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2006 Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts

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JUMPSUITS: an Outis Space Venture

Teddy O'Connor + Colfax Community Network

December 3, 2010: Leap into overdrive with Creative Resident **Teddy O'Connor** and the amazing superheroes from Colfax Community Network: Tajanae, Da'viontre, Andrew, Ariana, Nadine, Edwin, Karla, Danielle, Isaac, Anhelica, Tatiana, Ashley, Olivia, Maria and Beto.



During his six-week residency, O'Connor led a series of superhero workshops with Colfax Community Network. In the workshop, the students developed their own superheroes or villains by drawing and writing about their characters; building mixed-media space objects from found materials; and embellishing plaster-cast super-masks and jumpsuit outfits.

The resulting team of uncanny, jumpsuited heroes and villains has transformed PlatteForum into an extra-dimensional "Outis" space, featuring the mind-bending detritus of their fantastic super-lives. O'Connor has contributed several new works to the show, including *Pyramid, 2010*, a seven-foot-tall orange pyramid made from computer parts, toys, recycled bottles, etc.; a series of illustrated studies for his upcoming comic book, *Jumpsuits*; original artwork from his current comic book, *The Creep*; and printed editions of his comic strip, *The Adventures of Pyramid*.

In addition, O'Connor and Colfax Community Network have collaborated on three comic coloring books — *CCN, Vol. 1*; *CCN, Vol. 2*; and *Jumpsuits, Episode Nought*. These publications narrate the space, giving the viewer further insight into the exciting adventures of the artists' super-characters. Editions of the CCN books will be available for purchase.

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, December 16, 2010 5:30 – 8:00 pm

EXHIBITION: continues through January 7, 2010

Monday-Friday, noon - 4:00 pm or by appointment, 303.893.0791

Closed December 24 – January 2



About the Artist

Teddy O'Connor is inspired by the superheroes and comic books he loved growing up, and works both in illustration and mixed media to explore issues of identity, transformation, and the supernatural. Three-dimensional objects transform depending on where the viewer is standing; comic strips of figures vomiting up other figures show the grotesque warping of faces and bodies; and digital animations reveal shapes and scenes over time. O'Connor's work often features himself, but he doesn't consider this self-portraiture. Rather, he uses himself to create characters that the viewer can meet, get to know, and feel like they have something in common with. Perhaps they can use these characters as a means to experience their own stories, and to transform. O'Connor has a B.A. from Wesleyan University in Studio Art, and has exhibited throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. He is currently self-publishing several comics on his website, including *The Creep* and *The Adventures of Pyramid*.

About Colfax Community Network

The overall mission of CCN is to advocate for and work on behalf of children and families residing in low-income, transient housing (primarily residential motels) along Colfax Avenue. By providing information, services and programs they strengthen and improve family and community life. Many families in metropolitan Denver resort to motel living as a temporary solution to homelessness. While motels do provide immediate shelter, the high cost of motel rent and the inability to secure the necessary funds for permanent housing often hold families in the "motel trap." Overcrowding, poor sanitation, inadequate kitchen facilities, and lack of safety create tremendous stress for these families. Children, especially, suffer in this environment, dramatically increasing their chances for poor health, low self-esteem, school failure, gang involvement and violent victimization. Motel residents who are concerned with the safety of their children generally have no choice but to confine their kids to their motel rooms or in the motel parking lots in the hours after school. Less fortunate children are left to fend for themselves.

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.

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