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"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document:	Secret Service investigation of an art show at Columbia College, Chicago, IL regarding an exhibit titled, "Axis of Evil, The Secret History of Sin," 2005
Requested date:	15-October-2007
Released date:	22-June-2010
Posted date:	19-July-2010
Date/date range of document:	08-April – 06-May-2005
Source of document:	United States Secret Service Communications Center (FOI/PA) 245 Murray Lane Building T-5 Washington, D.C. 20223

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Branch
Communications Center
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Building T-5
Washington, D.C. 20223

JUN 22 2010

File Number: 20070566

Dear Requester:

Reference is made to your Freedom of Information and/or Privacy Acts request originally received by the United States Secret Service on October 15, 2007, for information pertaining to a Secret Service investigation of an art show at Columbia College regarding an exhibit titled, "Axis of Evil", The Secret History of Sin", of which records might have in the past been gathered from ISD, ID and the Chicago Field Office as well as the FOIA office.

Enclosed are copies of documents from Secret Service records. The referenced material was considered under both the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 and/or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a. Pursuant to the Acts, exemptions have been applied where deemed appropriate. The exemptions cited are marked below.

In addition, approximately 71 page(s) were withheld in their entirety. An enclosure to this letter explains the exemptions in more detail.

☒ If this box is checked, deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below.

Section 552 (FOIA)

<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (3) Statute:		
<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (4)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (6)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (B)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (D)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (7) (F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b) (8)

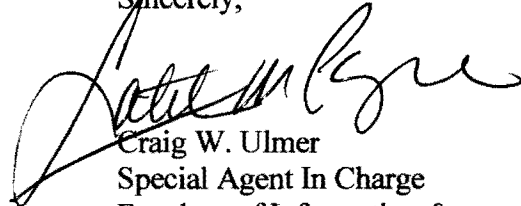
Section 552a (Privacy Act)

☐ (d) (5) ☒ (j) (2) ☐ (k) (1) ☒ (k) (2) ☒ (k) (3) ☐ (k) (5) ☐ (k) (6)

If you disagree with our determination, you have the right of administrative appeal within 35 days by writing to Freedom of Information Appeal, Deputy Director, U.S. Secret Service, Communications Center, 245 Murray Lane, S.W., Building T-5, Washington, DC 20223. If you do decide to file an administrative appeal, please explain the basis of your appeal.

Please use the file number indicated above in all future correspondence with the Secret Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig W. Ulmer", written over the typed name.

Craig W. Ulmer
Special Agent In Charge
Freedom of Information &
Privacy Acts Officer

Enclosure: FOIA and Privacy Act Exemption List

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

Provisions of the Freedom of Information Act do not apply to matter that are:

- (b) (1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- (b) (2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices any agency;
- (b) (3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b) (4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b) (5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b) (6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b) (7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the information: (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;; (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source; (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b) (8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for regulation or supervision of financial institutions;
- (b) (9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

**PRIVACY ACT
SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

The provisions of the Privacy Act do not apply to:

- (d) (5) material compiled in reasonable anticipation of civil action or proceeding;
- (j) (2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) material is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive Order in the interest of national defense or foreign policy;
- (k) (2) material compiled during investigations for law enforcement purposes;
- (k) (3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or other individuals pursuant to section 3056 of Title 18;
- (k) (5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment, military service, Federal contracts, or for access to classified information, but only to the extent that the disclosure of such material would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information to the Government under an express promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence, or prior to the September 27, 1975, under an implied promise that the identity of the source would be held in confidence;
- (k) (6) testing or examination material used solely to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in the Federal service the disclosure of which would compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process;



PRISM SUBJECT ABSTRACT

CASE TITLE: b6, b7c
CASE NMBR: b6, b7c SUBJ NMBR: b6, b7c
DATE ESTB: 04/11/2005 DATE UPDATED: 05/06/2005

SUBJECT SUMMARY

NOTE: ON 04-14-05, SENIOR USSS MANAGEMENT RESCINDED THE INT/IB/REGION 2 MESSAGE, DATED, 04-11-05, CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT.

On 04-08-05, CHI FO advised that the subject, an artist, exhibited a stamp portraying President George W Bush with a gun in his hand. The exhibit, which was named "Axis of Evil", was located at the Columbia University in Chicago, IL.

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

U.S. Secret Service

DATE: April 25, 2005
REPLY TO: Acting SAIC - Chicago
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: b6, b7c
TO: Headquarters (INT/IB/Region 2)

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

Further reference is made to the Headquarters (INT/IB/Region 2) official message, dated 04/14/05, requesting the Chicago Field Office discontinue the investigation of the subject.

IDENTITY OF SUBJECT:

b6, b7c

A-91C
5-6-05

On 04/07/05, the Chicago Field Office was contacted by b6, b7c who reported while reading the Chicago Reader Newspaper, he noticed an article on stamp art, which included a photograph showing President Bush with a gun pointed to his head. b6, b7c further advised this stamp art was being displayed during an exhibit held at the Columbia College, 1104 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL, on this date. The exhibit, Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin, featured more than 100 works of art, each with a perforated piece of social commentary.

On the same date, and prior to the opening of the exhibit, SA b6, b7c and SA b6, b7c responded to Columbia College, Glass Curtain Gallery, where they observed the subject stamp art. The stamp art was entitled, "Patriot Act", and the artist as b6, b7c Chicago, IL. The agents took digital photographs of the "Patriot Act" stamp display.

- 2 -

On the same date, SA b6, b7c and SA b6, b7c spoke with Columbia College Director of (C) Spaces, b6, b7c in reference to the exhibit. b6, b7c stated the curator of the exhibit was b6, b7c, and the stamp art was previously displayed in Philadelphia. b6, b7c mentioned the exhibition originated in Philadelphia last week, and she did not expect any of the artists except b6, b7c to be present during the show. b6, b7c asked if we were interested in speaking to b6, b7c in reference to the exhibit or the artist of the Patriot Act, b6, b7c. At that time, we stated it was not necessary for us to speak with anyone.

On 04/08/05, SA b6, b7c contacted the IDDD and briefed the duty agent, SA b6, b7c b6, b7c on the circumstances of this case. Digital photographs of the subject stamp art were also e-mailed to SA b6, b7c and ID/Region 2.

