his continuously growing collection including painting and photography by emerging as well as very established artists.

Founded in 2002, **Transformer** is a Washington, DC based 501 (c) 3 non-profit, artist-centered, visual arts organization that connects and promotes emerging artists through exhibitions, programs and services designed to help foster their creative ideas and advance them professionally. Through partnerships with artists, curators, arts spaces, as well as commercial galleries, museums, and other cultural institutions, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts, furthering contemporary art dialogue within Washington, DC and beyond.

Founded in 2006, **Civilian Art Projects** is Washington, DC's newest gallery gnawing at the edges of contemporary aesthetic discourse. Through a challenging exhibition series supporting promising, up-and-coming artists working in a broad range of media, and through exciting events of cultural and social significance held throughout the season, Civilian will generate new energy, ideas and momentum thereby contributing to culture and community.