

The artists are moving to Newburgh and nothing is the same. Pop-ups are popping up. Happenings are happening. The smell of turpentine is in the air. So who are these harbingers of change and what are their stories? Deb Lucke grabs her sketchbook and heads over the river to talk to a few.

ARTISTS SEE THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE VISION. THAT'S THEIR JOB.

Stuart Sachs 2003* Sculptor Orange County Arts Council

BY Deb Lucke

Michael Gabor 1989* Newburgh Art Supply 2008

I CAME IN 1989-- DID THE REVERSE COMMUTE TO THE CITY FOR 16 YEARS. MY JOB AT THE PHOTO LAB WENT AWAY. I MET GERARDO WHO'S A PAINTER AND WE OPENED THE STORE.

Gerardo Castro 2004* Painter Newburgh Art Supply 2008

I LOVE THE IDEA THAT THINGS ARE GROWING-- WHATEVER THEY GROW INTO.

IT'S LIKE WHEN I PAINT, I KNOW WHERE IT'S GOING, BUT I ALLOW IT TO GROW ORGANICALLY.

I'VE BEEN IN ALL OF THE OPEN STUDIOS. EVERY YEAR REUDI HOFMANN WOULD TAKE A PHOTO. THE FIRST ONE THERE'S 11 OF US. IN THE LATEST PHOTO, THERE WERE 80.

THERE WAS A NEED FOR A CENTRAL PLACE FOR ARTISTS TO MEET. WE BEGAN ORGANIZING THINGS-- LIKE OPEN STUDIOS.