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

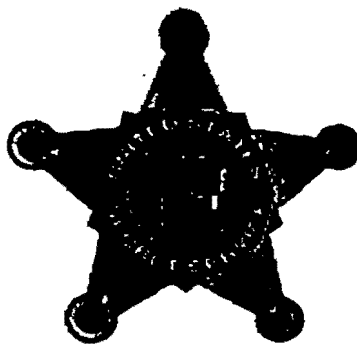
b6, b7c

Approved:

b6, b7c



Acting Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE



FAX TRANSMITTAL
312/353-1225 (MAIN)

TO: Region 2. bb.b7c

FROM: SA bb.b7c bb.b7c

SUBJ: bb.b7c bb.b7c

PAGES 4 (+ COVER)

REMARKS: Call w/ A. guistone - Thanks

CALL BACK NUMBER: 312/353-5431

MEMORANDUM OF RECORD

TO: FILE		DATE: 04-13-05
INFORMATION RECORDED BY: IRS <i>b6, b7c</i> /REGION 2		FILE: <i>b6, b7c</i>
SUBJECT: <i>b6, b7c</i>		
CONTACT: ATSAIC <i>b6, b7c</i> SVIRS <i>b6, b7c</i>	OFFICE: INT/IB	PHONE NUMBER:

DETAILS

Reference is made to Headquarters (INT/IB/Region 2) referral message, dated 04-11-05, concerning the subject.

Background: On 04-08-05, CHI FO advised that the subject, an artist, exhibited a stamp portraying President George W. Bush with a gun to his head. The exhibit, which was named "Axis of Evil", was located at the Columbia University in Chicago, IL.

On 04-13-05, ATSAIC *b6, b7c* and SVIRS *b6, b7c* advised that senior USSS management decided to rescind the Intelligence Division's referral message, dated 04-11-05, which directed the CHI FO to conduct a PI investigation of this incident.

ACTION:

Official message sent to CHI FO to discontinue the investigation on 04-14-05
 PRISM Case Management Screen changed from "R" (Referred) to "N" (Non-referred)
 PRISM Classification Screen changed from "P" (Pending) to "Subject"
 PRISM DI Screen changed from "P" (Pending) to "Unresolved"
 PRISM SSUM Screen updated with "SENIOR USSS MANAGEMENT RESCINDED THE INT/IB/Region 2 MESSAGE, DATED, 04-11-05, CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT."

ACTION:

Briefed SVIRS *b6, b7c*
 Briefed SVIRS *b6, b7c*
 Prepared Lookout Sheet

id2

From: id2 [id2@officialmail.usss.treas.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2005 2:57 PM
To: CHI; SPR
Subject: 671.010 b6, b7c

//PRIORITY//

FROM: Headquarters (INT/IB/Region 2)

File: b6, b7c

TO: Chicago
Springfield RO

SUBJECT: b6, b7c

Reference is made to the 04-08-05 telephone conversation between SA b6, b7c CHI, and the ID Duty Agent regarding the above subject. Further reference is made to the 04-11-05 telephone conversation between IRS b6, b7c, INT/IB/Region 2, and SA b6, b7c also regarding the subject.

The following incident was recorded at the ID Duty Desk.

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

Details:

On 04-08-05, at 1435 hours, SA b6, b7c, CHI, contacted the IDDD to report the following information:

On 04-07-05, an art exhibit at Columbia University, 1104 South Wabash, Chicago, IL, contained a stamp exhibit with a stamp portraying POTUS with a gun to his head. The exhibit is named "Axis of Evil," and has the name b6, b7c Chicago, IL, listed at the bottom of the exhibit. The exhibit was on display at Columbia University on 04-07-05, and has since moved to a new location. SA b6, b7c reported that he does not know the exhibit's current location.

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

End of incident report.

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b2, b6, b7c, b7e

If there are any questions regarding this case, please contact IRS b6, b7c or Region 2 at (202) 406-5220.

Headquarters (INT/IB/Region 2)

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

14 DAY

From: b6, b7c
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 7:43 PM

To: b2, b6, b7c, b7e
Cc: b2, b6, b7c, b7e
Subject: b6, b7c

Date/Time: 04/08/2005 02:42 PM
Received By: b6, b7c
Caller Title: SA
Caller Name: b6, b7c
Agency/Off: USSS/CHI
Area Code: b6, b7c
Phone #: b6, b7c
Rpt #: b6, b7c

Name: b6, b7c
NRID: x
NCIC Neg:
TECS Neg:
Sex: U
H: 000
Incident Title: Incident

Photo:
SSF-1945 Refused:

Details:
On 4/8/05, at 1435 hours, SA b6, b7c USSS/CHI, b6, b7c contacted the IDDD and provided the following information:

On 4/7/05, an art exhibit at Columbia University, 1104 South Wabash, Chicago, Illinois, contained a stamp exhibit with a stamp portraying POTUS with a gun to his head. The exhibit is named "Axis of Evil," and has the name b6, b7c Chicago, Ill. (NRID) listed at the bottom of the exhibit. The exhibit was on display at Columbia University on 4/7/05, and has since moved to a new location. SA b6, b7c reported that he does not know the exhibit's current location.

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

Referred to Region 2 for follow up

QUERIES:

b6, b7c

TECS:

b6, b7c

NCIC/NLETS:

b6, b7c

NOTIFICATIONS:

IDDD Supervisor
JOC ID
JOC Supervisor
JOC PPD
JOC VPD
JOC UD
ADPR

ATSAIC *b6, b7c*
SA *b6, b7c*
ATSAIC
SA *b6, b7c*
SA *b6, b7c*
Lt. *b6, b7c*
DAD *b6, b7c*

1440
1440
via JOC ID
via JOC ID
via JOC ID
via JOC ID
via DSAIC *b6, b7c*



United States Secret Service
Intelligence Division
950 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20223

Telephone #: 202-406-5230
Fax #: 202-406-5862

Precedence:

IMMEDIATE	X	PRIORITY	ROUTINE
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Number of pages including cover: 13 ~~Pages~~

Date:	4-11-05		
To:	SA	b6, b7c	
From:	IRS	b6, b7c	

Remarks:

NEX'S SEARCHES
FOR "AXIS OF EVIL"
(1) CHRONICLE NEWS STORY 4 PAGES
(2) PERSON SUMMARY REPORT b6, b7c
4 PAGES
(3) NEWS STORIES RE " b6, b7c
4 PAGES.
b6, b7c
A WELL-KNOWN ILLUSTRATOR/GRAPHIC
ARTIST b6, b7c

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Secret Service visits 'Secret History of Sin' Stamp art exhibit asks, 'What is evil?' while feds ask for info

By Jamie Murnane & K. Anderson
The Chronicle

For the first time in Columbia's history, a campus gallery exhibit has incited a Secret Service investigation.

Columbia officials were stunned when two Secret Service agents showed up for the opening of the new Glass Curtain Gallery exhibit "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin."



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

According to Columbia's media relations director, Micki Leventhal, the agents arrived before the opening, demanding to speak with

Gallery viewers at the opening shortly after Secret Service agents left.

Michael Hernandez de Luna, the exhibit curator who was not yet present. Hernandez de Luna is no stranger to controversy as he is the stamp artist who was single-handedly responsible for shutting down Chicago's Loop post office for several hours in October 2001 when he sent a skull and crossbones stamp through the mail with the word "anthrax" written on it.

Though the stamp was found to be harmless, Hernandez de Luna has been under a federal investigation for the incident. And while there is politically controversial art in "Axis of Evil," Leventhal said, "We do not know, officially, the nature of their inquiries."

