

*transformer*

VISIONARY

LEADERS

CIRCLE



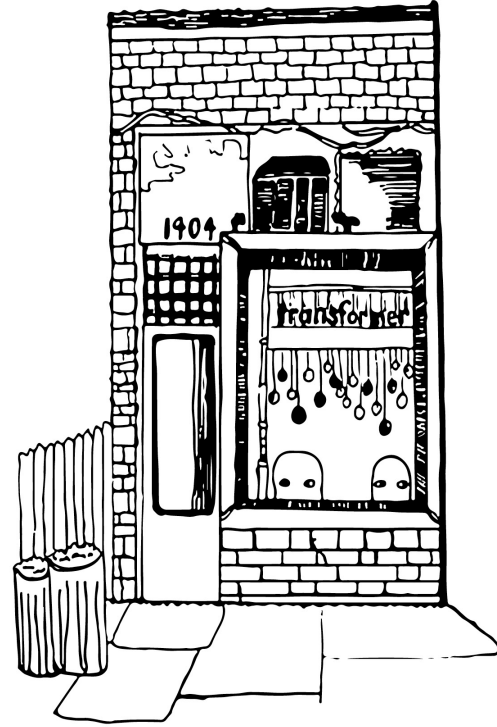
Opening Reception for Farrah Skeiky  
*Present Tense: DC Punk and DIY, Right Now*,  
January 2020; photo by Carl Nard

*“Transformer has steadily made its mark on the D.C. arts scene... the emphasis is on change and freedom, diverse voices, and new artistic mediums for expression.”*

*– Nicole M. Miller, The Washington Post*

# 20th anniversary book

## transformer20



Transformer's first retrospective book cataloging documentation and ephemera from twenty years of artist-driven exhibitions and programs. Presented alongside the writing of artists and colleagues integral to Transformer's legacy, *transformer20* 'the book' presents a visual timeline of the organization's mission to connect, elevate, and serve a broad & inclusive range of emerging artists and arts leaders through innovative, multi-faceted exhibition and program platforms.

# MEMBERSHIP



The **VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE** is a new annual fund to champion Transformer's support of emerging artists & arts leaders.

The **VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE** is a philanthropic partnership created to engage and align our donors' charitable interests with Transformer's extensive programming in support of emerging artists and innovative contemporary art practice.

***"We have always considered Transformer's artistic programming to be exemplary, and are impressed with its sense of the role it plays in the visual arts landscape of DC as well as nationally."***

*– Rachel Bers, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts*

## EXPERIENCE TRANSFORMER FROM THE INSIDE!

With special tours, artist talks,  
and increased donor recognition,  
we are enhancing our giving program  
by expanding benefits  
and engagement opportunities.

# ABOUT

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

*“Transformer has achieved a legacy of artistic and organizational excellence within the contemporary arts field, substantially impacting cultural dialogue within Washington, DC and beyond.” – James Alefantis, Transformer Board President*

With the support of **VISIONARY LEADERS** like you, Transformer will continue to grow and expand our mission to support artists’ evolving ideas and work, advance new and best visual arts practices, and build unique opportunities for audiences to connect with exemplary

## **FOUNDED IN 2002 BY ARTISTS & ARTS ORGANIZERS,**

Transformer supports underserved emerging visual artists and grows audience engagement with experimental visual arts practices. Our goal is to connect and elevate a diversity of emerging artists and arts leaders through professional excellence, equity and freedom of cultural exchange and artistic expression.

## **ARTIST-CENTERED IN EVERYTHING WE DO,**

Transformer is widely recognized by artists and growing communities of supporters for our innovative, multi-faceted exhibition and program platforms, developed both independently and through global partnerships. Sophisticated in our programming, while retaining our founding punk rock ethos, Transformer propels artists who define **what’s happening now and next in contemporary visual art.**



*“Transformer is one of the very few non-profit arts organizations in DC that are truly committed to supporting artists, our careers, and our practice.”*

*– Adrienne Gaither, Artist*

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

Headquartered since our inception within a unique storefront exhibition space in the heart of DC's Logan Circle, Transformer has a proven track record of supporting broad and inclusive communities of artists reflecting a diversity of economic, social, ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds, genders and sexual orientations.

Transformer is a widely recognized and trusted colleague within the contemporary arts field, supporting artists within local, regional, national, and international contexts. We provide artists meaningful forums for dialogue and connection with peers and mentors to advance their creative and professional development.



