

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 24, 2011

CONTACT: Victoria Reis/Barbara Escobar  
202-483-1102

Transformer is proud to present Lauren Rice in her first DC Solo Exhibition:

## Lauren Rice: *Heirlooms* February 5 – March 12, 2011

**OPEN HOUSE:** Saturday, February 5; 1-7pm  
Meet and greet throughout the day with artist Lauren Rice.

**ARTIST TALK:** Saturday, February 5; 2pm

Transformer is proud to present the installation work of Detroit-based artist Lauren Rice in her first DC solo exhibition. Similar to set designs for theatrical events, the landscapes Rice creates in her sculptural work are fantastical - elements appear to collapse, levitate, burst and grow within the gallery space. With *Heirlooms*, Rice references gardens, flowers and vases, while simultaneously vulgarizing their traditional preconceptions as feminine and romantic.



Rice's "heirlooms" are not highly crafted nor from extravagant origins. Each object is original, crafted from window screens, newspaper, phone book pages, spray paint, and glue. The objects bear a resemblance to kudzu rather than a well-tended garden. Rice describes her installation as resembling parts of dismembered bodies as seen in Goya's *Disasters of War*, while at the same time referencing the decadence of Dutch still life painting. The monstrous vegetation of Rice's installation entices the viewer while threatening to become a metaphor for disease and decay. The stage that Rice sets is a chimera, both distorted and beautiful, where strong formal decisions rest beside formal disasters and where collapse can be perceived as both a positive and negative event.

"The floral forms and the sensation of movement in my work signify events indicating dramatic upheaval, change and growth. My arrangements of formal imagery is a metaphor for both the personal and universal struggle/fixation with binaries such as good and evil, love and hate, indulgence and guilt, consumption and conservation, and the fear of and fixation with death. The floral and decorative imagery at once expand and explode, as they are no longer capable of sustaining their growth."

Lauren Rice received her BA in Studio Art from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois and her MFA in Painting from American University, Washington, DC. She has exhibited at venues in Michigan, DC, New York, and Texas. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Rice currently lives and works in Detroit, Michigan where she is an Adjunct Lecturer at The College for Creative Studies and Eastern Michigan University.

**HEIRLOOMS EXHIBITION HOURS: Wednesday – Saturday, 1 – 7pm & by appointment.**

Image: Detail of *Heirlooms* Installation by Lauren Rice

---

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 2010/2011 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 National Endowment for the Arts' *Access to Artistic Excellence* award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

1404 P Street NW Washington DC 20005 | (202) 483-1102 | [www.transformergallery.org](http://www.transformergallery.org)