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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sean Lynch: *Bandits in the Ruins* June 9 – July 7, 2012

Framework Panel #17:

Gentrification – Good? Bad? Indifferent?

In collaboration with Pleasant Plains Workshop & Artspace DC

Saturday, June 9, 3:30 – 5pm

Gateway Center at Wardman Court

14th & Clifton Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009
(use the 14th Street Entrance)

Sean Lynch: *Bandits in the Ruins* Opening Reception & Meet the Artist:

Saturday, June 9, 6 – 8 pm



Transformer is proud to present Irish artist Sean Lynch in his first US exhibition via collaboration with DC based non-profit Solas Nua, the only organization in the US dedicated exclusively to contemporary Irish arts. This exhibition features artworks that investigate and shine a spotlight on a range of almost-forgotten historical subjects. Sean's research, photographs and installations advocate a kind of activism towards history and cultural identity, disclosing and building upon fragile stories and objects, magnifying traces of their often-idiosyncratic existence.

Sean will be showing two bodies of work in Transformer's project space: a video of the construction of the M18 motorway in Clare, Ireland in which the direction of the planned motorway had to be shifted to preserve a legendary whitethorn bush known as a meeting place for supernatural forces; in contrast to this story in Ireland, the second body of work created during a March residency in DC with Solas Nua, focuses on Sean's study of slowly vanishing landmarks resulting in a series of photographs of the façade of the Renwick Gallery. Originally housing the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the stone walls of the Renwick Gallery building are patterned with vermiculation, symbolic that the building would eventually fall into ruin, a provocative statement on the architectural permanence of power seen throughout Washington.

Sean states: *"A story can be told and described so many times; it begins to narrow down to a particular narrative and content. I am interested in loose ends within stories: the footnotes that tend to get lost, and how to mediate their presence... The resulting artworks resist the notion of history as simulation. Instead they suggest the presence of an actual, although hidden, past, mostly eradicated from popular consciousness but briefly available in moments that can be evoked through artistic practice. In working in this manner, I view history not as a structure that anchors and legitimates everything, but rather as an amalgam of tropes and shifting viewpoints."*

Sean Lynch (b.1978, Kerry, Ireland) is a visual artist. He studied fine art at the Stadelschule, Frankfurt am Main. In recent years his artworks has been exhibited at the Camden Arts Centre, London, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, neugerriemschneider, Berlin, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main and Limerick City Gallery of Art, amongst others. This is his first solo exhibition in the United States. He is represented by the Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin, is a lecturer on MAVIS, MA in Visual Art Practices, IADT, Dun Laoghaire, and also an active author and editor of several publications on Irish art. Currently he is a participant at the Gasworks International Residency Programme, London. Further information and downloads are available at www.seanlynchinfo.com.

Sean Lynch: *Bandits in the Ruins* EXHIBITION HOURS: Wednesday – Saturday, 1-7pm and by appointment.

1404 P Street NW Washington DC 20005 | 202.483.1102 | www.transformerdc.org

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FRAMEWORK Panel #17: Gentrification – Good? Bad? Indifferent? June 9, 2012; 3:30 – 5pm. Developed in collaboration with Pleasant Plains Workshop & Artspace DC, this 17th panel in Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series will expand on broader themes of gentrification, including disappearing histories and landscapes both cultural and physical, as explored through *Sean Lynch: Bandits in the Ruins* and Pleasant Plains Workshop & Artspace DC's current collaborative exhibition *In Our Hood* (<http://inourhood.tumblr.com/>). Presented at Gateway Center at Wardman Court, *FRAMEWORK Panel #17: Gentrification – Good? Bad? Indifferent?* Panelists include: **Lydia DePilli**, journalist, reporter behind Washington City Paper's *Housing Complex* blog; **Cannon Hersey**, photographer, writer, and producer, featured in *In Our Hood*; **Sean Lynch**, visual artist; **Sylvia Robinson**, Executive Director of the Emergence Community Arts Collective (ECAC). The panel will be moderated by **Kristina Bilonick**, Founder and Director of Pleasant Plains Workshop, and **Melissa Matthews**, Artspace Coordinator at Artspace DC, with introductions by **Victoria Reis**, Co-Founder, Executive & Artistic Director, Transformer. For further details, visit: <http://transformerdc.org/programs/framework>.

Image: Sean Lynch, *Latoon*, Digital Betacam video transferred to DVD, 8:30 min, 2006



Based in Washington DC, Solas Nua ('new light' in Irish) is the only contemporary Irish arts organization in the United States. In 2011 the company won the DC Mayor's Art Award for Innovation in the Arts. www.solasnua.org

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.

Transformer's 2011/2012 Exhibition Series and programs are supported by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The CrossCurrents Foundation, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities/ NEA, The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Robert Lehman 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.