## COMMITTED TO BEST PRACTICES WITHIN THE CONTEMPORARY NON-PROFIT ARTS FIELD,

Transformer is W.A.G.E\* certified going above and beyond industry standards to provide top level support directly to artists, including:

- Equitable Honoraria for exhibiting artists based on national artist-initiated scales of support
- 70% commission on artworks sales
- Material, travel, install, documentation support
- Marketing & professional development
- Engagement with arts critics, press, and collectors
- Continued career advancement, including recommendations for grants, residencies, and MFA programs, and connection to curators, commercial galleries, museums, and collectors.

*\*Working Artists and the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.)*

Image stills from Armando Lopez-Bircann's online artist talk for their exhibition, *Arma the Oracle: Extended Reality (XR)*, presented April 24 - May 22, 2021; photos by Transformer. Part of Transformer's spring 2021 *Looking In/Looking Out* exhibition series.

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

Over 20  
years

Supporting emerging artists & emerging arts  
leaders through local, national & international  
exhibitions, programs & collaborative

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 2002 TRANSFORMER HAS:



\$1.8 million+

Provided to participating artists  
in honoraria, travel & material support

Exhibited the work of

3,200+

exceptional emerging artists



\$1.2 million+

Generated in art sales for artists  
through our exhibitions, programs,  
and special events

545+  
EXHIBITIONS  
& PROGRAMS

Through exhibitions & programs  
at our 1404 P Street NW project space,  
and through large-scale, off-site collaborations  
with cultural institutions in DC & abroad

70+  
CULTURAL

COLLABORATED  
WITH  
24+  
COUNTRIES

on programs & exhibitions with Embassies, Ambassadors,  
and arts organizations including: Australia, Bosnia & Herzegovina,  
China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece,  
Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Philippines,  
Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden,  
& the United Kingdom



W.A.G.E.  
certified since 2017



# ARTS PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

***“Transformer  
highlights  
what is happening  
now and next in  
contemporary art.”***

*– Victoria Reis,  
Co-Founder, Executive  
& Artistic Director, Transformer*



Lauded and respected locally, nationally and internationally, Transformer is a unique conduit for emerging visual artists and contemporary art audiences to engage with new art concepts and practices.

Our exceptional programming, developed and presented in collaboration with a broad range of partners, creates innovative opportunities for new generations of artistic visionaries to professionally present their work, receive mentorship, and grow their networks.

Image still from 14th Annual Transformer Silent Auction & Benefit Party performance featuring Hoesy Corona & Corcoran Students, 2018; photo by Nick Klein.

# EXHIBITION SERIES



**Transformer presents six, 5-6 week long exhibitions per year, within our exhibition space, at cultural institutions throughout DC and beyond, and via online formats.**

Global institutional exhibition partners have included:

The Corcoran School of Art & Design, American University Katzen Arts Center, The Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, The Phillips Collection, The Mexican Cultural Institute, The Goethe Institut, The Corner at Whitman-Walker, Pepco Edison Place Gallery, Sala Uno, Garash Galería, The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Sala Diaz, The Asbury Hotel, The LINE DC, and many others.

Our exhibitions highlight excellent emerging artists from throughout DC, in tandem with their national and international peers.

Exhibitions within Transformer's space are usually site-specific, with artists designing immersive floor to ceiling installations and presentations of their work.

Each exhibition features educational programs including artist talks, artist-led workshops, artistic actions, and more, all offered to audiences free of charge.

(L-R) Exhibition view of Dahlia Elsayed & Andrew Demirjian, *Which Yesterday is Tomorrow?*, 2020; photo by Transformer.

Exhibition view of Elsewhere, *Southern Constellations*, part of Transformer's four-part series, *Do You Know Where Your Art Comes From?* presented at American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, 2016; photo by Transformer.

# THE EXERCISES FOR EMERGING ARTISTS



This annual spring mentorship program acts as an accelerated MFA course for DC area based artists, providing them with intensive, bi-weekly peer and mentor critiques led by local, national and international arts leaders as they create new work.

Focusing on a different artistic discipline each year, **Exercises** culminates in a summer exhibition for the public to engage with artworks created through the program.

Image from Transformer's *E15: Fiber Arts* public mentor session with Brown Girls Museum Blog, *Exercises* artists, and visitors, 2018; photo by Transformer.

*"Transformer provides encouragement, opportunities, exposure, and ultimately, nourishment for young artists who benefit from experimenting with various media and exhibition forms. My work has developed from flat works on paper to sculptural, and even installation-scale, forms of presentation in multiple venues, while allowing my conceptual framework to shine through." – Jessica Cebra, Artist*

# FRAMEWORK PANEL SERIES

Transformer's *FRAMEWORK Panel Series* engages artists, arts professionals, cultural leaders, and audiences in conversation to create an oral 'field guide' encouraging and supporting artists, and educating audiences through the sharing of new & best contemporary visual arts practices.

