



LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM 91 ORCHARD STREET NEW YORK 212.431.0233 WWW.TENEMENT.ORG

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**TEA CART STORIES**  
**a performance art & site-specific installation project**  
**by Michele Brody**

**June 4, 2009, New York, NY**—This summer, mixed-media artist Michele Brody explores the meaning of tea across cultures with a project at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. In this interactive public art piece, participants will play an active and personal role in creating elements of the installation.

The artist invites guests to step into her tea cart, parked on Orchard Street across from the Tenement Museum's visitor center at 108 Orchard Street, to tell stories over a cup of tea. Participants can share family stories, especially memories or experiences dealing with tea. Through these stories, Ms. Brody hopes to explore the ceremonies, traditions, and values surrounding tea in different cultures and time periods. Ms. Brody will record these sessions and transcribe them on paper tea bags that have been steeped in tea leaves, creating a visual memory of a shared experience. The stories will be strung on a structure made of copper pipes installed on an early 20<sup>th</sup> century pushcart. This display will be installed in the windows of 97 Orchard Street where the artist hopes viewers will be inspired to connect these personal narratives with the history shared daily at the Tenement Museum.

Brody's tea cart at 108 Orchard Street will be open free from **4 to 7 PM on June 11 and 25 and July 9 and 23** (see [www.tenement.org](http://www.tenement.org) for rain dates). The installation in 97 Orchard Street will slowly evolve as new tea cart stories are added to the display; the exhibit is free and visible from the street 24/7, through December 2009.

Ms. Brody has already begun Tea Cart Stories with students from the Museum's ESOL program, Shared Journeys. For photographs of the project as it unfolds, please visit the Tenement Museum's Flickr pool: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tenement/sets/72157615486151075>.

More about Brody and her work can be found at [www.michelebrody.com](http://www.michelebrody.com).

**About the Tenement Museum**

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, founded in 1988, is located in a landmarked tenement building at 97 Orchard Street. The building was home to more than 7,000 immigrants from more than 20 nations between 1863 and 1935. Anchored in a neighborhood that has long been home to thousands of poor and working class people,

the Tenement Museum is dedicated to using the history of its site as a tool for addressing issues that are still pressing today, including immigration, urban housing and public welfare.

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