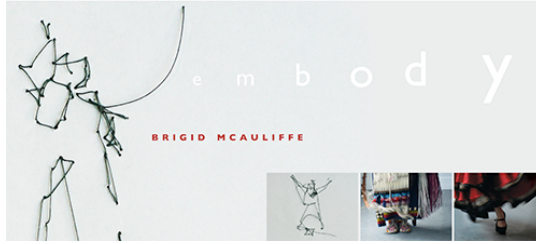


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 6, 2009**

Judy Anderson  
PlatteForum  
303.893.0791  
Email – [judy@platteforum.org](mailto:judy@platteforum.org)  
Website – [www.platteforum.org](http://www.platteforum.org)



**Embody**  
**Brigid McAuliffe**  
+  
**Clear Lake Middle School**

**Denver, CO—October 5, 2009** Creative Resident **Brigid McAuliffe** culminates her two month residency with *Embody*, an exhibition/installation which uses percussive dance as a vehicle to explore cultural identity, history, and empowerment in generations of women. The work, a dynamic mix of projected images and sound, features a multi-channel video/audio installation to showcase and integrate each woman’s dance and dialogue. Audio fluctuates between the sounds of dance and the dancer’s voices, to create a resonating pulse in the gallery.

McAuliffe: “*Embodiment* is usually understood as providing the ephemeral—a spirit, feeling, vision, or otherwise—with a tangible or visual form. *Embody* explores the complex meanings of this term to generations of female dancers who experience embodiment of a certain spirit or feeling while dancing. They articulate this feeling as being unique to dance: it is one that arises when they are wholly immersed, mentally and physically in the *flow* of movement, performance or practice.”

During the process, McAuliffe interviewed female dancers who practice Spanish Flamenco, Mexican Folklorico, West African, American Jazz Tap and Native American dances (Northern Traditional, Jingle Dress, and Fancy Shawl). Although very distinct from one another, these dances have some major elements in common. They utilize the feet as a percussive element, share certain gender dimensions, and speak to cultural identity and empowerment, history, tradition, and change. Using these interviews as a starting point, McAuliffe created a series of interwoven physical and time-based pieces that engulf the viewer’s senses and place them inside the *flow*.

McAuliffe worked with eight girls from Clear Lake Middle School in a series of Learning Labs at PlatteForum. Students interviewed the dancers about the cultural, personal and social significance of their practice and created flip-books and animated films about their experience. These works are displayed in the gallery.



**Opening Reception:** Thursday, October 22, 2009 5:30 – 8pm  
*live cinema dance performances at 6pm and 7:30 pm.*  
Exhibition continues through November 11, 2009  
Tuesday-Friday, noon - 4:00 pm or by appointment, 303.893.0791



**The Dancers**

**American Jazz Tap:** Jan Sherman and Jan's Happy Tappers (Pat Wilson, Marge West)

**Spanish Flamenco:** Amanda Bishop

**Mexican Folklorico, Spanish Classical:** Jeanette Trujillo-Lucero and her dancers from Fiesta Colorado (Marissa Morales and Cassie Sanchez)

**West African Dance:** Cathy Phelps, Pamela Liverpool, Jowanna Norris and Gina Smith from Baba Joda and Friends

**Native American (Intertribal Dances):** Grace Gilette, her daughter A.J. No Braid, and granddaughters Lara and Larissa No Braid

#### About the Artist

[McAuliffe](#) is an emerging artist working in traditional media (photography, fibers and sculpture) as well as the newer genres, of digital photography, video, animation, and live cinema performance. Her concepts drive selection of media and materials. While taking great pride in the technical and aesthetic merits of her work, she is equally invested in the messages. She consistently uses art to tell cultural stories of people, place, history, and memory. McAuliffe has studied and shown work in Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy; was an artist-in-residence and exhibited twice in Rosario, Argentina. She is currently working on a collaborative, interactive audio/video installation at the Denver Art Museum that opens in November. A musician, McAuliffe plays accordion, glockenspiel and singing in Denver's electro-folk quintet, Bela Karoli. She often composes and performs original scores to her video and live cinema performances. **Embody** is the MFA Thesis of Brigid McAuliffe at the University of Denver's Electronic Media Arts Design Program, Department of Art & Art History <http://www.du.edu/emad>

#### About Clear Lake Middle School

Clear Lake Middle School, located in Westminster, Colorado, believes in the intrinsic value of each student, a learning partnership of family, home, students, staff and community, and values the strength of diversity. Seventy percent of the students are Hispanic. The remaining 30 percent include white, Asian, African American and Native American students. Many of the students come from low-income families and 85 percent qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced lunch program. In an effort to provide at-risk students with additional educational support, two well-renowned programs are offered. MYP, the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, encourages all students to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, problem solvers and responsible, compassionate, global citizens. AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination is an in school academic support program that identifies students who are falling short of their potential. The program works daily with these students to prepare them for college eligibility and life-long success.

#### About PlatteForum

*Every good life is built on a handful of epiphanies—moments of deep insight when the light comes on and you see what is possible for you.* PlatteForum teams contemporary artists with small groups of young people from underserved urban neighborhoods to plan, produce and exhibit a collaborative body of work.

PlatteForum was created to answer the critical need for learning through the arts for Denver's underserved and at-risk youth. In doing so, PlatteForum gives kids a chance to work side by side with master artists who model the outlook and skills required to build a productive and satisfying life. These creative residencies offer exciting opportunities for working artists to create new work and provide a learning-by-doing experience for young people that can open up a new sense of what is possible.

#### Location

PlatteForum is located at 1610 Little Raven St., Suite 135 in Riverfront Park, Denver.

*Free and open to the public*

Call to schedule a free tour.

Information about PlatteForum and the Creative Residency Program can be found online at <http://www.platteforum.org> or by calling 303.893.0791.

##

High-resolution images available by calling 303.893.0791

##

#### PlatteForum

Youth. Artists. Community.

*Transform lives through art.*

Judy Anderson 10/7/09 12:44 PM

**Deleted:**

**We Believe:**

Through the creative process, PlatteForum gives hope and direction to underserved youth who collaborate with master artists from around the world. This experience transforms the lives of the youth, the artists and the community.