

t r a n s f o r m e r

Sustainability Lab activities June 2-12, 2010

All programs are free and open to the public.

All programs take place at Transformer's 1404 P Street, NW project space unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2

1 - 7pm: *Lasting Impressions*

Visit Transformer during public gallery hours to engage with our artist-in-residence Jeff Hnilicka as he reflects on different models of cultural production, and contribute to his *Sustainability Lab* installation.

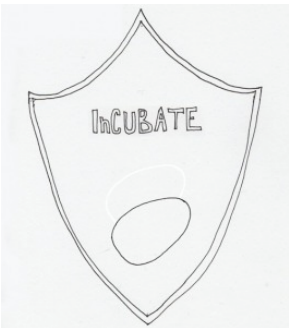
Documenting creative and thought-provoking community and artist generated projects from around the country, along with ideas and feedback from visitors to Transformer, Jeff Hnilicka's interactive *Sustainability Lab* installation of visqueen sheets reflects an aggregating collection of histories, dreams, and schemes that has traveled with Jeff to conferences and workshops he has led this spring in DC, Philadelphia, Portland, and many points in between.



Image: Jeff shares his notes with Transformer visitors.

Thursday, June 3

1 - 3:30pm: InCUBATE Discusses ARBS (Artist Run Benefit Society)



Prior to their participation on Transformer Framework Panel #13 (see description below), Abigail Satinsky and Bryce Dwyer of Chicago-based InCUBATE (Institute for Community Understanding Between Art and the Everyday) will be at Transformer with Jeff Hnilicka discussing InCUBATE's new program - the Artist-run Benefit Society (ARBS). In honor of their signature project *Sunday Soup*, a chilled summer soup will be served.

InCUBATE is a research group dedicated to exploring new approaches to arts administration and arts funding. The organization does not have non-profit status, but instead are interested in what kinds of organizational strategies could provide more direct support to critical and socially-engaged art and culture beyond for-profit or non-profit structures. Their core organizational principle is to treat art administration as a creative practice, and by doing so, generate and share a new vocabulary of practical solutions to the everyday problems of producing under-the-radar culture. (www.incubate-chicago.org).

The Artist-run Benefit Society is a mutual aid society for artist-run spaces and projects. It is a volunteer association designed to increase opportunities for collective fundraising and provide social and educational frameworks for independent art spaces and groups to support each other, share resources, and contribute to their community. The ARBS format was inspired by "tanda", a monetary practice formed by a core of participants who agree to make regular contributions to a fund, which is given to each contributor in rotation. The ARBS takes the form of a giving circle of artist-run member organizations (formal or informal) and is meant to support organizers in their creative work.

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t r a n s f o r m e r

6:30 – 8pm: Framework Panel #13

BUILT TO LAST? – truths & myths of sustainable cultural production

At the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW

In the “Root Room” on the 2nd Floor



This panel will look back and look ahead at the ever-evolving Do-It-Yourself ethic and inherent aesthetics as it relates to cultural production. Timed with the 30th anniversary of Washington DC's Dischord Records - an internationally recognized independent record label supporting punk rock music that has been artist run since its inception - this panel will examine the DIY organizing model that grew out of punk rock subculture and is tied to punk ideology and anti-consumerism. How is DIY being redefined as aspects of that culture shift from being an underground mantra to a cable TV station slogan and Urban Outfitters commodity? What can cultural producers learn from sustainable food producers? How can a volunteer-run operation be sustainable? Panelists: **Nancy Bannon**, artist, DC & NYC; **Bryce Dwyer**, InCUBATE, Chicago; **Ian MacKaye**, co-founder of Dischord Records, DC; **Eve Mosher**, Seeding the City, NYC; **Abigail Satinsky**, InCUBATE, Chicago. Moderator: **Jeff Hnilicka**, cultural worker, organizer of FEAST, Brooklyn; Transformer's Sustainability Lab visiting artist in residence

Photo: Minor Threat in Austin, TX by Bill Daniel ©1983

Friday, June 4

5 – 7pm: **Seeding the City at Fathom Creative** (1333 14th Street NW)

Transformer is pleased to host NY-based artist Eve Mosher as she discusses her large-scale, public art project, *Seeding the City* with DC audiences. Urging people to consider environmental issues and the role that we can each play in creating a more sustainable and hospitable environment, the project uses neighbor-to-neighbor referrals for starting small green roof modules. Each installation is a seed of potential – potential for community action, potential for more green rooftops, and potential for change.

Please join Eve on the rooftop of Transformer's neighbor Fathom Creative for a demonstration of how the project is executed in practice, one rooftop at a time. **Attendance is free, advance registration with Transformer is required.** Please email info@transformergallery.org, or call 202-483-1102.



Images: *Seeding the City*, www.evemosher.com

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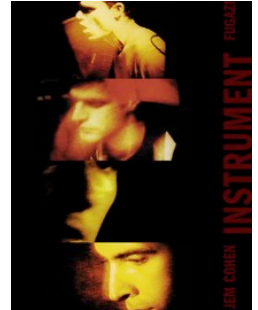
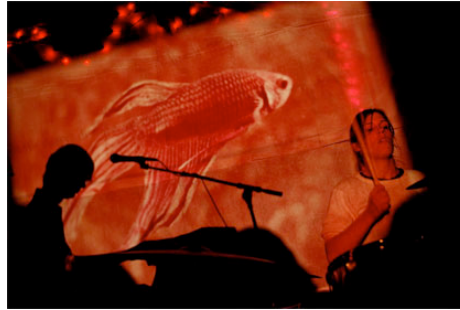
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Saturday, June 5

Transformer Presents: A Day of Dischord

2 – 4:30pm: Mini Dischord Showcase featuring Andalusians and The Aquarium

5 – 7pm: Screening of *Fugazi: Instrument*



Co-founded by Ian MacKaye and Jeff Nelson in 1980 for the purpose of releasing *Minor Disturbance* by The Teen Idles, Dischord is one of the longest sustained, artist-run organizations in DC and one of the most successful independent record labels in the country, having maintained a strict do-it-yourself ethic for the past three decades. While continuing to investigate sustainable organizations and DIY ethics as highlighted by Jeff Hnilicka throughout *Sustainability Lab*, Transformer is thrilled to celebrate 30 years of our favorite indie label with this mini showcase featuring Dischord bands Andalusians and The Aquarium.

