



**District of Columbia
Arts Center**

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DCAC Archive : Director's Letters September : October 2011

The season has begun. For us in the arts world it is essentially the beginning of a new year. All the galleries are opening hot new shows and the theaters are expounding on the great upcoming season they have in store for their subscribers. And you know me, I am not one to go on and on about what we have going on at DCAC. Humble and meek, that's me. Without even looking at you I can tell that either you don't buy this, or you really do know me and have already rolled your eyes at this blatant misrepresentation.

Okay, so quickly, yes, we do have some fantastic things on the horizon for this season. We have the installation and opening of the exhibition curated by our apprentice curator, Metasebia Joseph, as the second installment of The Curatorial Initiative in September. That's a really big deal for us. As you may know, The Curatorial Initiative is a signature program of DCAC whereby we pair up an aspiring curator with an established curator for a one-year mentorship. This results in two exhibitions; one in the Spring led by the established curator and one in the Fall led by the aspiring curator. You can figure out which one this is. It is a dynamite show with two artists and for more than that you'll just have to come and see for yourself. It should be noted however, that we are now accepting applications for the 2012 program, so if you have been interested in curating and want a chance at this yourself, or know someone who would benefit from this, now is the time to apply. Only one mentee is selected. Check our website for details. And speaking of our website, we are about to unveil one that is completely new for DCAC. With the unflinching help of Stuart Greenwell we have been tightening information, gathering cool images and dreaming up ways to better serve the people who come to our site for information. A completely new addition will be a blog about DCAC happenings that will allow you to interact with us and the DCAC Community directly. We are so excited about this total do over that we can hardly speak, so I can't say anymore.

This season also brings an international collaboration to the DCAC stage. With the assistance of the Danish Arts Council Committee for Performing Arts and the Municipality of Aarhus we are pleased to be hosting a six-week residency of Annika Lewis, renowned and prolific Danish performance artist. She will be performing at DCAC in October and will be available at a panel discussion, a welcoming reception and a workshop. Annika has been on the forefront of creating solo performances that merge technology, dance, and acting for many years and brings a wealth of knowledge, humor and insight to her work. It's definitely a don't miss.

And of course there is more, and even more than that, but I needn't go on and on, you must know by now, or maybe are just beginning to realize, that DCAC has the most eclectic array of performance, visual art, discussions, poetry, and networking of most any place you've ever seen. But what is more important than all of that, is that we make this happen ourselves, you and me. Well, you and me, the DCAC staff, the board, and all these artists. But it doesn't happen because we get DC funding, it happens because of the contributions of all of us who make up the DCAC Community. When you contribute you don't just become a passive member with a card and a thank you note, you become a part of the fabric of this place, and its sponsor.

You become connected with the hundreds of others who share your appreciation of what goes on here, you become a vital part of our Community, and we value that. That's why in the coming season you're going to see a lot more events focused on our members. We are continuing the monthly happy hours with the fabulous DJ Glowstick, we are going to be having topical arts discussions free to our members, and we are going to be actively seeking your feedback on what is going on with DCAC. Starting with this newsletter you'll find a profile on one of our board members or staff so you can better know who runs this organization. There is even talk of a DCAC member's town hall meeting.

All of this boils down to two main facts: 1) we do an incredible amount of really good stuff, and 2) we do it all with the support of individual contributions and practically no outside funding. I am proud of what we do, and I hope that as a member of the DCAC Community you are, too. Please join us at these member events and let's talk about how we can make DCAC stronger and more viable, because it's not just your financial contribution that counts here, we want your intellectual and artistic contribution as well. Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you soon.

B Stanley,
Executive Director