It was made clear, however, that the inquiries had "nothing to do with Columbia," Leventhal said, and the only request that was made was for Hernandez de Luna to contact them within 24 hours.

It is unclear whether Hernandez de Luna has contacted the agents, as he said he is not allowed to talk about the incident. He did say that he was "not too surprised by the turnout of the Secret Service," as all his exhibits are documented by postal authorities.

He was surprised, however, that agents decided to turn up for "Axis of Evil," having said, "This is one of my safest shows ever."

Leventhal said the gallery will be unaffected.

"We are an art school," Leventhal said. "We're a communication school and we stand firmly for freedom of artistic expression and academic freedom."

RIF

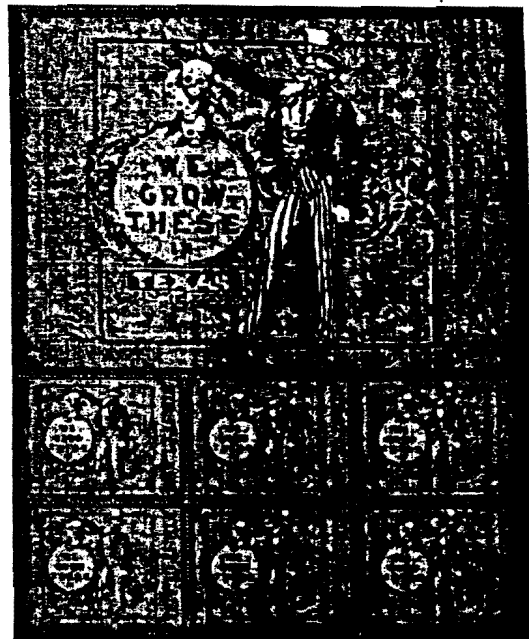
"It's not necessarily condemning evil, but asking 'What is evil?'" Billings said of the exhibit.

New York-based artist Gerard Barbot is also participating in the show. Asked what people should take away from the show, Barbot was quick to comment.

"I would wish that people would be more aware of what's going on in the world as well as what's going on in their own selves," Barbot said, adding that stamp art is functional.

"It's meant to be licked and stuck on an envelope," he said. "I've used mine already."

And Hernandez de Luna doesn't consider his work complete unless it's actually been sent through the mail (either successfully or with a cancellation stamped on it).



The idea for the show originally came from the mind of Jim Swanson, owner and operator of Qualiatica Gallery and Press. Swanson first created a hardcover catalogue of the art and a companion DVD, which included essays and discussions by artists and other interested parties. Both were titled, "Axis of Evil, Perforated Praeter Naturam." Swanson explained that "perforated praeter naturam" means to punch holes in the supernatural, and that's just what he wanted to do.

"We've created a metaphor that puts fear into people and that has to be addressed," Swanson said.

A friend of Swanson's suggested stamp art as the medium, and Swanson hired Hernandez de Luna to curate and navigate the art.

According to both Swanson and Hernandez de Luna, 99.9 percent of the art was solicited.

"It was a global call. I said, 'Show me what you guys think of evil, and don't send me none of that pansy-ass stuff neither,'" Swanson said.

Hernandez de Luna is known for controversy and justifies it by saying it is exactly what being a successful artist is all about.

"Any publicity makes his art more valuable," said Swanson of Hernandez de Luna's attitude toward trouble.

Trouble ended up being just another part of the birth of this already controversial exhibit and collection. Swanson and Hernandez de Luna embroiled themselves in a legal battle over the

RI 7

collection and Hernandez de Luna's payment for his work on the project. The creators of this thought-provoking, artistic endeavor are not on speaking terms.

The exhibit, which was supposed to go hand in hand with Swanson's catalog and be shown at Qualiatica, Swanson's gallery, is now an independent project of Hernandez de Luna's.

Swanson has retained rights to the catalog book, the DVD, and the title, "Axis of Evil: Perforated Praeter Naturam." Hernandez de Luna has the rights to the collection and to exhibit the show to the public.

"Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin," which will be on display at the Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., through May 11.

RI

"Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin" is a collection of stamp art featuring 47 artists from 11 different countries that opened at the gallery on April 6.

"He coined the term 'Axis of Evil' like the Nazis hijacked the swastika," said Hernandez de Luna, referring to President George W. Bush's statement claiming that certain countries are responsible for evil.

Out of this explosive statement has come an effort that ruminates on the reality of evil as we know it.

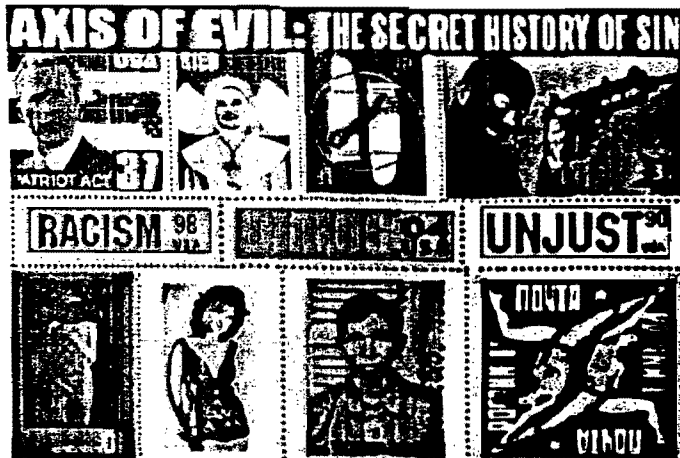
Hernandez de Luna, former Columbia student who has several of his own pieces in the show, credits the college for opening doors to such a controversial exhibit.

"There's many institutions that will not take on shows with such a raw cacophonous edge," he said.

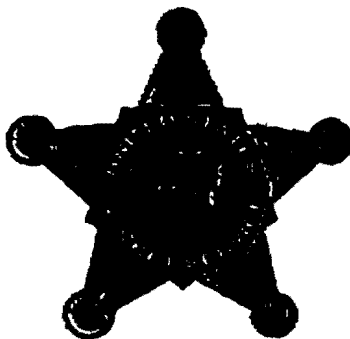
Greg Weiss, gallery coordinator of the Glass Curtain space, said he does not remember any other time that an exhibit has generated so much interest before it even opened. Weiss said they chose the exhibit because they thought it would resonate with the students and the public.

"It's very timely in the sense of our political and social climate," Weiss said.

Robert Billings, a Los Angeles-based political artist, is an eager participant in the show. Billings said he likes controversial art because it opens up a dialogue.



The Postcard for the exhibit previews some of the "graphically political" work (according to a viewer discretion notice on the door of the gallery) that's on display.



UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE



FAX TRANSMITTAL
312/353-1225 (MAIN)

TO: SA bb. b7c - I D D D

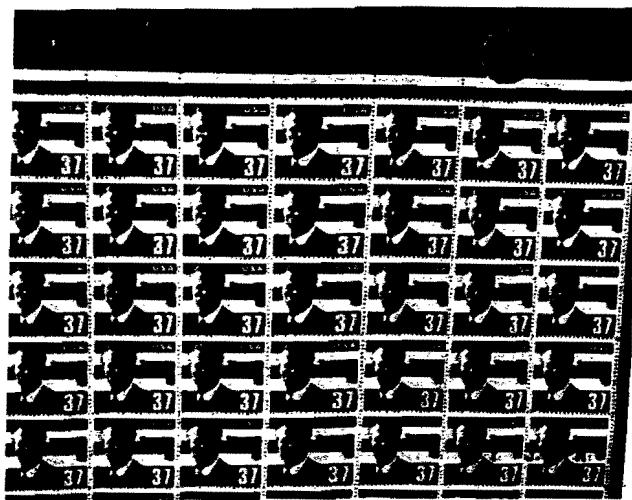
FROM: SA bb. b7c

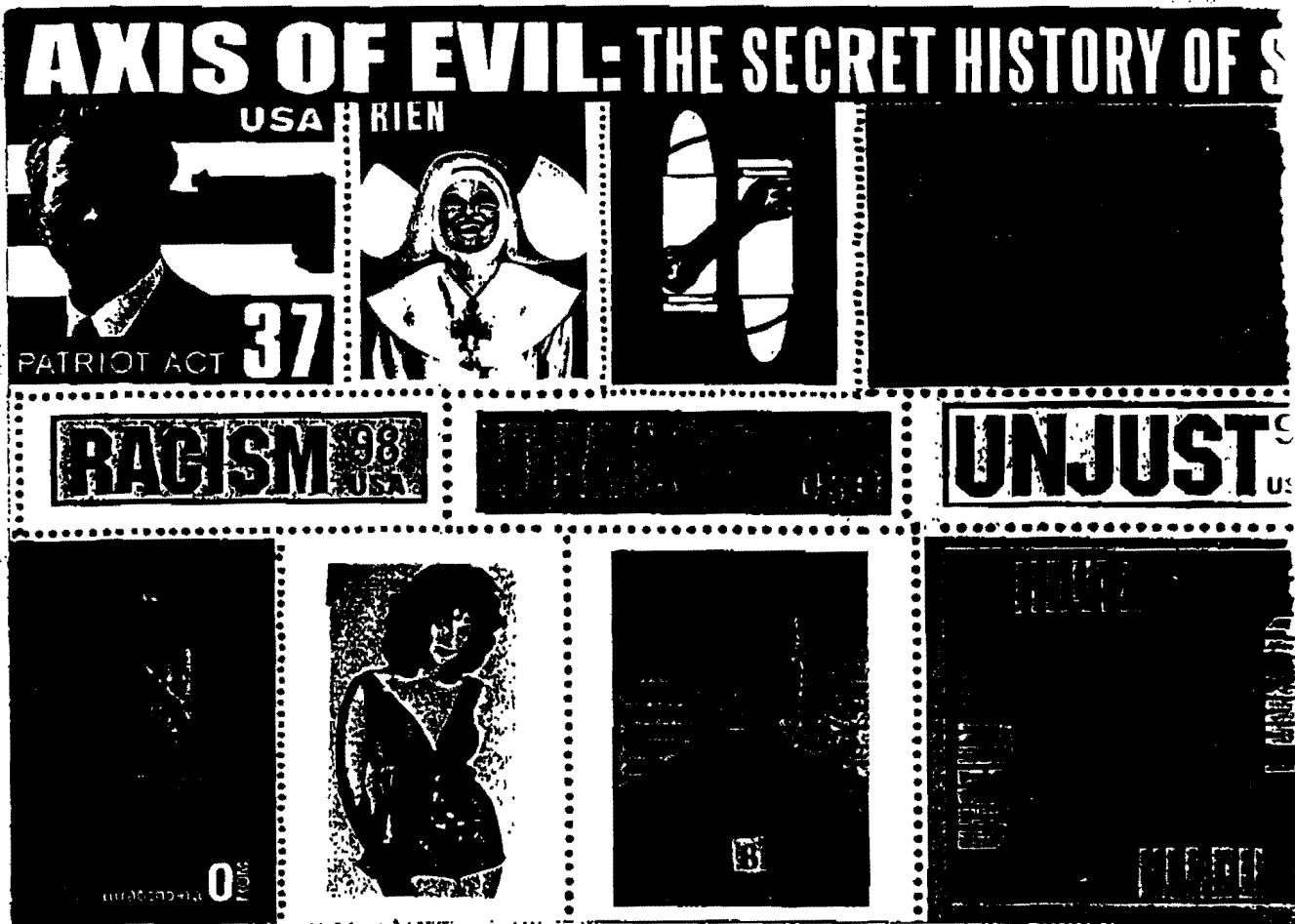
SUBJ: President Bush Steap

PAGES 3 (+ COVER)

REMARKS: Call me w/ Any questions bb. b7c

CALL BACK NUMBER: 312/353-5431





RIF

BTS

BTS

thursday7**PUTTING THEIR STAMP ON ART**

Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin features more than 100 works of stamp art, each a tiny perforated piece of social commentary. The exhibit opens today with a reception and gallery talk by curator Michael Hernandez de Luna. | 5-8 PM | Columbia College, Glass Curtain Gallery | 1104 S. Wabash | 312-344-6643 |



BTS

RIF

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO



SPACES & EVC
GET INVOLVED
ABOUT US
CONTACT
LINKS

GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY

Hours: 9 am - 5 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 9 am - 7 pm on Monday and Thursday

Location: 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st Floor

Located in the south loop at the historic Ludington building, the Glass Curtain Gallery's 2,200 square foot space welcomes Columbia College Chicago resident artists, students, and alumni and non-Columbia College Chicago professional artists to exhibit a variety of contemporary media in a professional environment. The gallery offers professional exhibition opportunities, performance workshops, visiting artist lectures, and dialogue essential for student development and growth within the arts.

Glass Curtain Gallery gets its name from the architectural landmark that houses the gallery. This landmark, with its terra-cotta façade, was commissioned in 1891 by lumber heiress Mary Ludington to house the American Book Company. Once regarded as Chicago's earliest skyscraper, it is considered a high point in the artistic career of architect William le Baron Jenney. Jenney revolutionized high-rise construction with his innovative design: a steel skeletal frame, which incorporated structural Z-bar shaped columns for strength and versatility, freeing the exterior from its load-bearing role. The exterior became nothing more than a "curtain wall" made exclusively of glass.

The Ludington building also houses the Hermann D. Conaway Multicultural Center.