Presented at DC based universities and cultural institutions, within online formats, and featuring global arts leaders - Transformer's *Framework Panels* advance critical arts dialogue.

(T-B) Image of *FRAMEWORK PANEL #30: Speculative Futures*, presented via Zoom on May 11, 2021; photo by Transformer.

Image of *FRAMEWORK PANEL #27: Challenging Colonialism in Contemporary Art*, presented at The Mexican Cultural Institute on April 4, 2017; photo by Transformer.



# SIREN ARTS

An innovative summer residency program & performance art series at the beach in Asbury Park, NJ supporting east coast based emerging visual artists from Washington, DC to NYC.



Launched in 2017, *Siren Arts* is an expansion of Transformer's mission to connect and promote emerging visual artists, build audiences for their work, and advance them in their artistic careers. Focused on social change, and supporting exceptional artists working within the under-recognized performance art discipline, this unique micro-residency & performance art series engages audiences in thoughtful celebration of the ocean, building deeper awareness on the intersectional effects of climate change through experimental arts practice.

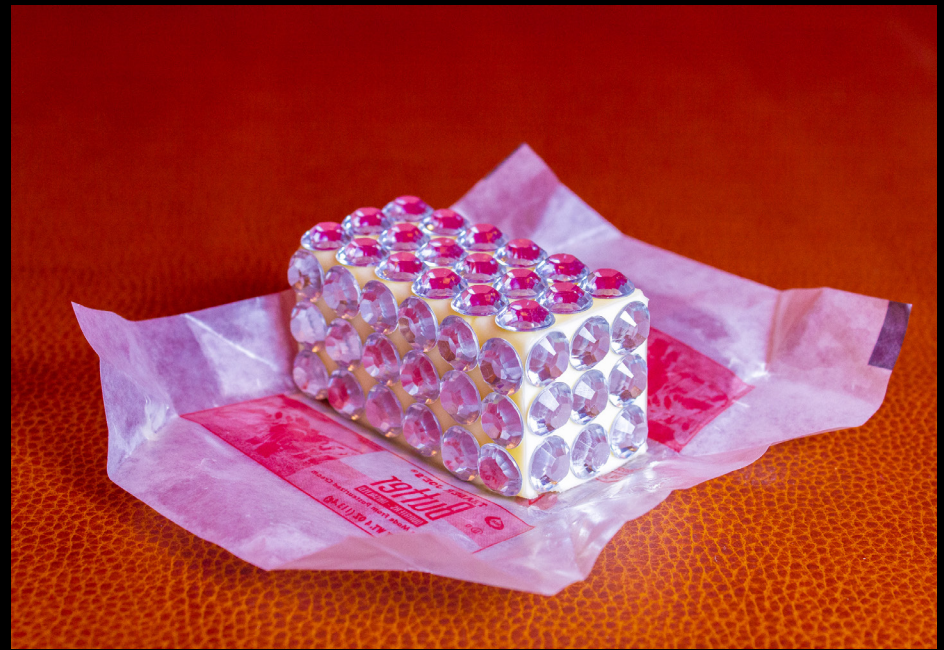


JungWoong Kim, performing *Thunder/Ripple*, July 23, 2021, photo by Transformer;  
Tsedaye MaKonnen, performing *Breaking the Wake*, August 8, 2019, photo by Ashley Rosas;  
Tamar Ettun & The Moving Company, performing *Mauve Bird with Yellow Teeth Red Feathers  
Green Feet and a Rose Belly part: BLUE*, August 9, 2018, photo by Ashley Rosas.

# FLATFILE

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Transformer's *FlatFile* is an evolving collection of two-dimensional artworks in a variety of mediums that provides needed revenue to artists. All artworks are sized at or below 16" x 20", and priced at or under \$500. Artists receive 70% of all art sales.



The more than 400 original artworks in the *FlatFile* are curated by Transformer staff to reflect a diversity of emerging artists, creative aesthetics, and art practices. Works from Transformer's *FlatFile* have been presented in art fairs, international exhibitions & pop-up initiatives, and are ideal for both emerging and established collectors.

All *FlatFile* artworks are available for viewing and purchase at Transformer's online store, and in person by appointment. *FlatFile* gift certificates are also available.

(L-R) Installation detail from COLLECT & GATHER: A Group Exhibition & Programming Series featuring Transformer's *FlatFile*, 2019; photo by Transformer. Aphra Adkins, *Still Life With Butter*, 2020, photograph, 12" x 15".