2pm: Andalusians is the songwriting vehicle for Basla Andolsun who has played in Beauty Pill, Del Cielo and currently tours with Edie Sedgwick. Basla is supported live and in the studio by a revolving line-up of collaborators including Kristin Forbes, Sammy Ponzar, David Brown, Chris Farrall, Clark Sabine and Chad Molter. Andalusians has played regional shows in and around Washington, DC and wrapped up a tour of the southern and mid-western United States in late February 2009. The single, "Do The Work", was also released on Dischord in Feb 2009 and features 3 songs and a 6 song MP3 download.

3:30pm: The Aquarium is a duo featuring Jason Hutto on keyboards and vocals and Laura Harris on drums. Jason's layering of over-driven electric piano and keyboards creates surprising depth and ample texture for Laura's rollicking back-beats. The Aquarium plays only a handful of shows each year, yet have attracted a dedicated following with their hypnotizing instrumentals and frantic vocal compositions. In addition to performing with The Aquarium, Laura also plays drums with Benjy Ferree. Jason has toured with Edie Sedgwick, and played guitar in Motor Cycle Wars. In 2006, Dischord released the band's self-titled debut full-length. The Aquarium's newest release is a two-song seven inch that was released in August 2009, mixed by Brendan Canty (Fugazi) and produced by Benjy Ferree.

For more information on these and other Dischord bands, please see Dischord's website, www.dischord.com.

5 – 7pm: Fugazi: Instrument. Join us for a special screening of this classic Jem Cohen documentary on one of the most important and influential bands of the last 20 years.

***Space at Transformer is limited – please arrive early to secure your spot!**

Images: Andalusians by PJ Sykes; The Aquarium by David Holloway, *Fugazi: Instrument*

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Weds June 9

1 - 7pm: *Lasting Impressions*

While Jeff Hnilicka is out & about in DC collecting material for Friday June 11's *10 Dance Moves for Washington, DC* programming (see below), please visit Transformer during public gallery hours to interact with his *Sustainability Lab* installation. Jeff's interactive installation of visqueen sheets, containing in-progress brainstorming notes from *Sustainability Lab* and *Open Engagement* (a three day conference in Portland, OR exploring similar themes) will be open to visitor contributions as part of an on-going exploration of emerging models of art, food, and cultural production. The installation documents sustainable community and artist generated projects from around the country, along with ideas and feedback from Transformer visitors. Contribute to an aggregating collection of histories, dreams, and schemes that will travel with Jeff this summer and fall to his projects in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Greensboro, Los Angeles, and many points in between.



Image: Transformer visitors interact with Jeff's *Sustainability Lab* installation.

Thursday, June 10

1 - 7pm: *Lasting Impressions*

See above.

Friday, June 11

1, 3, and 5pm: *10 Dance Moves for Washington, DC* - a dance lesson and travelogue

The culture of a city comes not only from its physical structures, but the architecture of its organisms. The people of a city are in and of themselves a tourist attraction - their mannerisms and body language define a cultural pulse. In a city renowned for its monuments, come learn another way to view cultural value in DC.

Drop by Transformer at 1pm, 3pm, and/or 5pm for a participatory presentation by Jeff Hnilicka on his Washington, DC experience. Based on a collection of images gathered via explorations of DC that Jeff thinks could inspire dance moves, Transformer invites you to hear about his travels, learn his choreography, and offer your own spin on DC's moves.

Additionally, Hnilicka will present *100 Dance Moves for Portland*, a work created with his collaborative team You Are My Friend.

No previous dance or tour guide experience is necessary.

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Saturday, June 12

1 – 6pm: Home Grown

Join artist Cynthia Connolly and cultural worker Jeff Hnilicka for an afternoon of conversation, local foods, music, and art. While sharing photographic documentation of personal art projects that explore themes of community and sustainability, Cynthia and Jeff will simultaneously be preparing and sharing with audiences a variety of food purchased fresh that morning from Potomac Vegetable Farms (Purcellville, VA) and Eco Friendly Foods (Moneta, VA) at the Court House Arlington, VA Farmers market. Among the projects Cynthia will be sharing is a work-in-progress documenting the work of farmers from the Court House market, exposing their entire food network from source to plate. She will also show photographs documenting her Rural Studio project in Perry County Alabama, where she designed and built an organic vegetable stand. Music from celebrated DC-based bands will play throughout the day. This program is free and open to the public.



“Our goal is to farm this land well, leaving the land improved, while feeding people real food and being excellent neighbors.” - Ellen Polishuk, Potomac Vegetable Farms

Image: Cynthia Connolly's *Vegetable Stand* in progress in Newbern, Alabama. © Cynthia Connolly, 2003. www.cynthiaconnolly.com

***For more information on *Sustainability Lab* and to register for programs and events, please contact Transformer staff at 202.483.1102 or info@transformergallery.org.**