Directions:

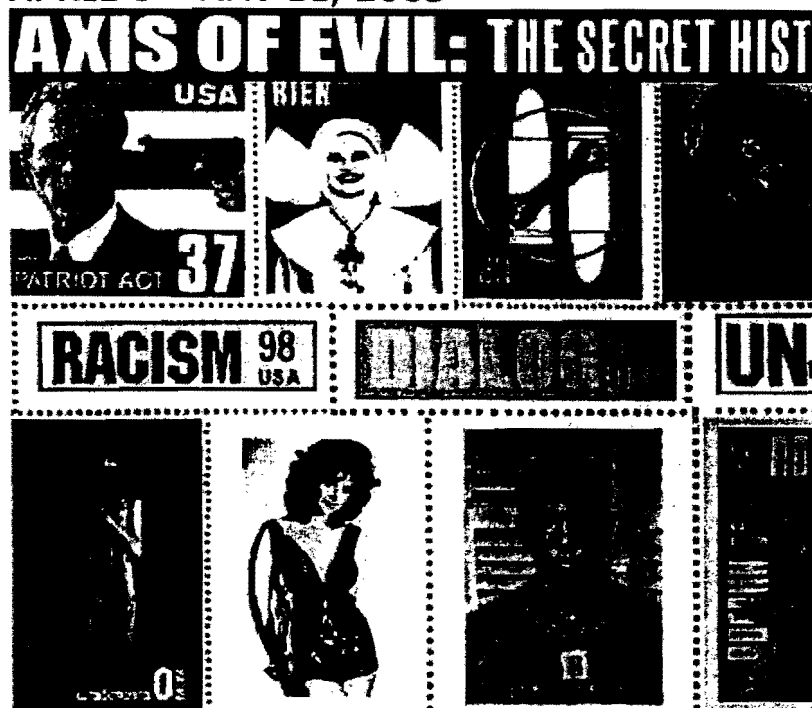
The nearest CTA stop is Roosevelt on the Red, Green, and Orange lines. Walk east on Roosevelt to Wabash, turn left and walk one block to 11th Street.

Parking: There is a lot 1/2 block south of the building. Rates are \$11 for a full day and \$6 for 4 hours. Street parking may be found at meters if you're lucky!

From Midway Airport: Take the Orange line El

AXIS OF EVIL

APRIL 6 - MAY 11, 2005



Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin

Reception & Gallery Talk: Thursday, April 7, 5-7pm

An international exhibition thematically peeking into the de through the print making form of the postage stamp sheet.

Curated and Navigated by Michael Hernandez de Luna.

In memory of our friend and colleague Ed Paschke

Featuring:

AIF

train to Roosevelt. Walk east on Roosevelt to the end of the block and turn left (north) on Wabash. If you choose to take a taxi, expect to pay about \$15.00.

From O'Hare Airport: Take the Blue line El train to the Jackson stop. Transfer to the Red line El train going south toward 95th. Get off at Roosevelt and walk north on State to the end of the block. Turn right (east) on 11th Street. Walk to the end of the block to Wabash, turn right (south) and you are here. If you choose to take a taxi, expect to pay about \$25.00.

How to reserve a space

Downloads

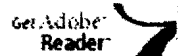
For exhibiting artists
[C]Spaces galleries artwork form
Loan Agreement form
Consent and Waiver for Use and Likeness of Works

For performing artists
Performance Residency Application
Performance Contract
Consent and waiver for use and likeness of works

For curators
Curator's roles and responsibilities

For students
Regulations for use of [C]Spaces
Facility request form

For faculty and staff
Facility Request Form and Guidelines
Temporary borrowing of equipment/props



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XML

b6, b7c

From: b6, b7c
 Sent: Friday, April 08, 2005 11:37 AM
 To: b2, b6, b7c, b7e
 Cc: b6, b7c
 Subject: President Bush Stamp

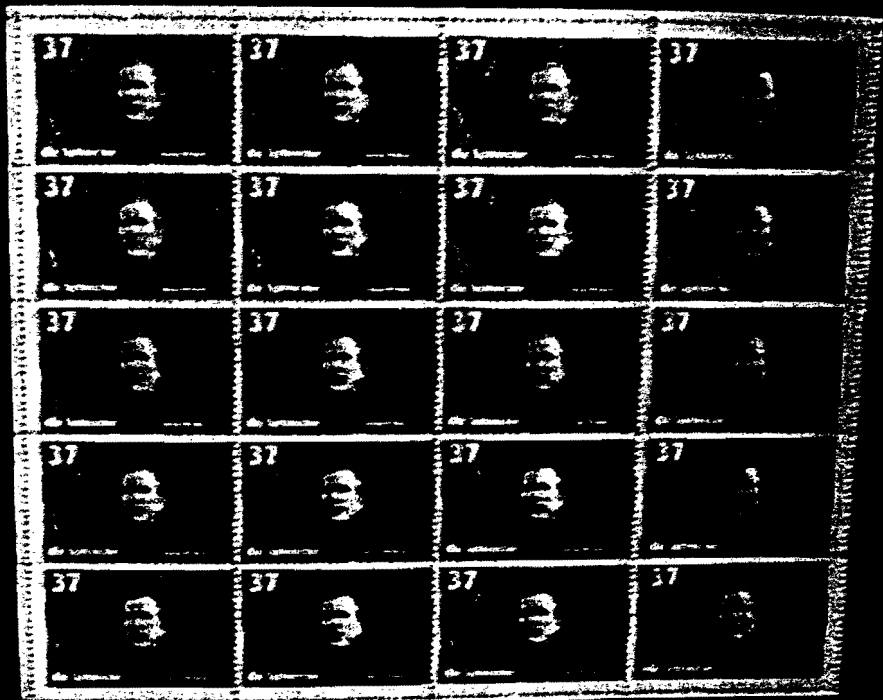
These stamps were featured in the Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin: art exhibit, which had more than 100 works of stamp art, each with social commentary. The exhibit was held at Columbia College, Chicago, IL on 04/07/05. These are photos taken of the two stamps featuring the President. The Sphinxer photo was created by b6 b7c and the Patriot act photo was created by b6, b7c both from Chicago. Any questions please call me Thanks