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# TEMPORAL PROJECTS



*“Transformer provides space to artists - both physical and intellectual - in the development and presentation of their work.”*

*- Micheline Klagsbrun,  
President, CrossCurrents Foundation*

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Transformer facilitates broad collaboration and responsiveness to the needs of artists, emerging curators, artist co-ops, collectives, and emerging arts initiatives through a variety of temporal projects to incubate developing and short-term projects that might not otherwise receive support.

Providing space, networks, financial investment and more to a growing list of artists and international collaborators, Transformer’s temporal projects embrace and foster nimbleness, fluidity, inventiveness, and collegiality in support of artistic experimentation.

Image still from Hoesy Corona and artists performing *Shadow/Casters*, June 10, 2017 at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; photo by Andy DelGiudice.

# ARTIST RESOURCES

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*“Transformer empowers me to take risks, to challenge myself, to connect with others, and dream big.” – Jane Carver, Artist*

Responding to growing artist needs during the Covid-19 pandemic, in summer 2020 Transformer launched a weekly round-up of grants, fellowships, residencies and other financial opportunities for artists shared through our social media platforms and website.

Collected from our national networks of peer arts organizations, private foundations, and governmental arts agencies, every Monday Transformer shares new listings of resources to support artists in their development, sustainment, and growth.

Artists Dahlia Elsayed & Andrew Demirjian inside their exhibition *Which Yesterday is Tomorrow?* at Transformer, 2020; photo by Transformer.



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*“Transformer is the divining rod for the arts in DC: they find it – the good stuff – and they understand it and reveal it.*

*They have always been the space I imagine the work – whether my own, unimagined, or someone else’s – as this de-facto standard test of whether something is worth its weight in salt.”*

*– Adrian Parsons, Artist*

Installation view of Aristeidis Lappas, *Break Time Contemplations*:  
Transformer 8th Annual Storefront Exhibition, 2018; photo by Transformer.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

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## HEARTBREAKERS BALL

Transformer's Annual *Heartbreakers Ball* celebrates our love for the emerging artist community, and debuts new works from our ever-evolving *FlatFile* Program.

This always unique event, presented through continually innovative and playful formats and platforms each Valentine's Day, is designed to warm hearts and encourage connection with emerging visual art and artists.



(T-B) Image still from Transformer's *3rd Annual Heartbreakers Ball*, 2019; photo by Brightest Young Things. Image still from karaoke performance at Transformer's *4th Annual Heartbreakers Ball*, 2020; photo by Brightest Young Things.

The background image shows a bright, airy interior space, likely an artist's studio or a collector's home. It features large windows with white frames, a wooden easel, a patterned rug, and a leather sofa. The lighting is warm and natural, coming from the windows. The overall atmosphere is creative and artistic.

# COLLECTOR'S VIEW SERIES

Transformer's Annual *Collector's View Series* highlights a diversity of prominent and emerging contemporary art collectors, unique and dynamic private art collections, and insightful collector viewpoints on the artists and artworks that inspire them.

Each spring, *Collector's View* provides audience participants with intimate, insider perspectives on the motivations, interests, and passions of our collector Hosts, special Views of the artwork they collect, and reflections on their relationship with artists, galleries, art spaces, and museums.

Presented within collectors' homes and online formats, this program is both an educational and development program of Transformer, cultivating new audiences, and building awareness of the broad relationships that grow from supporting artists and collecting visual art.



# ANNUAL AUCTION

Transformer's *Annual Silent Auction & Benefit Party* is a large-scale exhibition of artworks by local, national, and international emerging and established artists. Presented in partnership with cultural institutions including American University Katzen Arts Center, GWU/Corcoran College of Art & Design, Mexican Cultural Institute, Halcyon House, and Pepco Edison Place Gallery.

An extension of Transformer's overall cutting edge aesthetic, the *Auction* is our annual celebration of DC's contemporary art community.

Featured artworks are selected by a nominating committee of curators, artists, and arts professionals to provide both new and experienced collectors with a unique opportunity to purchase exceptional creations by stellar artists.

*“Transformer is truly dedicated to making a lasting impact on the artists who are in its orbit. The connections they forge are meaningful, and they are easily the most committed and resourceful collaborators I have had the joy of working with.”*

*– Farrah Skeiky, Artist*



Exhibition detail of Farrah Skeiky, *Present Tense: DC punk and DIY, Right Now: Transformer's 17th Annual DC Artist Solo Exhibition*, 2020; photo by Farrah Skeiky.

# VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP

**Be a part of Transformer's future success!** Join us in our mission to expand the minds and experiences of artists and growing arts communities by joining the **VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE**. Gain insider access to Transformer programming and other exclusive perks.

# VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS | individuals & corporate sponsors

The **VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE** is an annual membership providing access and mission-related opportunities to Transformer's most loyal & dedicated individual donors and corporate sponsors. It is a philanthropic affinity group created to engage and align with the charitable interests of its members.

ADVOCATE - \$1,000	CREATOR - \$2,500	MUSE - \$5,000	INNOVATOR - \$10,000	LUMINARY - \$25,000
<p><b>Underwrites artist materials for 1 group exhibition.</b></p>	<p><b>Underwrites 1 artist solo exhibition honoraria + materials.</b></p>	<p><b>Underwrites Siren Arts artist residency support.</b></p>	<p><b>Underwrites the Annual Exercises for Emerging Artists Program.</b></p>	<p><b>Underwrites 1 month of operations for Transformer - staff salaries, rent, utilities.</b></p>
<p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Valentine's Day Heartbreakers Ball (2)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual summer soirée (2)</p> <p>Invitation to VIP Reception for Transformer's Annual Exhibition &amp; Benefit Auction hosted by our Diplomatic Chair</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Exhibition &amp; Benefit Auction (2)</p> <p>First access to bid on &amp; purchase Annual Auction Exhibition Artworks</p> <p>Attendance at exclusive VLC Exhibition Previews</p> <p>Recognition on Transformer's website</p> <p>Subscription to Transformer's bi-weekly e-newsletter</p>	<p><b>INCLUDES ALL ADVOCATE BENEFITS PLUS:</b></p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Valentine's Day Heartbreakers Ball (4)</p> <p>Series Subscription to Collector's View (1)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual summer soirée (4)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Exhibition &amp; Benefit Auction (4)</p> <p>Invitation to special VLC exclusive events &amp; 'Meet the Artist' programs</p> <p>Complimentary copy of Transformer's 20th Anniversary Book</p>	<p><b>INCLUDES ALL CREATOR BENEFITS PLUS:</b></p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Valentine's Day Heartbreakers Ball (6)</p> <p>Series Subscription to Collector's View (2)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual summer soirée (6)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Exhibition &amp; Benefit Auction (6)</p> <p>Invitations to additional select Transformer events</p> <p>Recognition at Transformer fundraising events</p> <p>Annual Dinner with Transformer Board, staff, and artists</p> <p><b>ADDITIONAL CORPORATE BENEFITS INCLUDE:</b></p> <p>Mention in press releases</p> <p>Recognition in social media posts</p> <p>Logo on Transformer's website</p>	<p><b>INCLUDES ALL MUSE BENEFITS PLUS:</b></p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Valentine's Day Heartbreakers Ball (8)</p> <p>Series Subscription to Collector's View (3)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual summer soirée (8)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Exhibition &amp; Benefit Auction (8)</p> <p>Specialized artist studio tours</p> <p>Quarterly lunch with Transformer's Executive &amp; Artistic Director.</p> <p><b>ADDITIONAL CORPORATE BENEFITS INCLUDE:</b></p> <p>Opportunity for artist-led team building exercise for up to 20 employees</p> <p>Signage and recognition at Transformer events</p>	<p><b>INCLUDES ALL INNOVATOR BENEFITS PLUS:</b></p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Valentine's Day Heartbreakers Ball (10)</p> <p>Series Subscription to Collector's View (4)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual summer soirée (10)</p> <p>Tickets to Transformer's Annual Exhibition &amp; Benefit Auction (10)</p> <p>Underwriting credit of a Transformer Exhibition</p> <p>Inclusion on Transformer's Advisory Council</p> <p><b>ADDITIONAL CORPORATE BENEFITS INCLUDE:</b></p> <p>Opportunity to host a private reception at Transformer for up to 20 clients or employees</p> <p>Premier signage and recognition at Transformer events</p>
<p><i>*All donations through the transformer VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Documentation for your records will be provided.</i></p> <p><i>* VLC is a one year renewable membership from the date donation is received with listed membership benefits applicable spring 2024–spring 2025.</i></p>				



# SUPPORT

*In joining Transformer's **VISIONARY LEADERS CIRCLE**, you are part of the essential family of donors that propel our work, support exceptional emerging artists, and celebrate our growing legacy.*

*transformer's 2023/2024*

**Foundation and Government funders include:**

The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

The CrossCurrents Foundation

The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities/NEA

Logan Circle Main Street/District Bridges

The National Endowment for the Visual Arts

The Robert Lehman Foundation

S&R Evermay

Truist Foundation

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

Maps Glover performing *Art is the body*, part of the exhibition *What We Leave Behind: In The Name of Art* - a group exhibition organized by artist Maps Glover in collaboration with Uptown Art House and the TrashPass, 2019; photo by Transformer.

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