

The ONLY Complete Listing of Brooklyn Foreclosures \$1

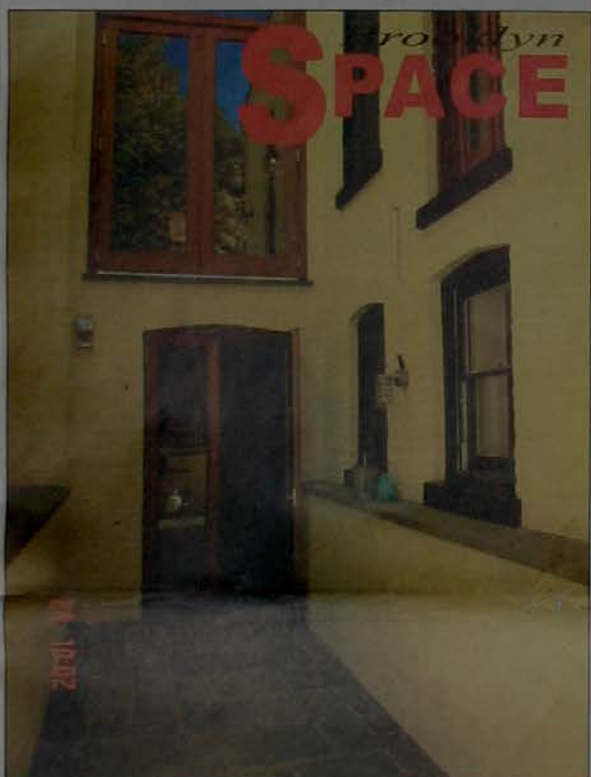
BROOKLYN EAGLE

★ WEEKEND EDITION ★

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3 Sections • edit@brooklyneagle.net

Developer Creates Thoroughly Modern Digs In Park Slope Townhouse



On a block of circa 1910 limestone townhouses on First Street in Park Slope, a real estate developer and his family have created a modern home that suits their lifestyle — including adding new windows and doors to connect the house to the backyard and replacing the electrical and plumbing systems. Please see *Brooklyn Space*, page 5, for details.

Photo by Ana Orrego Bustamante, Scarano & Associates Architects

WHAT'S INSIDE

Designer Dave in Wonderland

—See page 34

Friends School Quakers Return
To Reality after Miracle Season

—See page 35

Bob Vila Visits Brooklyn
To Help Homeowners Winterize

—See "Brooklyn Free Press" section, inside

Building Where First
Brooklyn Catholic Mass
Was Celebrated Is in Danger

—See "Brooklyn Free Press" section, inside



Above, *Blue Angel Motel* by Michelle Auboiron (inset). 1.5 x 1.5 meters. This Parisian painter has expanded her wide-ranging palate to include Brooklyn, too! For details, see story inside.

Image courtesy of Michelle Auboiron; inset: Eagle photo by Jennifer Needelman



Nate Boyd, right, a trainer at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Boxing Gym, stands with one of his young charges. The gym is more than a place to work out for many Bed-Stuy residents, but is constantly in and out of financial crisis. For details, see story inside.

Eagle photo by Jennifer Needelman

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Priceless

Parisian Paints DUMBO

This Parisian painter (right) has expanded her wide-ranging palate to include Brooklyn, too! Catch her in action in DUMBO this week. Below, Granite Gorge by Michelle Auboirn. 1.5 x 1.5 meters. For details, see story inside.



Image courtesy of Michelle Auboirn



Photo by Jennifer Needelman

What Is Hip?

A panel of hip people gathered at Pratt Institute this week to define hipness. They quickly established that they couldn't, and the discussion swerved towards topics like race, sexuality, and gentrification. See story in Arts & Entertainment.



Moderator Dirk Wittenborn and panelist Vickie Starr.

Photo by Abby Ranger

ALSO INSIDE

• Email Threats Sent to Opera Company of Brooklyn

— see page 9

• Bob Vila Back in Brooklyn To Help Homeowners Winterize

— see page 2

• Fate of Old Buildings with Religious Significance Worries Vinegar Hill

— see page 5

• Neighbors Concerned About Homeless Camps in Prospect Park

— see page 6

• Gypsy Fugitive, Wanted in Four States, Nabbed in B'klyn Safe House

— see page 7

• Lincoln Center Brings Magic To a Brooklyn Public School

— see page 21



Mundale FDC

Fleet Holiday Toy Drive. Make a deposit.

Just bring a new, unwrapped toy to your local Fleet branch. Or make a financial donation at the branch or through Fleet HomeLink™ Online Banking at fleet.com. The program runs from November 10 through December 19, and all gifts go to charities right in your local community. So please give generously.



All donations will be distributed to local charities, including Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation.

Forward Thinking Fleet

DUMBO Reflected On A Parisian Canvas



Parisian painter Michelle Auboiron, en action under BQE in DUMBO. Free Press photos by Jennifer Needleman

By Jennifer Needleman
Brooklyn Free Press

If you take a walk through DUMBO today, chances are you'll run into Michelle Auboiron. She's hard to miss. But it's not Auboiron herself who's so noticeable, it's the oversized canvas before which she stands, painting the glorious bridge vistas afforded by that area.