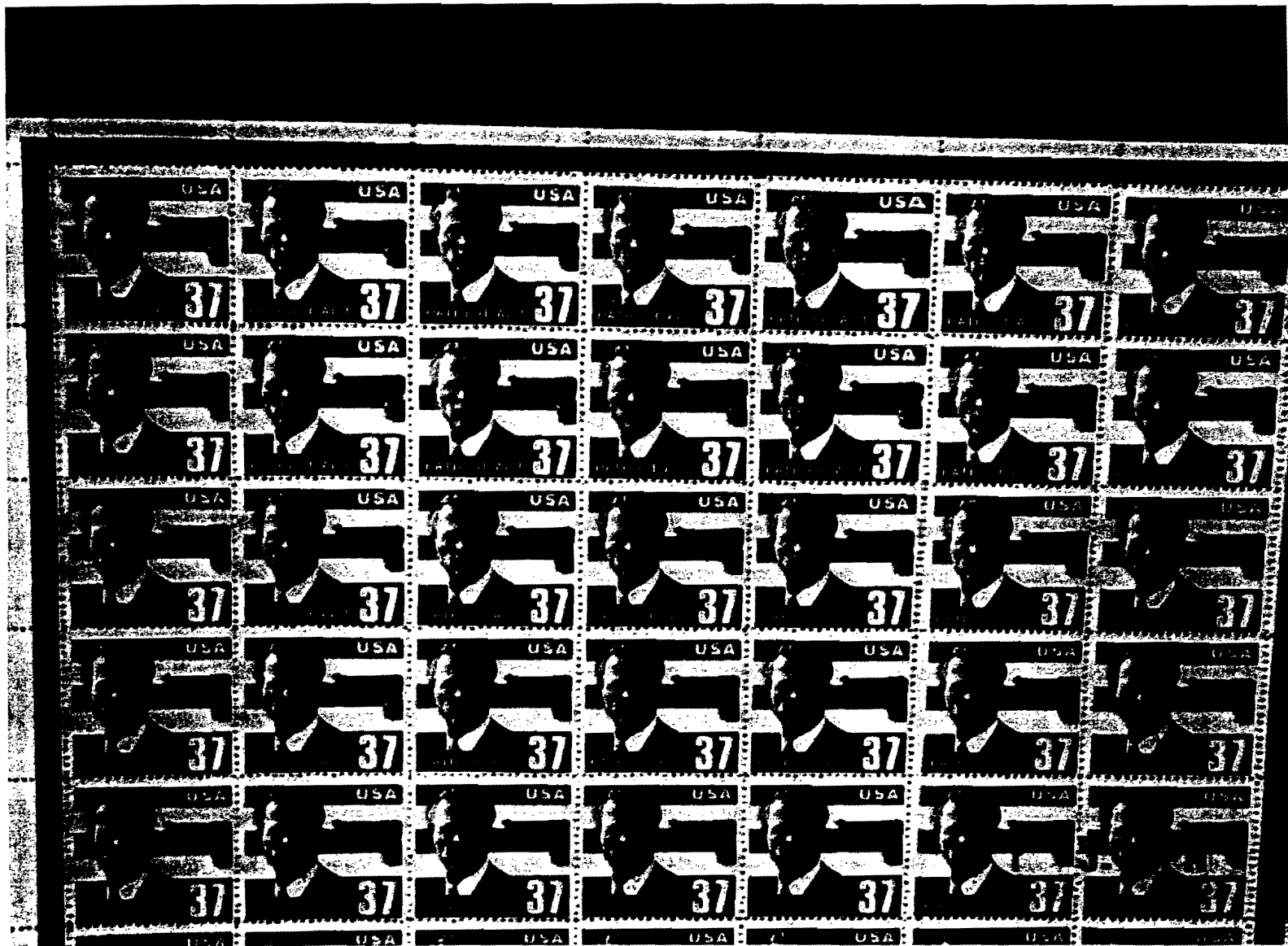
b6, b7c
 Chicago Field Office
 312/353-5431 - Main
 312/353-1225 - Fax

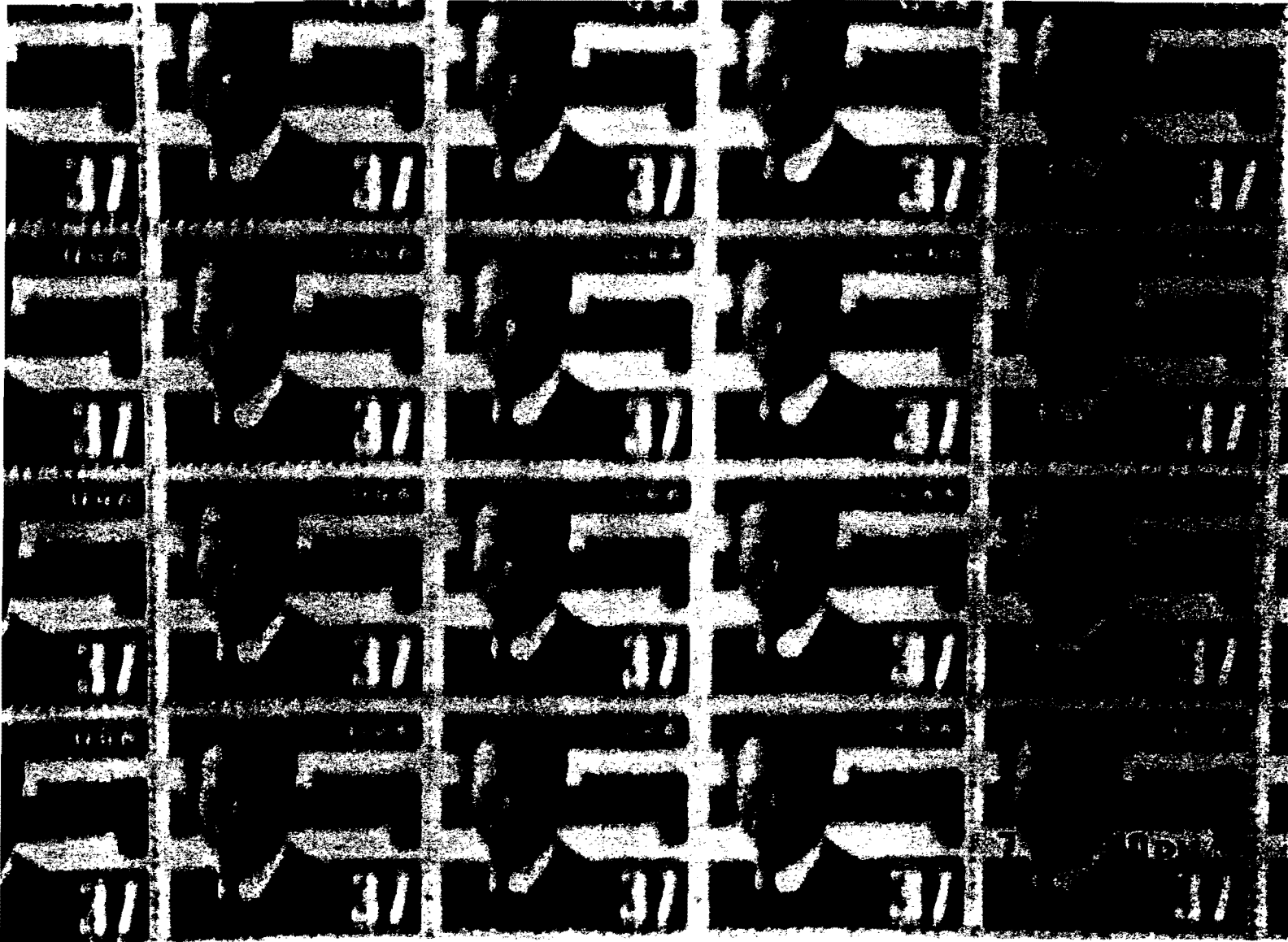
on 4-8-05, IRS b6, b7c left a voicemail
 telling SA b6, b7c need it into the
 duty desk.

