

t r a n s f o r m e r

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Transformer proudly presents **Dialogue 02: Dia de los Muertos**.
November 2, 2002 – November 9, 2002. **One week only!**

Public Reception: Saturday, November 2, 2002, 6-9 pm.

Dialogue is a seasonal art action created by Ingrid Hagerstrom, artist-in-residence at Transformer. Combining conceptual and sculptural art elements, Dialogue reflects Hagerstrom's artistic processes as both artist and chef. Hagerstrom places everyday objects such as a table and chairs (that are either made or chosen) into the gallery setting. Placed with specific intent, these objects take on heightened meaning. Dialogue attempts to strip down preconceived notions of art, creating both the context and forum for the art idea to reveal itself.

Developed in collaboration with installation artist Beatrice Valdes Paz, **Dialogue 02: Dia de los Muertos** highlights traditions of coming together for reflection and celebration of the cycles of life.

Dia de los Muertos is an event to remember ancestors whose spirits visit the earth once a year. Considered a passage from one type of living to another, this concept of the cycle or circle of life is a strong tradition with many native and indigenous peoples worldwide. Fused with Catholicism's All Souls Day on Nov. 2 and All Saints Day on Nov. 1 to become Day (or Days) of the Dead, the dead are honored by transforming entire rooms into altars with offerings such as photographs, toys, incense, flowers, favorite music and favorite foods of those who have passed. Creating site specific altar installations throughout the gallery space, including public offering altars in Transformer's front window and back alcove that guests are encouraged to add items to, and a central food altar with hot chocolate, specialty pastries and treats, Hagerstrom and Valdes Paz explore Day of the Dead traditions honoring those who have died while commenting on recent social and cultural losses.

Ingrid Hagerstrom received her graduate and undergraduate degrees in fine arts from the Performance/Video department at the San Francisco Art Institute with emphasis on contemporary conceptual thought. She has been living in DC and working as a professional chef for the last 13 years in some of the city's finest restaurants. **Beatrice Valdes Paz** graduated from the Corcoran School of Art in 1992, and is represented by Bonnie Benrubi Gallery in New York. Her photography is widely exhibited and collected in the US and in Europe.

Transformer will host a "harvest" dinner in conjunction with **Dialogue 02: Dia de los Muertos** on Friday, November 8. Proceeds from this event will go to support Transformer's programs. For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact Transformer at 202-544-4668 by November 5.

Transformer is a non-profit alternative art space that seeks to connect and promote Washington, DC emerging artists within a national and international context. Partnering with artists, curators, art spaces, as well as commercial galleries, museums and other cultural institutions, Transformer serves as a catalyst and advocate for emergent expression in the visual arts.

Transformer exists through the generous support of Transformer's Board, Advisory Council, and friends. Contributions are tax-deductible. **Dialogue 02: Dia de los Muertos** has been made possible through the generous support of the artists and Kate Lydon, Art Director of the Freer Sackler Museums.

Gallery hours for this exhibit are 6-8 pm Tues 11/5 – Thurs 11/7; 1-6 pm Sat 11/9, or by appointment.

Dead Head sculptures by Mimi Masse & Beatrice Valdes Paz. Photograph by Beatrice Valdes Paz.

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