

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

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*Interspatial*  
May 9, 2015 – June 13, 2015

Opening Reception:  
Saturday, May 9, 6-8pm

Transformer presents *Interspatial*, a group show curated by Quota. Founded by Dawne Langford and Avi Gupta, Quota is a curatorial collaboration dedicated to broadening cultural diversity in public discourse around artistic creation and representation. In this group exhibition, artists **Rachel Schmidt**, **Johab Silva**, and **Levester Williams** explore the concept of spaces, both real and imagined with responses to changing or unfamiliar landscapes and restrictive environments.

*Interspatial* presents multiple interpretations of space by examining elements that define and create transformation. Spatial placement can be used to enforce power structures, resulting in a seemingly intractable system, making change and responsibility difficult. "Space' can also be a moment of expansion, leading to clarity and innovation," says Langford. From self-identity to our balance with nature, boundaries of confinement permeate our ability to traverse any given arena. Do we try to fit in or redefine what these spaces are?



## Artist Bios:

**Rachel Schmidt** loves stories – those based in reality and those based in the “realities” found in myths, legends, or fairytales. In her current body of work, Schmidt explores the impacts that the growing urbanism of the planet could have on distant futures. Schmidt has a Masters of Fine Arts from MICA and has exhibited in various venues, local and international, including Hillyer Art Space, Artisphere, (e)merge Art Fair, DCAC, Arlington Arts Center and an upcoming solo show at Flashpoint Gallery.

**Johab Silva**, a native Brazilian, has been working in Washington, D.C. since 2008. Sense of place and inheritance; appropriation and protest, are themes that motivate him. He works to convey the unexpected story through the interpretations of found objects and the endless possibilities of abstraction. Silva’s work has been shown at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Miami Art Palace and the Santo Andre Museum of Art. He is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Art Education at the Corcoran College of Art and Design.

**Levester Williams** dislocates objects from original contexts by rendering them within new contextual forms. He imbues an appreciation of the objects’ essence and historical richness and inspires a dialogue between the objects within our corporeality and “so-called” socially constructed identities. Williams is currently pursuing his MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media at Virginia Commonwealth University. His work has shown at Connersmith, Artisphere, and the Art Workhouse in Lorton, VA, Ohio, and Michigan.

## About Quota:

**Quota’s** mission converges on changing the structure of traditionally marginalized artists being relegated to presenting work that emphasizes “otherness” in relation to an unquestioned norm – a relationship defined by and in the interest of maintaining the dominant culture. ([www.quota-art.com](http://www.quota-art.com)).

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

Dawne Langford is an independent documentary producer and editor. Her passion for sharing stories that highlight the transformative power of the arts led her to establish Quota, through which she aims to enhance a community of peer-led creative advocacy. Langford has worked in various capacities in the social justice movement, as a member of DIY artist collectives, teaching and working in public media. Currently, Langford is working as an editor on the upcoming documentary "Check It". With over 15 years of experience working in media, she has received a Telly Award, The Aegis Award, and was selected to be a part of the PBS Producers Academy in 2013.

Avi Gupta works as Director of Photography for U.S. News & World Report where he has over fifteen years of experience. As an artist, his work has been exhibited across the U.S., including solo shows at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Orlando Museum of Art, Civilian Art Projects and overseas at the Nottingham Castle Museum and Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art in the UK. Alongside private collections, his work is held in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress in Washington.

Image: Rachel Schmidt, detail from *The Deadliest Catch*, 2014, courtesy of the artist

**EXHIBITION HOURS: Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm and by appointment.**

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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 2015/16 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 Bernstein Family Foundation, The Robert Lehman Foundation, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The S&R Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence Award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors, members of our Annual Auction Host Committee, and Corporate Sponsors.