

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2.7.12

CONTACT: Victoria Reis / Ebony Dumas
202.483.1102 or info@transformerdc.org

FRAMEWORK Panel #15

2:46 and thereafter - Japanese Artists' Responses to the March 2011 Earthquake & Tsunamis



Thursday, February 16, 2012; 4:30 – 6pm

Presented at Pepco's Edison Place Gallery
702 Eighth Street, NW, Washington, DC

In tandem with *2:46 and thereafter*, an exhibition collaboration between Transformer and DANDANS, a Toyko based artist collective, Transformer is proud to present the 15th of our FRAMEWORK Panel discussions. Moderated by **Noriko Kashiwagi**, Administrative Director of DANDANS, in conversation with DANDANS artists **Shinji Maeda**, **Kazumasa Noguchi** and **Chiho Akama**, the discussion will focus on the following ideas & themes:

How did the earthquake & tsunamis, and resulting/continued aftermath affect their work, how they work, and the focus of their artistic ideas?

What do they believe is the artist's role in responding to and/or helping communities get through such a tragedy?

The collaboration between Transformer and DANDANS in developing and presenting the *2:46 and thereafter* exhibition is a conduit for cultural exchange and better understanding of our shared humanity through emerging contemporary visual expression. Through this FRAMEWORK panel, Transformer seeks to provide further context for the works in the exhibition, and increase dialogue on how the March 2011 earthquake and tsunamis have changed life for the people of Japan, as well as the global impact that such a disaster has.

Launched in December 2002, Transformer's FRAMEWORK Panel Series engages artists, arts professionals, cultural leaders, and audiences in conversation to create an oral 'field guide' to encourage and support individual emerging artists in our community, and educate audiences through the sharing of best practices within the contemporary visual arts.

Transformer's 2011/12 FRAMEWORK Panel Series is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts' *Access to Artistic Excellence* grant, awarded "to encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans".

t r a n s f o r m e r

MODERATOR BIO: Noriko Kashiwagi received her B.A. in Philosophy from Sophia University in Tokyo and her M.A. in Journalism from New York University. She had worked in U.S. investment banks, both on Wall Street and in Tokyo, for 14 years before she moved to London where she studied Art History. Upon moving to New York again, she completed her study at NYU Appraisal Program of Decorative and Fine Arts specializing in Japanese Art, and is an Associate Member of American Appraisers Association. She has been involved in DANDANS since last year as an Administrative Director. She now resides in Tokyo.

Image Credit: Shinji Maeda, *Gate311.Remarks*, 2011

2:46 & thereafter has been generously sponsored by:



Additional thanks to the Japanese Embassy in Washington, DC, and the American Embassy in Toyko, Japan, as well as to Pepco's Edison Place Gallery for hosting *2:46 and thereafter* and related programming.



DANDANS began in 2005 as a group for young, emerging artists and supporters seeking exhibition possibilities in Tokyo. DANDANS member artists are mainly in their twenties and thirties, working in a variety of genre including oil painting, Japanese traditional painting (nihonga), sculpture, video, photography, mixed-media and installations. An important feature of DANDANS is the artists' involvement in the organization and setup of all the exhibitions.

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.

The Pepco Edison Place Art Gallery is located in Pepco's Edison Place headquarters, at 702 Eighth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20068. The mission of Pepco's Edison Place Art Gallery is to work with nonprofit arts organizations to sponsor a series of diverse, high quality art exhibits on behalf of the community we serve.