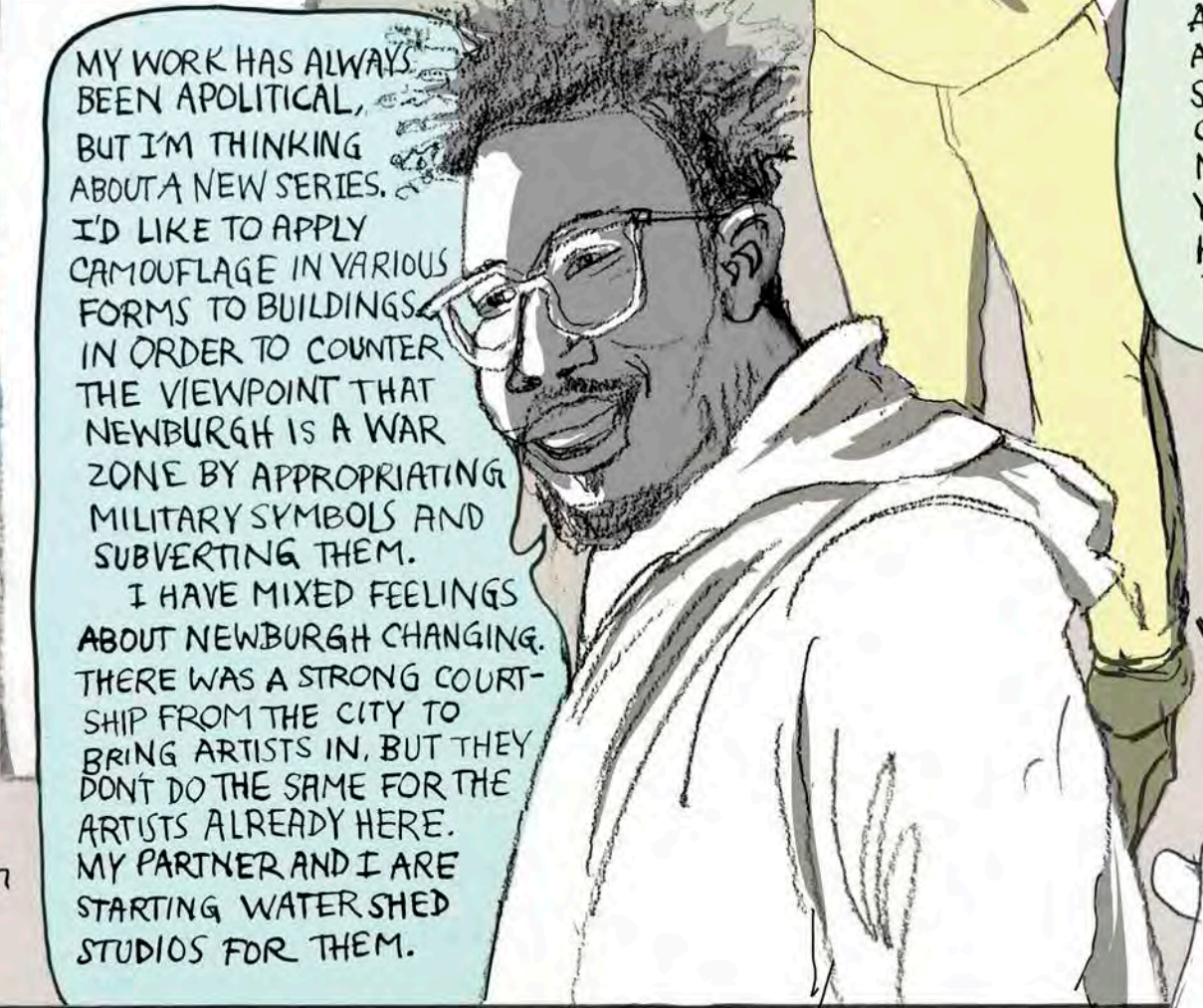
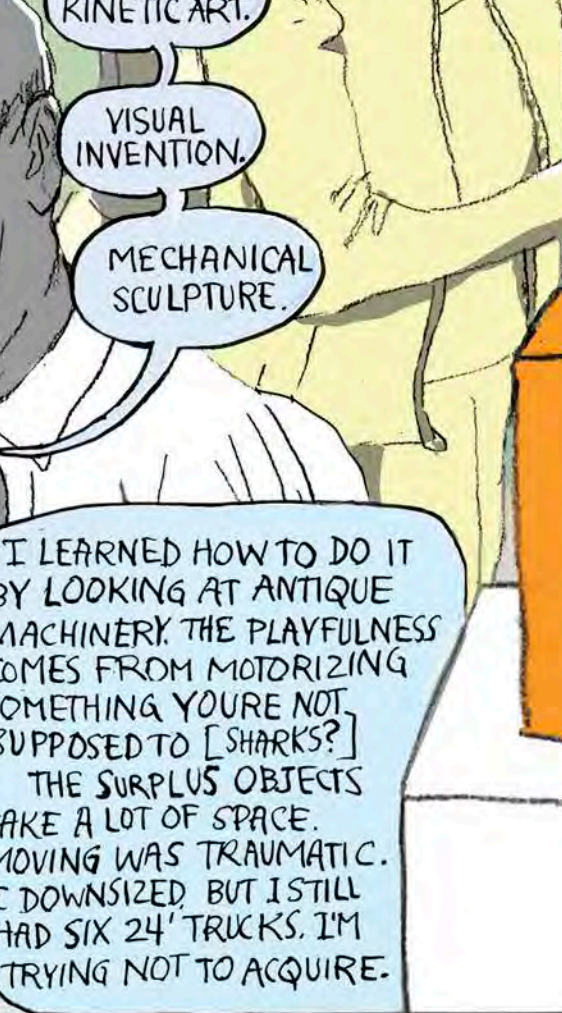
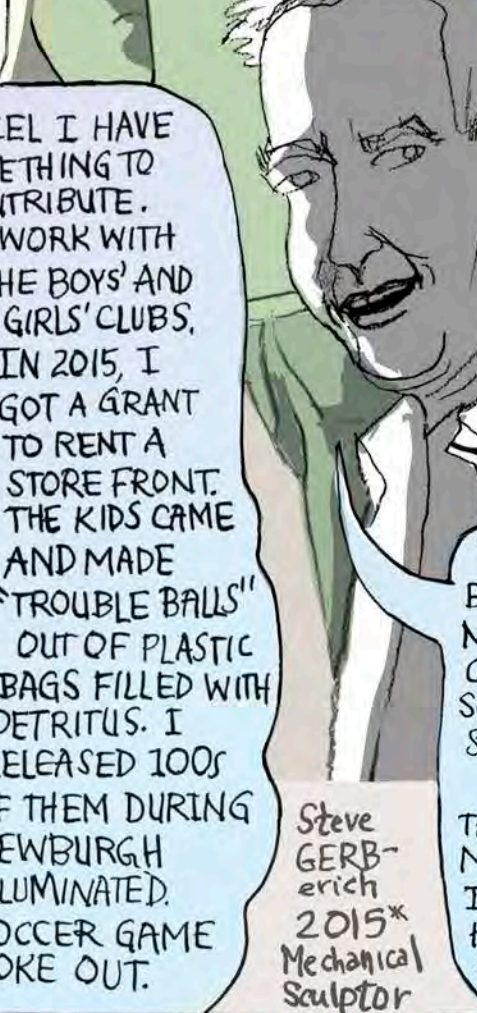
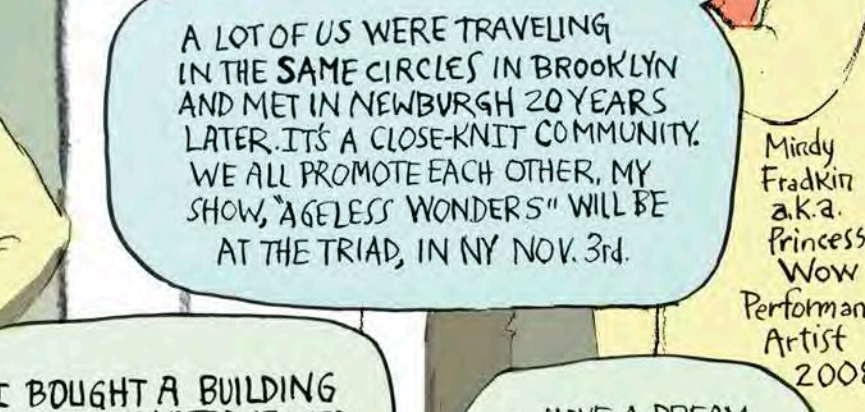
