



Martha Colburn

Born in rural Pennsylvania, Martha Colburn is an artist-filmmaker based in Pennsylvania and Amsterdam, The Netherlands and travels extensively, exhibiting and lecturing on her work. She has a BA from Maryland Institute College of Art and an MA equivalent from Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunst (Royal Academy of Art) in Holland.

A self-taught filmmaker, Colburn began in 1994 with found footage and Super 8 cameras and has since completed over 60 films.

Colburn also exhibits elements from her films and uses slide projections and murals to create installations. She recently had a film screened at the Museum of the Moving Image, "Dolls vs. Dictators." She has taught workshops on her animation technique in China, Europe, Canada, Mexico and America, and has made music videos and films for bands and artists such as Deerhoof, Laura Ortman, Rita Braga, Felix Kubin and many more. In Baltimore, her band the Dramatics released six records. She also contributed animation for the documentary, "The Devil and Daniel Johnston." For the past



20 years, Colburn has worked with authors 99 Hooker, Stephen O'Connor, Diana Wagman and others. In the 2007 Sundance Film Festival she was invited to initiate the New Frontiers film and video installation program with "Meet Me In Wichita," and in 2008 opened the Museum of Art and Design (NY) with a live performance of films and music.

In 2013 her film, "Metamorfoza," Colburn was invited to participate in the series, Visual Arts, by the curator of the Collection de Bruin Heijn and performed by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2010 her films joined the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the

Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is a 2015 recipient of the Creative Capital Award for film.

QG: What got you into filmmaking?

MC: I started making films after fooling around with video and finding it funny, but looking really bad. I made detailed and crafted collage-paintings on the backs of discarded book and record covers, so at the time I started to make films, I cut these up and made them begin to appear in the titles to my home movies or home music videos – made using Super 8mm sound cameras – with word bubbles, you know, really crude. I accepted my elementary level and under-terred decided to try to animate almost complete films, and in between I would insert footage from television, cut in home movie pieces, and hand-scratched film. It really took a few years before I could make a completely animated film. I was also working with good musicians and even playing and making records, which when I started out inspired me to keep going, since I had such an "animated" audience!

QG: Who or what are some of the most prevalent influences on your work?

MC: I gather new ones every project. Recently I did a piece using Early American genre paintings. I'm working with paintings from the American westward expansion, and now I'm inspired by the first anatomical manuals made in Belgium and Holland. Travelling really influences my work. I just went to the Greek island Syros for the Syros International Film Festival and collected some early maps of the island. I'm working on a new work too about the African American painter, Jacob Lawrence, so I am really inspired by a variety that's always changing.

QG: What projects of yours have been the most enjoyable to work on?

MC: I'm always onto the next, so it really is taxing for me to reflect. My favorite new works are things in development. With the Dutch media personality and performance artist Elfie Tormp from Rotterdam, I am developing a script and animated film looking at anatomy and the mapping of a city.

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Hunt Steinway Street Citibank Bandit



Police have released a surveillance photo of a brazen bandit who pulled off a heist at a Citibank branch on Steinway Street on August 24.

Cops said the suspect walked into the Citibank branch at 25-91 Steinway Street at about 9 am on August 24, suddenly jumped over the service counter and security glass and demanded cash from a group of tellers – saying he had a gun.

The tellers complied and the man made off with an undisclosed amount of cash, running south on Steinway Street and then east on 28th Avenue.

Cops said it is unclear if the man was actually carrying a gun, because he did not display a weapon while threatening the bank employees.

No one was injured during the robbery.

The suspect is described as a white or Hispanic male, 20-30 years old, 5'7" and 150 pounds. He was wearing a black hooded sweater, dark colored pants, and a black bandana across his face at the time of the holdup.

Anyone with information is urged to call the CrimeStoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS or visit www.nypdcrimestoppers.com.

—Liz Goff

Hi-Rise High: Pair Busted In Waterfront Drug Lab

BY LIZ GOFF

Two people are facing federal drug charges for allegedly manufacturing synthetic drugs inside their apartment at a luxury, waterfront high-rise in Long Island City.

Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents and New York State Police arrested Brian Parker, 34, of Long Island City, and Victoria Koleski, 26, of Farmingdale, New Jersey, during an early morning raid on August 29, authorities said.

Parker and Koleski were charged with conspiring to distribute controlled substance analogues, and distributing and possessing with intent to distribute controlled substance analogues U-47700, A-PHP, and 3-MEO-PCP. Controlled substance analogues are designer drugs that have chemical structures and hallucinogenic effects similar to Schedule I controlled substances.

DEA agents and state police used a battering ram to enter Parker's apartment at the luxury building at 45-45 Center Boulevard just after 6 am on Tuesday. The building is located on 45th Avenue, next door to Gantry Plaza State Park.

A DEA spokesperson said the raid and a subsequent investigation into drug manufacturing are confined to one apartment in the rental building.

State and federal Hazardous Materials Teams (HAZMAT) accompanied investigators in the raid "in an abundance of caution," due to the nature and toxicity of drug substances in the apartment, authorities said. DEA and state police officials did not immediately disclose the amount of drugs and equipment seized in the raid. A DEA spokesperson said, however, that the drug lab posed no threat to residents of the building or the general public.

The raid was sparked by the May

2016 drug overdose death of a 37-year-old Wisconsin man, authorities said. Police investigating the death found several parcels that were addressed to the victim containing glass vials of the synthetic drugs, along with multiple invoices showing the victim had been ordering the substances from a website operated by Parker. Koleski was one of several individuals who helped Parker distribute the drugs, investigators said. During one week this summer, Parker and Koleski mailed out 218 packages of the drugs to online customers.

Parker, who has two prior federal narcotics-related convictions, and Koleski are due to appear in Newark Federal Court later this week for further processing.

Prosecutors said each of the charges faced by Parker and Koleski carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

Police: Five Injured In Crash, Driver 'Under Influence'

Five people were injured in an alcohol-fueled early morning crash in Woodside on August 26, police said.

Police said the 26-year-old driver of a 2016 Chevy Sonic sedan was speeding eastbound on 31st Avenue near 54th Street with four passengers on board at about 2 am when the car sped out of control and slammed into a parked car and a light pole.

Police and area residents managed to pull the victims from the car moments before it burst into flames.

The driver suffered head and body trauma and was taken to Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he was listed in stable condition, police said. His four passengers suffered serious injuries, and were listed in serious but stable condition at Elmhurst Hospital Center.

Police said the driver was given a breathalyzer test that showed his blood alcohol level was above the legal limit at the time of the crash. "The driver is known to the NYPD," an NYPD spokesperson said. "He has a history of arrests."

Police said the driver has not been charged, pending the outcome of an ongoing investigation. —Liz Goff

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I'm also involved in a great feature film project, as yet unreleased, called "Organ Player" by the performance artist Narcissister from New York. I'm enjoying this work now that I am working with friends. I am also working on a Creative Capital film project and a new commission from the NEA to create work with the Black Mountain College in Asheville, NC.

QG: Your work, "Dolls vs. Dictators," is being screened at the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria. Did you choose this venue to showcase the piece? If so, why?

MC: The Museum Director Rochelle Slovin approached me and asked me to make a film using their archive. I selected from that collection dolls that were from television and films "past." They photographed the dolls for me and I made these into flat puppets. I find the museum interesting in a fun way – that at least some portion of it, contains these alternates to the original. It is the spin-off of a spin-off made into a doll for instance. So I liked feeling that I could be another step in this transformation of the collection. As part of the commission, my film was included in their Museum of the Moving Image collection. I really appreciated their input into the film and their continued support is really meaningful to me as an artist and filmmaker.

QG: What are some of your favorite things to do in Queens?

MC: I liked to eat sweets on a street a few blocks up from my studio; I liked the building recyclers place, Build it Green; Socrates Sculpture Park – I never went much "up the hill" as I thought of it, since I was on an old bike when I lived in Queens – just kind of kept it along the edges where it's flat. One common expedition would be riding the bridge to Roosevelt Island. It was completely out of step with time. Maybe it's different now. I had pancakes the morning after the death of "The Munsters" star, Al Lewis, who had lived there almost his whole life.

This column was originated in July, 2013 by Nicollette Barsamian.

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