Although this *Artiste Parisienne* doesn't have a solid grasp on American English, she certainly has a fine grasp on American landscapes. She has painted the grand canyon and other classic scenes of Western America, and has wrangled a pleasing aesthetic from the sooty visuals of Las Vegas. Her paintings are enormous, sometimes stretching over three meters in length and height. Her style is unique in its curioous depiction of grand natural environments and admiring and lovely depiction of the cheapest kind of mid-century architecture.

Auboiron's specialty is Parisian architecture; she has completed over 100

pieces on the interior of the Paris Opera house. She is in New York City to paint its bridges, and she works at a furious pace — nearing lightspeed — finishing one painting per day. Auboiron finds that painting a series of works in a short period of time is the best way to capture a place and its inconsistencies in light and emotion. Her 50-day tour of the American Southwest yielded 40 paintings of what she terms *natural architecture*, and ended in Las Vegas. The "artificial oasis" of America's true Sin City inspired Auboiron — its "kitsch and delirious motels" — to begin a contrasted series of paintings.

The artist's own description of her process is mired in translational difficulties, but a careful study of her artist-statement yields a portrait of an instinctive color-coordinator. Auboiron asserts that she is "totally immersed in daily reality... pathers information endlessly, and, suddenly... focuses." Auboiron's work is not academic but visceral; she reacts to her environs and reconstitutes her senses on the canvas.

Auboiron's work is currently on exhibition in Las Vegas, in two separate shows at two separate venues, which run concurrently. Her *Motels of the Fifties* exhibition is a collection of paintings from old Las Vegas, and is showing at the Charleston Heights Arts Center Gallery. Her *Colorado* show is comprised of her American West landscape paintings and is on display at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History. Of course, her work can always be viewed on her website, www.auboiron.com, and is featured on the Barrick's website, hrweb.nevada.edu/Museum.

Auboiron's landscapes look like something out of a Willy Coyote cartoon — saturated tone panels deftly in-



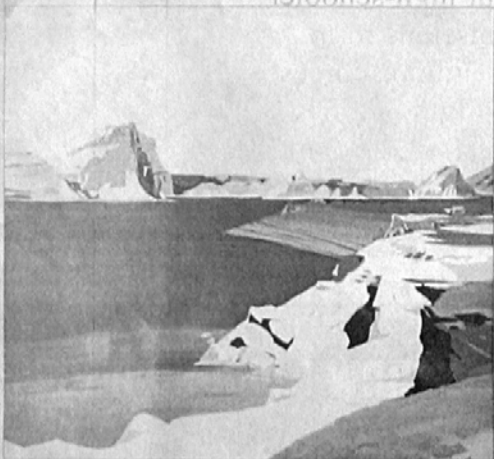
Blue Angel Motel by Michelle Auboiron. 1.5 x 1.5 meters.

tertwined to give the proper effect of light play and shadow. Her work is quite stunning, and the full amplitude of her rich canvases seems to pay adequate tribute to the enormous landscapes she paints. She has tackled the hardest combination of themes — sun-spoiled and scorched Nevada earth as juxtaposed with foggy and quaint scenes of Parisian architecture.

How will she depict our own city and borough? Surely, she will be looking with the eye of a foreigner, bringing something unique and as-of-yet un-

forseen in our architecture and culture. Curious? Need a sneak peek? Go take a walk through DUMBO. You're sure to spot Auboiron attacking the canvas in her yellow raincoat, racing the elements — the light, the rain and the traffic — toward an aesthetically pleasing end-product. And unless you're looking to practice your French, Auboiron's paintings will have to speak for themselves. English-speaking or not, once she

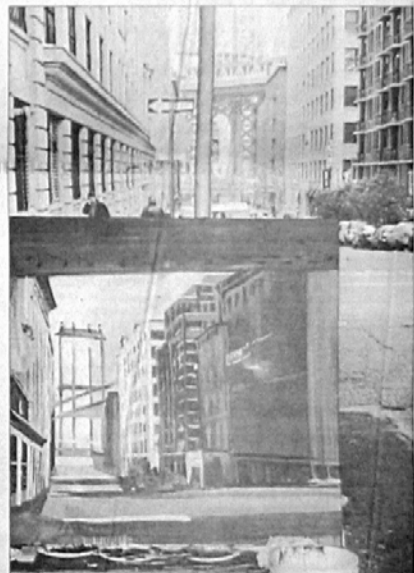
paints New York City, however, Auboiron will have to be considered a New Yorker — as per New York's, and indeed America's, ontological foundations. People of every kind are welcome to join. All it takes is an open heart and a love of the city, and an artist with ambitions to paint all of our bridges over the span of two weeks surely fulfills those two requisites.



Wawheap by Michelle Auboiron. 1.5 x 1.5 meters.



Goulding Trading Post by Michelle Auboiron. 1.5 x 1.5 meters.



Auboiron's canvas is hard to miss — it's about a meter squared. She props it against a street sign and paints DUMBO scenes at a rapid pace — one finished piece a day. Above, a work-in-progress.



Granite Gorge by Michelle Auboiron. 1.5 x 1.5 meters.