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FRAMEWORK Panel #9

*What We Want Is Free:
An Exploration of the Field of Non-profit Visual Arts
Organizations*

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 – 8:00pm
The Goethe-Institut
812 7th St NW
Washington, DC

In tandem with Transformer's current *Summer Camp* program - a four-week series of creative events (February 7 – March 7) investigating art as action, engagement, social exchange, and interactivity, we are pleased to present *What We Want Is Free: An Exploration of the Field of Non-profit Visual Arts Organizations*. This ninth panel in Transformer's on-going **FRAMEWORK Panel Series** will examine the importance of non-profit visual arts organizations with small to medium sized budgets – 'alternative art spaces' and/or 'artist spaces' - and their impact on the past, present, and future of contemporary visual art. Transformer is presenting this panel in partnership with The Goethe-Institut who will host the event in their theatre. Participation is free.



*Deep Freeze of Exotic Fever Records
performs at Transformer as part of
Transformer's Summer Camp programming.*

Participating panelists include: **Mark Allen**, Director, Machine Project, Los Angeles, CA; **Wendy Clark**, Visual Arts Specialist, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC; **Steven Rand**, Executive Director, Apexart, NYC; **Victoria Reis**, Executive & Artistic Director, Transformer, Washington, DC; and **Don Russell**, Executive Director, Provisions Library, Washington, DC. The panel will be moderated by **Ryan Hill**, Transformer Board Member, and Manager of Interpretive Programs & Curatorial Research Associate, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden.

Questions to be addressed include: *What is a Visual Arts Organization (VAO)? How did the field of non-profit alternative arts organizations/artist spaces begin and what were they an alternative to? What are some different models of current non-profit VAOs – how has the field changed since its inception, the culture wars of the early 90s? How do these VAOs educate audiences, support artistic careers, enhance our society? In what ways do these organizations facilitate discovery and usher in new artistic concepts?* The panel discussion will be followed by a thirty minute question-and-answer segment with the audience.

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 guide" to encourage and support individual emerging artist 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.*

Transformer's 08/09 FRAMEWORK Panel Series is generously supported by The Robert Lehman Foundation.

About 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. Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language, and for the coordination of media projects for all of North America. From its location in the revitalized Downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both individuals and organizations in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with high-quality events.

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For more information, please visit the Goethe-Institut's website at <http://www.goethe.de/>.

For further information on FRAMEWORK and/or other Transformer programs and events, please contact us at info@transformergallery.org, call 202.483.1102, or visit Transformer's website.

TRANSFORMER is a Washington, D.C. based 501(c) 3 non-profit, visual arts organization that connects and promotes emerging artists through exhibitions and educational programs. Partnering with artists, curators, art spaces and other cultural entities, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts. Transformer's 2008/2009 FRAMEWORK Panel Series is generously supported by The Robert Lehman Foundation, with additional support from 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.

Special thanks to **Scion** for their support of *Summer Camp!*

