

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Z. Allread: *Cabinets of Curiosity*

*Transformer's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual DC Artist Solo Exhibition*

January 19 – February 23, 2013

Exhibition Opening Reception:

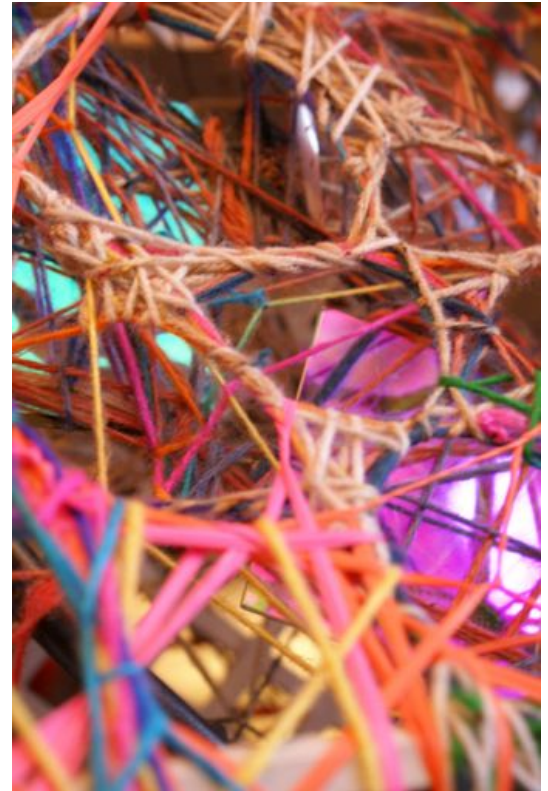
Saturday, January 19, 6–8pm

Artist remarks at 6:30pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, February 9, 3pm

In conversation with **Dr. John Royer, PHD**,  
Physicist in the Complex Fluids Group at  
the National Institute of Standards and Technology

Continuing our commitment to highlight the work of exceptional DC-based emerging artists, Transformer's *10<sup>th</sup> Annual DC Artist Solo Exhibition* presents the work of recent Corcoran College of Art + Design graduate **Forest Z. Allread** in his first solo exhibition.



Threading and webbing natural and man-made found objects inside milk crates and cigar boxes for his site-specific installation of works at Transformer, Forest creates a patchwork that references string theory and cosmology, and investigates notions of the micro and the macro as related to theories of the multiverse.

During his creative process, Forest explains that his work is “turning out to be *a box thing*. Each artwork creates an inside look at an inner world or space. I like to think that these resemble the unknown and unseen happenings giving the viewer a voyeuristic view for a new experience. This body of work also deals with both the fragility and seemingly strong web of the brightly colored thread formations and its relationship to the space it occupies.”

The materiality of the works as everyday accessible objects are self-referential — a tennis racket as tennis racket, a wooden pallet as a wooden pallet — draws inspiration from Duchamp's ready made artworks. Many of these objects come to the artist unforced. For example, the drift wood and coral found in the artworks were collected while walking along the raw desolate beaches of Ocracoke, off the southern most Island on the Outer Banks in North Carolina. The artist thinks of these materials - cigar boxes, milk crates, wooden pallets, pickle jar, drift wood, sea shell, tennis racket, birch bark, pop tab, thread, dragonfly wings, analog projector parts, pins, thread, fluorescent construction ribbon, rubberband, yarn, coral, teeter-totter spring - as gifts coming to him.

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All these objects interacting together reflect for Forest the fantasy found in nature and a wonder-space type of thought process, resulting in a schizophrenia of ideas that pulls from the past, present and future resulting in artworks that are truly postmodern.

**Forest Z. Allread** recently received his MAT and BFA from the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Washington DC. His *Black Betty* works were shown at the inaugural 2011 (e)merge art fair at Capitol Skyline Hotel. The title of his first solo exhibition references Forest's Masters of Arts in Teaching thesis, titled *Ode to the Cabinet of Curiosity*, which explores the dual use of tools.

**EXHIBITION HOURS:** Wednesday – Saturday, 1-7pm and by appointment.

Image: Forest Z. Allread, *What a Racket*, detail, 2012; tennis racket, yarn, milk crate, glass analog projector parts, and fluorescent construction ribbon.

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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.

Transformer's 2012/2013 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.