

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 17, 2012

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Transformer is honored to present an exhibition collaboration with Tokyo based artist collective DANDANS, highlighting Emerging Japanese Artists' Responses to the March 2011 Earthquake & Tsunamis that struck the northeast coast of Japan.

## *2:46 and thereafter*

February 16 – March 25, 2012

Pepco's Edison Place Gallery

702 Eighth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20068



**Framework Panel:** Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>; 4:30 - 6pm

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>; 6 - 8 pm

**Closing Reception:** With special performance by On Megu Akiyosh, Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>; 6 - 8 pm

Working in collaboration with DANDANS, a Tokyo based artist collective, Transformer is honored to present *2:46 and thereafter*, an exhibition highlighting emerging Japanese artists' responses to the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan's north-east coast, and its affect on the country and the Japanese people. The title of the exhibition, *2:46 and thereafter*, marks the time the earthquake hit, referenced throughout Japan in the same vein Americans now reference the date 9/11.

This comprehensive exhibition, the first of its kind in the US, will feature works in a variety of mediums exploring emerging Japanese artists' creative responses to the terrible catastrophe that killed thousands of people, and how life has changed in its aftermath. Through installation, painting, video, sculpture, photography, and drawing, the eighteen artists featured in *2:46 and thereafter* – Takeshi Abe, Chiho Akama, Yasushi Ebihara, Yuya Fujita, Masaharu Futoyu, Kotaro Isobe, Mami Kosemura, Shinji Maeda, Kazumasa Noguchi, Mitsuki Noguchi, Tetsuya Noguchi, Mihoko Ogaki, Akiko Ozasa, Masaharu Sato, Shinichi Tsuchiya, Takayoshi Tsuchiya, Ryota Unno and Keiki Yamada – address issues that many of the people of Japan, primarily the young people, are exploring as they adjust to life following destruction, loss, and still to be determined affects from Japan's most powerful earthquake since records began.



The collaboration between DANDANS and Transformer in developing & presenting *2:46 and thereafter* is a conduit for cultural exchange and better understanding of our shared humanity through emerging contemporary artistic expression. The artist members of DANDANS have created new works that will be exhibited for the first time through this exhibition. The collaboration between these two artist-centered organizations marks an important and timely show of support for the

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



people of Japan, especially the young artists, within the capital of the US. *2:46 & thereafter* is presented in tandem with the launch of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, with closing weekend activities included in the Festival's official line up of events.

Many thanks to the Japanese Embassy in Washington, DC and the American Embassy in Japan for their support, and to Pepco's Edison Place Gallery for hosting the exhibition.

Additional thanks to Kushi restaurant for sponsoring the exhibition's opening & closing receptions.

## Exhibitions Hours at Edison Place Gallery for *2:46 & thereafter*:

Tuesday – Friday 12 – 4 pm; Thursdays 12 – 7 pm;

Saturday, March 10, 17 & 24<sup>th</sup>; 12 – 4 pm; Sunday, March 25; 12 – 4 pm

*2:46 & thereafter* has been generously sponsored by:



Buckers's Foundation

U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL



THE TOKYO CLUB



**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.

**The Pepco Edison Place Art Gallery** is located in Pepco's Edison Place headquarters at 702 8th 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.

**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 2011/12 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 Robert Lehman Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts' Access to Artistic Excellence award, and The Visionary Friends of Transformer – individual donors & sponsors of our Annual Auction & Collector's View series.

**Image credits, top to bottom:** Kazumasa Noguchi, *THE MOON*, Acrylic on wood panel, 46 x 36"; Masaharu Futouy, *Atomic power is the energy of the bright future*, Neon, 39 x 8"; Takayoshi Tsuchiya, *Fly*, Lambda print, acrylic resin, 76 x 50".