4/8/2005









Feds cancel furor on Bush 'stamp' artist

May 5, 2005

BY MONIFA THOMAS Staff Reporter

As a graphic designer specializing in CD packaging and book covers, Al Brandtner was used to a certain degree of anonymity for his work. That changed abruptly three weeks ago when U.S. Secret Service agents turned up just before the opening of a politically charged Columbia College art exhibit and took pictures of one of Brandtner's pieces -- a mock stamp showing President Bush with a revolver aimed at his head.

Brandtner was one of 47 artists featured in "Axis of Evil, the Secret History of Sin," a collection of sharply political artwork on fake sheets of stamps.

"By the nature of what was being asked for, I knew it was intended to be pretty shocking," Brandtner, 47, said Wednesday. "Still, I never thought I would personally draw the attention I did."

The Secret Service contacted Brandtner several times through his attorney in the week after the opening, "very much interested in trying to figure out my motivation, what I was trying to do," he said.

No real offers

He also got a flood of e-mails and phone calls -- half supportive and half outraged -- the day ABC's "Good Morning America" and other media outlets named him as the creator of the Bush stamp.

"Then the next day, nothing," Brandtner said. "It just ended as quickly as it came."

Since then, about a dozen people have inquired about buying the Bush piece, but Brandtner said he hasn't had any real offers, and the initial controversy surrounding the exhibit has not had much impact on his Chicago-based business.

"To me, it's sort of like, who cares?" he said. "I never thought the piece could be interpreted as a threat. I was just trying to twist these words and catchphrases floating around."

Still, he doesn't think the Secret Service overreacted.

"What's curious was whether they needed to make a show of it," he said.

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Secret Service visits 'Secret History of Sin' Stamp art exhibit asks, 'What is evil?' while feds ask for info

By Jamie Murnane & K. Anderson
The Chronicle

For the first time in Columbia's history, a campus gallery exhibit has incited a Secret Service investigation.

Columbia officials were stunned when two Secret Service agents showed up for the opening of the new Glass Curtain Gallery exhibit "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin."



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

According to Columbia's media relations director, Micki Leventhal, the agents arrived before the opening, demanding to speak with

Gallery viewers at the opening shortly after Secret Service agents left.

Michael Hernandez de Luna, the exhibit curator who was not yet present. Hernandez de Luna is no stranger to controversy as he is the stamp artist who was single-handedly responsible for shutting down Chicago's Loop post office for several hours in October 2001 when he sent a skull and crossbones stamp through the mail with the word "anthrax" written on it.

Though the stamp was found to be harmless, Hernandez de Luna has been under a federal investigation for the incident. And while there is politically controversial art in "Axis of Evil," Leventhal said, "We do not know, officially, the nature of their inquiries."

Erin Mash

It was made clear, however, that the inquiries had "nothing to do with Columbia," Leventhal said, and the only request that was made was for Hernandez de Luna to contact them within 24 hours.

It is unclear whether Hernandez de Luna has contacted the agents, as he said he is not allowed to talk about the incident. He did say that he was "not too surprised by the turnout of the Secret Service," as all his exhibits are documented by postal authorities.

He was surprised, however, that agents decided to turn up for "Axis of Evil," having said, "This is one of my safest shows ever."

Leventhal said the gallery will be unaffected.

"We are an art school," Leventhal said. "We're a communication school and we stand firmly for freedom of artistic expression and academic freedom."

"Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin" is a collection of stamp art featuring 47 artists from 11 different countries that opened at the gallery on April 6.

"He coined the term 'Axis of Evil' like the Nazis hijacked the swastika," said Hernandez de Luna, referring to President George W. Bush's statement claiming that certain countries are responsible for evil.

Out of this explosive statement has come an effort that ruminates on the reality of evil as we know it.

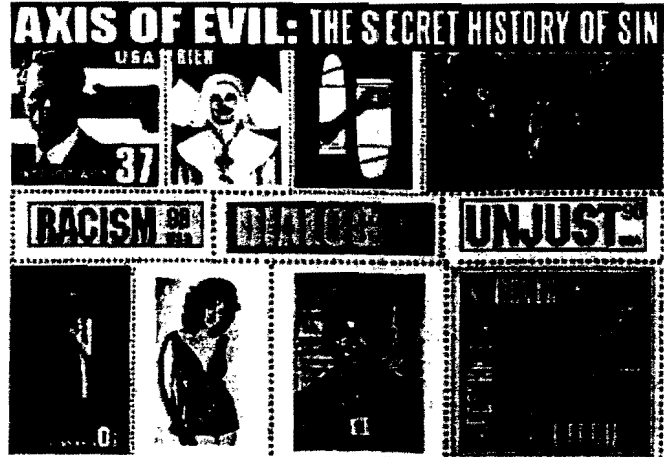
Hernandez de Luna, former Columbia student who has several of his own pieces in the show, credits the college for opening doors to such a controversial exhibit.

"There's many institutions that will not take on shows with such a raw cacophonous edge," he said.

Greg Weiss, gallery coordinator of the Glass Curtain space, said he does not remember any other time that an exhibit has generated so much interest before it even opened. Weiss said they chose the exhibit because they thought it would resonate with the students and the public.

"It's very timely in the sense of our political and social climate," Weiss said.

Robert Billings, a Los Angeles-based political artist, is an eager participant in the show. Billings said he likes controversial art because it opens up a dialogue.



The Postcard for the exhibit previews some of the "graphically political" work (according to a viewer discretion notice on the door of the gallery) that's on display.

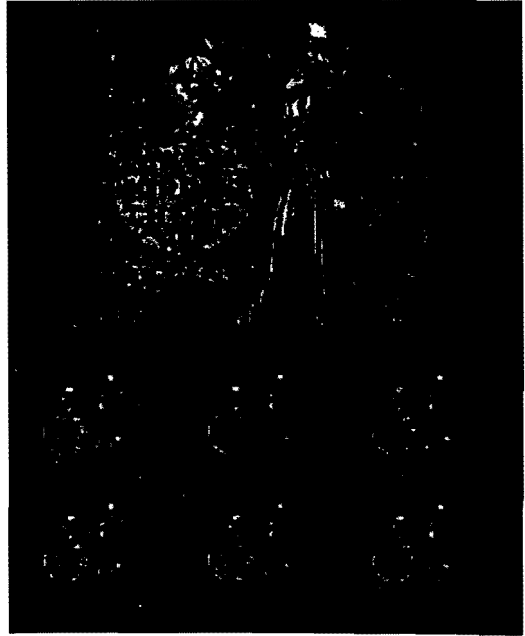
"It's not necessarily condemning evil, but asking 'What is evil?'" Billings said of the exhibit.

New York-based artist Gerard Barbot is also participating in the show. Asked what people should take away from the show, Barbot was quick to comment.

"I would wish that people would be more aware of what's going on in the world as well as what's going on in their own selves," Barbot said, adding that stamp art is functional.

"It's meant to be licked and stuck on an envelope," he said. "I've used mine already."