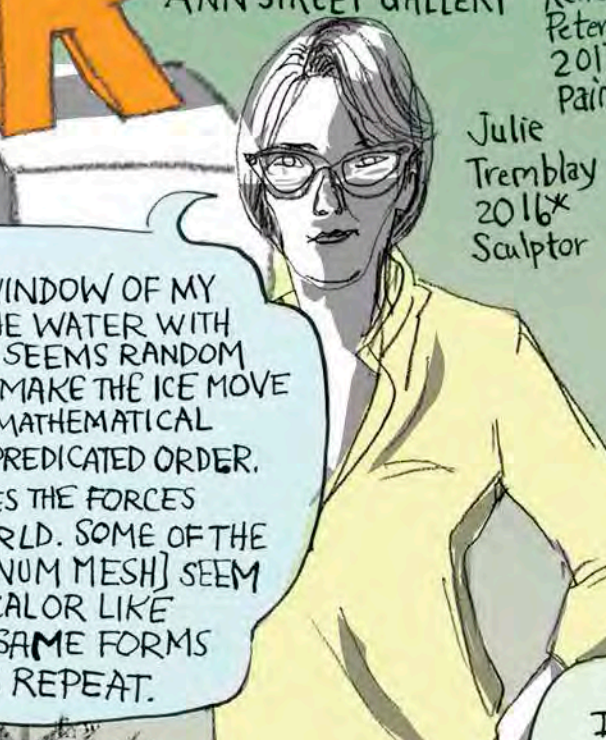
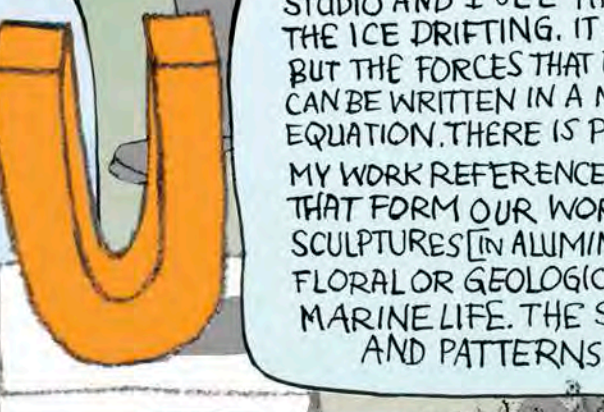
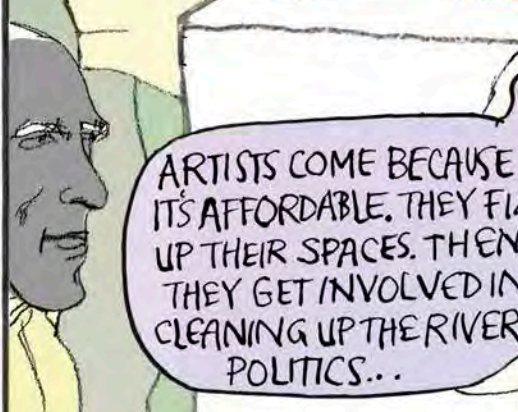
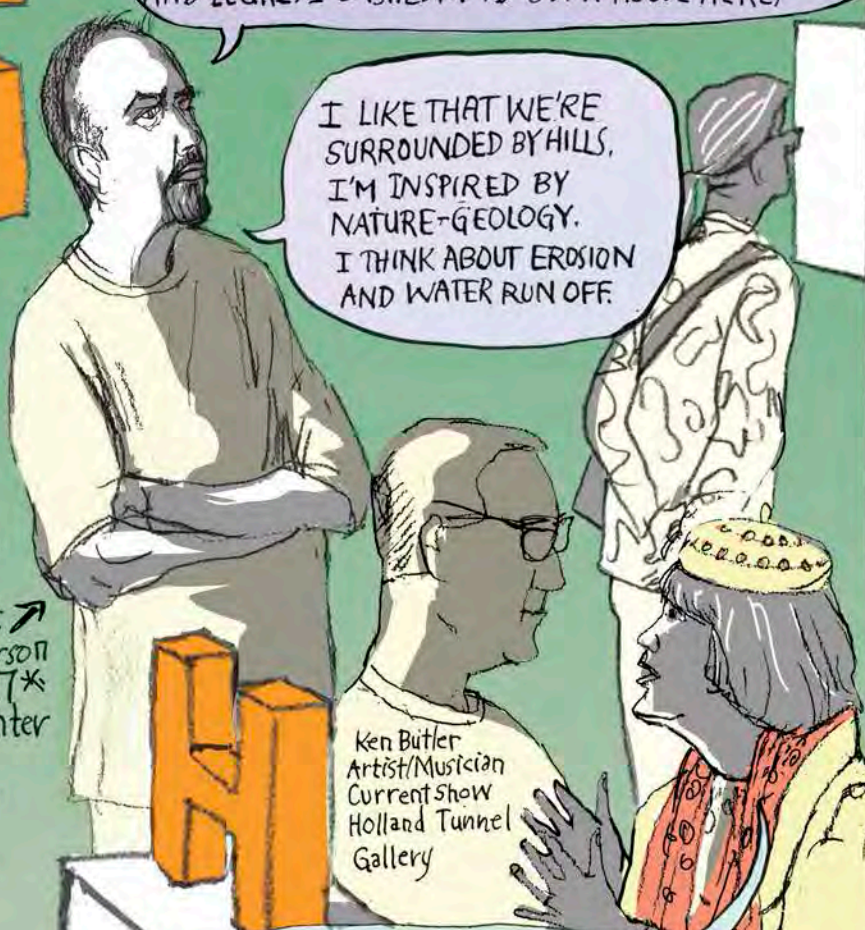
