

t r a n s f o r m e r

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Transformer launches its 7th season of dynamic programming with:

ID-entity September 12 – October 18, 2008

Seeking to further international contemporary art dialogue, build alliances for artists, and promote cultural exchange, Transformer is thrilled to be partnering with the Mexican Cultural Institute in presenting the comprehensive, two-site, *ID-entity* exhibition.



Co-curated by Victoria Reis and Mexico City based independent curator Giovanna Esposito Yussif, *ID-entity* highlights the work of ten young artists that live and work in Mexico City - **Domestic Fine Arts, Gilberto Esparza, Saúl Gómez, Ricardo Harispuru, Mauricio Limón, Edith Pons, Xavier Rodríguez, Marco Rountree Cruz, Amaranta Sánchez and Joaquín Segura.**

In Spring 2008, Transformer began developing a relationship with the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C. Interested in better understanding the emerging contemporary art of DC's sister federal city, members of Transformer staff and board traveled to Mexico City in April 2008. In addition to attending the FEMACO art fair, Transformer met with many of the artists, gallerists, and curators who are creating, supporting and presenting Mexico City's emerging contemporary expression.

In an era of globalization, and the many questions, opinions and consequences that the integration of economic, political, and cultural systems raise, as well as effects on the environment, the developing world, and human rights, the concept of "identity" and the range of meanings that can be applied in defining it, became an exciting starting point in organizing the *ID-entity* exhibition. The participating *ID-entity* artists pose questions and share reflections about living within a capital city, urban life, consumption, consumerism, politics and culture among other themes related to how "identity" is not only defined by community, culture and country, but also by the individual.

ID-entity features photography, video, painting, drawing, and mixed-media work in site-specific and site-responsive installations at Transformer, and the 1st and 2nd floors of the Mexican Cultural Institute's public rooms, as well as the garden.

Schedule of Programming:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008 at TRANSFORMER (1404 P Street, NW):

6 – 9 PM - Opening Reception – Please join us in celebrating the installation of new work by Saúl Gómez.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2008 at the MEXICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE (2829 16th St., NW):

3:30 PM – Discussion of work between *ID-entity* artists and Ryan Hill, Manager of Interpretive Programs and Curatorial Research Associate, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

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t r a n s f o r m e r

5 – 8 PM - Opening Reception – Please join us in celebrating the installations of work by *ID-entity* artists throughout the 1st and 2nd floors, and garden of the Mexican Cultural Institute.

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

EXHIBITION HOURS – MEXICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE: Monday - Friday, 10 am – 1 pm; 3 – 6pm.

For bio info on the artists and further details on their work, please contact Transformer at: info@transformergallery.org.

ID-entity image by Mauricio Guillén.

ID-entity artworks are courtesy of the artists and their galleries: Arena México, Arte Contemporáneo; Garash Galería; Galería Hilario Galguera; and Proyectos Monclova.

ID-entity is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Mexican Cultural Institute, The Mexican Foreign Ministry, The Boden Group, Fundación/Colección Jumex, The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities/NEA, The Visionary Friends of Transformer and the Inter-American Development Bank Cultural Center.



t r a n s f o r m e r is a Washington, D.C. based 501(c) 3 non-profit, artist-centered visual arts organization that connects and promotes emerging artists locally, nationally and internationally. Partnering with artists, curators, art spaces and other cultural entities, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts. Transformer's 2008/2009 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 Robert Lehman Foundation, The Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer.

The Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C. is one of the most important artistic and cultural centers established outside Mexico. Its primary mission is to promote and disseminate among the local community, the vast and rich traditions of Mexico's cultural past and present. Situated in a magnificent mansion on 16th Street, N.W., the Institute has become an important meeting place for the intellectual and artistic minds on both sides of the border. It has developed a close relationship with key cultural and academic institutions of the nation's capital aiming at increasing the mutual understanding between our countries, while supporting and promoting the rich manifestations of the human spirit. www.instituteofmexicodc.org