

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lines in Space

Homare Ikeda

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William Smith High School



Denver, CO—February 9, 2009 — During his two-month residency at PlatteForum, **Homare Ikeda** continued his ritual of doing at least eleven ink drawings every morning. Homare took full advantage of PlatteForum's large studio space, working on multiple drawings and paintings. The ability to stand back 60 feet from the work-in-progress was a luxury for him, and he took great advantage of his time in residency. The work's title *lines in space* personifies Ikeda's conceptual framework as his artwork connects person-to-person, invisible to visible, past to future, and mind to heart. During the residency, he focused on the drawings, as he describes his paintings, as "layered drawings." The exhibition features Ikeda's new drawings and works on paper, and an animated film. The film, a visual experience of the daily drawings, reveals the creative process through chance, sequence and time. Influenced by artists Stan Brakhage and Eric Waldemar, Ikeda's film is like experiencing his painting in action.

While in residence, Ikeda worked intensely with eight high school students from William Smith High School. Ikeda's quiet intensity taught the students how to listen, to feel, to respect, and to digest the world around them. Twice a week for seven weeks, the youth who painted with Homare experimented with a variety of new techniques while creating drawings, paintings and artist books. Work produced by the youth, exhibited with Homare's work, becomes a visual expression of the power of the apprenticeship and mentoring process. States Ikeda: "*To me, creativity is a survival skill: if you learn how to be creative, you can survive many situations.*"

Exhibition opens March 5, 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Exhibition continues through March 20, 2009

Tuesday-Saturday, noon - 4:00 pm or by appointment, 303.893.0791

Free and open to the public

About the Artist

Ikeda's work has been exhibited in galleries around the world in one-person and group exhibitions, as in the permanent collections of the Denver Art Museum, Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City, Sabichira-kan in Japan, and numerous public and private collections throughout the country. Currently Ikeda's work is included in the exhibition *Colorado Abstract: Painting and Sculpture* at the Center for Visual Arts, and exhibited at the Carson Van Straaten Gallery, both in Denver. He teaches at the Department of Art & Art History, University of Colorado, Boulder and at the Art Student's league.

About William Smith High School

Our Vision: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities that will prepare them for success in college or other post-secondary opportunities and future careers.

Our Mission: William Smith is dedicated to providing a diverse student body with an innovative, intellectually rigorous academic experience, a powerful learning community that nurtures the unique talents, strengths and curiosities of each student, the knowledge and skills that will enable them to succeed in their chosen fields, the development of those personal qualities that conscientious members of a global society demonstrate.

<http://www.aps.k12.co.us/wmsmith/>

Location

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

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.

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High-resolution images available by calling 303.893.0791

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PlatteForum

Youth. Artists. Community.

Transform lives through art.

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.