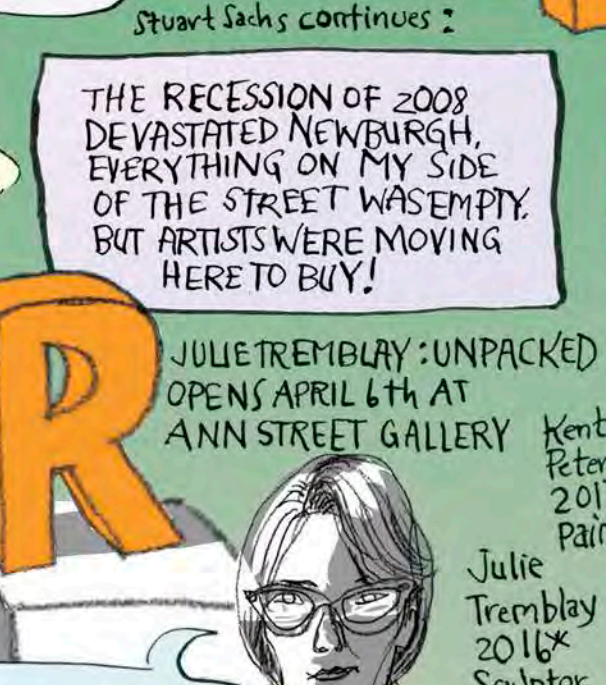
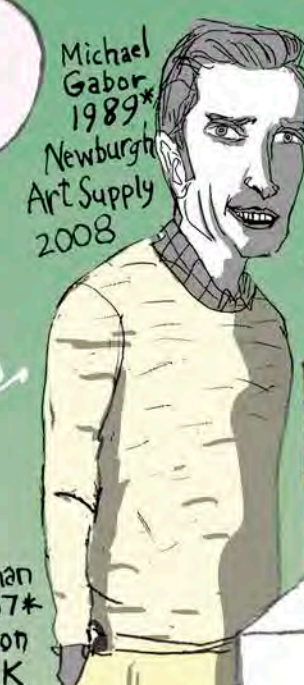
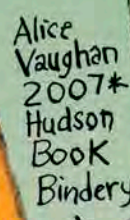
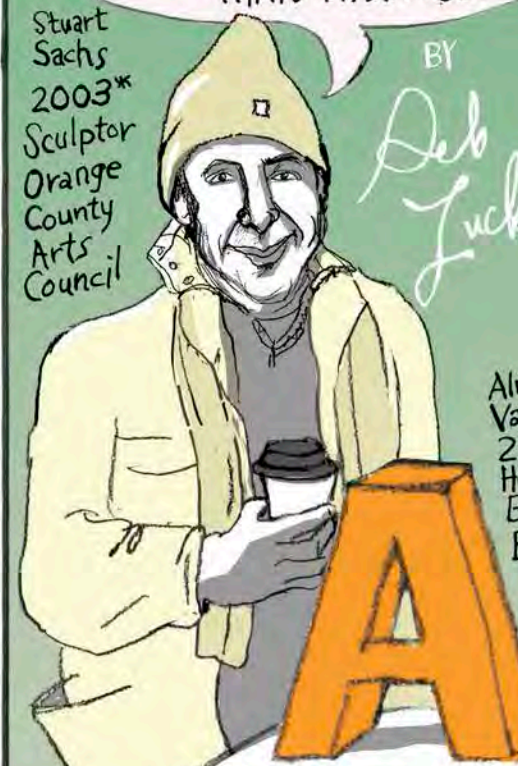
Anna West Painter Beacon

