

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Transformer proudly presents:

A modest occupation
September 14-October 26, 2013

Exhibition Opening Reception:
Saturday, September 14, 6–8pm

(e)merge panel discussion
CONNECT: Artists + Community
Presented by The Washington Post
Friday, October 4, 2:00pm
Capitol Skyline Hotel

Project Dispatch Trade Show
Saturday, October 12, 2-4pm
Transformer

Creative Time Summit Screening
Friday, October 25, 11am – 6pm
Saturday, October 26, 12 – 6pm
Transformer



Eric Fleischauer, *Universal Paramount*, archival inkjet print, 2011

Featuring works from more than fifteen national artist-run art subscription programs, *A modest occupation*, guest curated by Abigail Satinsky of Threewalls (Chicago, IL), addresses the intersection of art and economics through the lens of subscription-based art services.

“Artists have long dealt with the problem, question, and opportunity of money (or lack thereof) in myriad ways, by invoking the very same resourcefulness they have applied to making art. They have formed cooperative living and studio arrangements, started their own businesses, become grant-writing virtuosi, begged, stolen, borrowed, and even invented their own currencies. Thinking about one’s own artistic practice as a small business is even more urgent in today’s economy.

There are now a network of artist-driven small businesses that commission works specifically for subscribers, using the models of Community Supported Agriculture or magazine subscriptions. Some are incorporated into non-profits, others are stand-alone businesses for independent artists. Consumers often buy these works sight unseen based on an affinity with the spirit of the business or name recognition of the artists involved. But what about the art? How do we look at artworks made with the consumer in mind? Featuring art subscriptions from across the country, this exhibition considers these works as more than the byproducts of inventive business models. When viewed collectively, they evoke both the spirit of their distribution method and the art behind the network.” – Abigail Satinsky

A modest occupation highlights works from: **Alula Editions** (Bay Area, CA), **Art Practical Mail Art Subscription** (San Francisco, CA), **Community Supported Art Chicago**, **Community Supported Art Philadelphia**, **Community Supported Art Minneapolis**, **The Drop/NOLA** (New Orleans), **The Present Group** (Bay Area, CA), **Regional Relationships** (Chicago), and **The Thing Quarterly** (San Francisco, CA).

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

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Abigail Satinsky is the Associate Director at threewalls in Chicago and co-founder of InCUBATE, a research collaborative dedicated to art economies and initiators of Sunday Soup, an international micro-granting initiative. She co-edited the most recent PHONEBOOK, a directory of artist-run spaces and projects across the United States (published by threewalls) and co-founded the Hand in Glove conference, a national convergence on grassroots arts organizing and administration. She regularly writes on socially engaged art practices for publications and exhibition catalogues, recently taught a course on the subject at University of Illinois at Chicago, and is working on a book project on a regional history of socially engaged art in Chicago. She is involved with ACRE, a residency program based in Chicago and Wisconsin, co-organizing the visiting artist program.

A modest occupation Programming:

(e)merge panel discussion

CONNECT: Artists + Community

Presented by The Washington Post

Friday, October 4, 2:00pm

Capitol Skyline Hotel

This conversation with national arts leaders at the (e)merge art fair explores how artists build communities to support themselves in their work. Panelists include: Abigail Satinsky, Threewalls (Chicago, IL); James McAnally, US English and The Luminary (St. Louis, MO); Ryan Frank, The Wassaic Project, (Wassaic, NY); and Margaret Boozer, Red Dirt Studios (WDC). Produced in collaboration with Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel series: <http://www.transformerdc.org/programs/framework>

Project Dispatch Trade Show

Saturday, October 12, 2-4pm

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Chandi Kelley, artist, Founder and Director of the DC based Project Dispatch, discusses the group's latest project and fundraiser to produce artist trading cards. Meet the artists involved, get your own packs of trading cards hot off the press, trade cards with other attendees, and participate in an autograph session. <http://www.projectdispatch.biz>

Creative Time Summit Screening

Friday, October 25, 11am – 6pm

Saturday, October 26, 12 – 6pm

Transformer presents a live screening in our space of the Creative Time Summit: two days of innovative presentations, dialogues, and performances by socially engaged artists from across the country. <http://creativetime.org/summit/>

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

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 2013/14 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 CrossCurrents 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. Special thanks to The Robert Lehman Foundation for their support of *A modest occupation*.

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