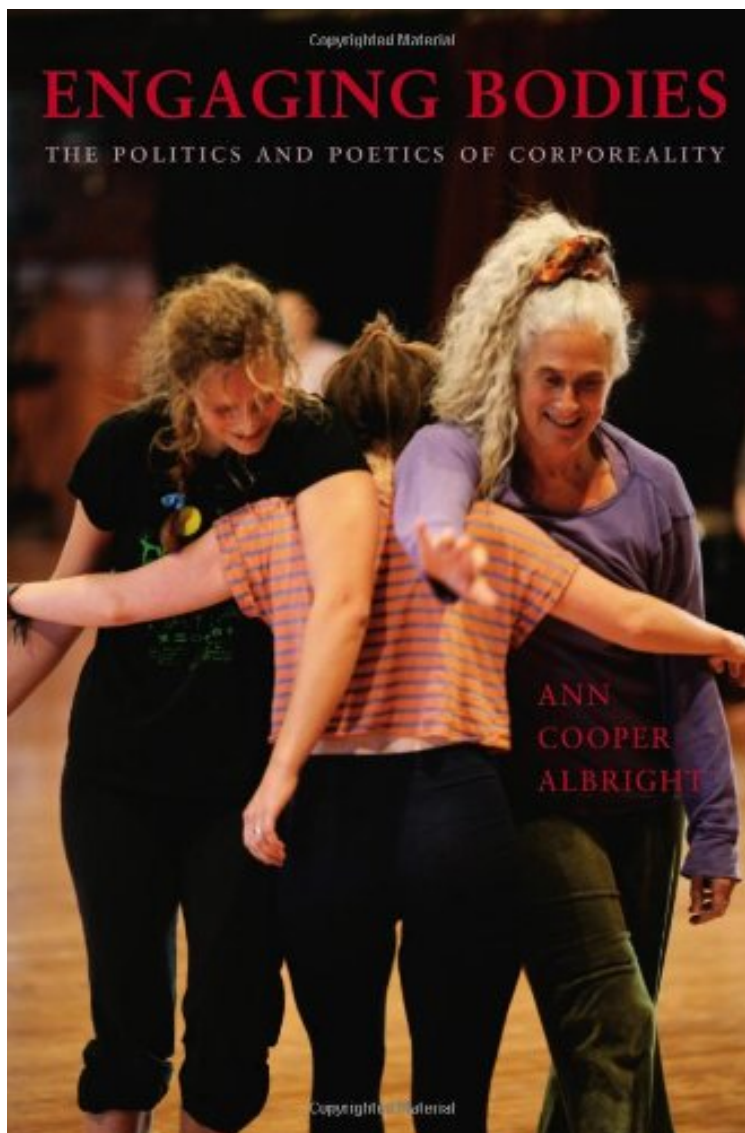


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## Engaging Bodies: The Politics and Poetics of Corporeality

*Ann Cooper Albright*

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**Ann Cooper Albright : Engaging Bodies: The Politics and Poetics of Corporeality** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Engaging Bodies: The Politics and Poetics of Corporeality:

Winner of the Selma Jeanne Cohen Prize in Dance Aesthetics (2014) For twenty-five years, Ann Cooper Albright has

been exploring the intersection of cultural representation and somatic identity in dance. For Albright, dancing is a physical inquiry, a way of experiencing and participating in the world, and her writing reflects an interdisciplinary approach to seeing and thinking about dance. In her engagement as both a dancer and a scholar, Albright draws on her kinesthetic sensibilities as well as her intellectual knowledge to articulate how movement creates meaning.

Throughout *Engaging Bodies* movement and ideas lean on one another to produce a critical theory anchored in the material reality of dancing bodies. This blend of cultural theory and personal circumstance will be useful and inspiring for emerging scholars and dancers looking for a model of writing about dance that thrives on the interconnectedness of watching and doing, gesture and thought.

Throughout the reader encounters Albright's continuing interest in the intersections of critical and feminist theory and the practical, kinesthetic experiences of the dancing body. The 41 essays (including an afterword) are divided into six sections: Performance Writings, Feminist Theories, Dancing Histories, Contact Improvisation, Pedagogy, and Occasional Pieces. Brief, accessible pieces and pieces that require deep theoretical grounding are intermingled. Well balanced over all, the book will be useful for young scholar artists and their mentors. Recommended (for) upper-division undergraduates through faculty/professionals. S.E. Friedler, Choice