Vivien Collens 1985* Painter Sculptor
Terri Vargas 2001* Singer Actor Painter

AFTER I CAME BACK FROM GRAD SCHOOL IN MEXICO, I WAS OUT OF TOUCH WITH WHAT AMERICAN ARTISTS WERE DOING. I REALIZED AN ARTIST NEEDS A COUNTRY, A CULTURE... A PLACE.

I SOLD OUT MY FIRST SHOW IN NEW YORK, BUT I STOPPED EXHIBITING WHEN I WAS A MOM. NOW I'M BACK AT IT FULL TIME. I'M DRIVEN. TOTALLY FOCUSED THE WAY I WAS IN MY THIRTIES. IT'S EXCITING TO WORK LARGE SCALE. I'M HAVING A RENAISSANCE.

VIVIEN COLLENS OPENS MAY 4th HOLLAND TUNNEL GALLERY INDOORS/ OUTDOORS



*IN NEWBURGH SINCE

Steve GERBERICH 2015* Mechanical Sculptor

Vernon Byron Conceptual Artist 2003*

Paulien Lethen 2018* Painter Holland Tunnel Gallery

Mindy Fradkin a.k.a. Princess Wow Performance Artist 2008*

@debucke2019

37 YEARS AGO, I WAS LIVING IN AN ILLEGAL LOFT IN WILLIAMSBURG. WE HAD A CHANCE TO BUY THE BUILDING CHEAPLY. IT TOOK YEARS TO GET IT UP TO CODE AND LEGAL. I CASHED IN TO BUY A HOUSE HERE.

I LIKE THAT WE'RE SURROUNDED BY HILLS. I'M INSPIRED BY NATURE-- GEOLOGY. I THINK ABOUT EROSION AND WATER RUN OFF.

I GOT PUSHED OUT OF THE EAST VILLAGE, PUSHED OUT OF WILLIAMSBURG, PUSHED OUT OF SOUTH BOSTON-- I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A PLACE THAT I CAN AFFORD TO LIVE AND DO MY ART. MY FRIEND ANNA WEST SAID BEACON IS TOO EXPENSIVE, TRY NEWBURGH.

THE RECESSION OF 2008 DEVASTATED NEWBURGH. EVERYTHING ON MY SIDE OF THE STREET WAS EMPTY, BUT ARTISTS WERE MOVING HERE TO BUY!

I LOOK OUT OF THE WINDOW OF MY STUDIO AND I SEE THE WATER WITH THE ICE DRIFTING. IT SEEMS RANDOM BUT THE FORCES THAT MAKE THE ICE MOVE CAN BE WRITTEN IN A MATHEMATICAL EQUATION. THERE IS PREDICATED ORDER. MY WORK REFERENCES THE FORCES THAT FORM OUR WORLD. SOME OF THE SCULPTURES [IN ALUMINUM MESH] SEEM FLORAL OR GEOLOGICAL OR LIKE MARINE LIFE. THE SAME FORMS AND PATTERNS REPEAT.

I BOUGHT A BUILDING AND RENOVATED IT INTO A GALLERY WITH ARTIST STUDIOS ABOVE. ARE THERE COLLECTORS HERE? WELL, YES-- ME! I HAVEN'T FOUND OTHERS YET, BUT I HAVE IDEAS HOW TO BRING THEM IN.

I HAVE A DREAM TO SAVE THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH. IT COULD BE A MUSEUM OR A SPACE FOR KIDS-- THE ANCHOR FOR THE ARTS COMMUNITY.

WE HAVE PLANS!

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