And Hernandez de Luna doesn't consider his work complete unless it's actually been sent through the mail (either successfully or with a cancellation stamped on it).



The idea for the show originally came from the mind of Jim Swanson, owner and operator of Qualiatica Gallery and Press. Swanson first created a hardcover catalogue of the art and a companion DVD, which included essays and discussions by artists and other interested parties. Both were titled, "Axis of Evil, Perforated Praeter Naturam." Swanson explained that "perforated praeter naturam" means to punch holes in the supernatural, and that's just what he wanted to do.

"We've created a metaphor that puts fear into people and that has to be addressed," Swanson said.

A friend of Swanson's suggested stamp art as the medium, and Swanson hired Hernandez de Luna to curate and navigate the art.

According to both Swanson and Hernandez de Luna, 99.9 percent of the art was solicited.

"It was a global call. I said, 'Show me what you guys think of evil, and don't send me none of that pansy-ass stuff neither,'" Swanson said.

Hernandez de Luna is known for controversy and justifies it by saying it is exactly what being a successful artist is all about.

"Any publicity makes his art more valuable," said Swanson of Hernandez de Luna's attitude toward trouble.

Trouble ended up being just another part of the birth of this already controversial exhibit and collection. Swanson and Hernandez de Luna embroiled themselves in a legal battle over the

collection and Hernandez de Luna's payment for his work on the project. The creators of this thought-provoking, artistic endeavor are not on speaking terms.

The exhibit, which was supposed to go hand in hand with Swanson's catalog and be shown at Qualiatica, Swanson's gallery, is now an independent project of Hernandez de Luna's.

Swanson has retained rights to the catalog book, the DVD, and the title, "Axis of Evil: Perforated Praeter Naturam." Hernandez de Luna has the rights to the collection and to exhibit the show to the public.

"Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin," which will be on display at the Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., through May 11.

Stamp art show not so secret now

April 13, 2005

BY NATASHA KORECKI Federal Courts Reporter

News that the **Secret Service** visited a Columbia College art exhibit caused a spike in gallery visitors Tuesday, drawing about 150 curious art seekers to the South Loop gallery.

Exhibit curator Michael Hernandez deLuna called the public response overwhelming to "Axis of Evil, the Secret History of Sin," a collection of sharply political artwork on fake sheets of stamps.

Two Secret Service agents visited the gallery Thursday just before its public opening, responding to a citizen complaint about some of the pieces.

They followed with a phone call asking specifically about the artist who created "Patriot Act," a fake sheet of stamps picturing President Bush with a gun pointing at him.

'We ... respect artistic freedoms'

The artist, Al Brandtner, was not returning phone calls. On Tuesday, the Glass Curtain Gallery at 1104 S. Wabash bustled with viewers all day, compared with the two dozen or so people who visited Monday before news of the government visit broke.

U.S. Secret Service spokesman Jonathan Cherry said he doesn't know if the inquiry is complete but no artwork has been confiscated.

"We certainly respect artistic freedoms, but the Secret Service also has the responsibility to look into exhibits or statements when necessary. In this instance we've done just that," Cherry said. "The Secret Service hasn't confiscated any artwork or questioned anyone against their wishes; we just need to ensure as best we can that this is nothing more than artwork with a political statement."

Hernandez said the incident has generated a good discussion on the artwork and the political statements of the show. The exhibit features work from 47 artists who are not affiliated with Columbia.

Artists' reaction? 'They love it'

Hernandez said Columbia received some e-mails calling the exhibit unpatriotic or un-American. But most of the responses were positive, he said. Hernandez didn't expect Brandtner to make any public statements. He said a few artists shunned the media and government attention but nearly all the artists embraced it.

"They love it. They knew what they were getting into," Hernandez said.

A mother and son browsing the exhibit Tuesday had different perspectives. Lynne Sward, a Virginia artist, called the exhibit "provocative, clever and humorous."

Her son, Scottt Sward -- a Chicago resident who collects stamps -- said some pieces "make my stomach upset." The stamp sheets mocking the pope, Catholicism and its issues with abuse by priests were over the top, he said.

"I feel funny about it. I find some of it disturbing," he said. "I'm Catholic; you don't want to think about that all the time with our religion."

Columbia College defends anti-Bush art exhibit

Published April 13, 2005

The Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO -- Columbia College officials said Tuesday that the school stands behind its decision to host a controversial exhibit that includes a fake stamp depicting a gun pointed at President Bush's head.

Before the traveling exhibit opened Thursday, two **U.S. Secret Service agents** visited the Glass Curtain Gallery and asked questions about the artists who created "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin," Columbia College spokeswoman Micki Leventhal said.

The agents took photos of several pieces, including "Patriot Act," a faux 37-cent stamp created by Chicago artist Al Brandtner that shows a gun pointed toward President Bush, she said.

They also asked the gallery's director for the names and numbers of the exhibit's artists, she added, but the director declined.

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The New York Times

April 13, 2005 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section E; Column 5; The Arts/Cultural Desk; Arts, Briefly; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 439 words

BYLINE: Compiled by Lawrence Van Gelder

BODY:

Secret Service at Art Show

Secret Service agents visited a new exhibition of politically infused art at Columbia College in Chicago, where they asked for the artists' names and phone numbers and photographed some works, The Chicago Sun-Times reported yesterday. The show, "Axis of Evil, the Secret History of Sin," running through May at the college's Glass Curtain Gallery, presents works by 47 artists from 11 countries showing political and religious leaders on fake postage stamps. "Patriot Act," right, is a series of mock 37-cent stamps depicting President Bush with a gun pointed at his head. "Citizen John Ashcroft" assembles the face of the former attorney general from images of naked bodies at Abu Ghraib, the prison in Iraq. The Sun-Times reported that a **Secret Service** spokesman, Brandon Bridgeforth, said he could not discuss specifics of the visit, which took place last week shortly before the show opened. "We're just looking into it," he said. In a telephone interview yesterday, Micki Leventhal, the director of media relations for the college, said: "We are an arts school, and we are committed to academic freedom, artistic expression, freedom of speech. We are committed to that. We stand by that. We stand by this show. Art is meant to challenge and to make people question, and I think this show succeeds admirably in that."

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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Associated Press

April 13, 2005, Wednesday, BC cycle

4:13 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 1645 words

HEADLINE: A Summary of Illinois News

BYLINE: By The Associated Press

BODY:

CHICAGO (AP) - The **Secret Service** sent agents to investigate a college art gallery exhibit of mock postage stamps, one depicting President Bush with a gun pointed at his head, to guarantee "this is nothing more than artwork with a political statement," a spokesman said Tuesday.

The exhibit, called "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin," opened last week at Columbia College's Glass Curtain Gallery in Chicago.

The 47 artists designed fake postage stamps addressing issues such as the clergy sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, racism, and the war in Iraq. None of the artists is tied to the college.

Secret Service spokesman Tom Mazur said Tuesday that the inquiry started after a call from a Chicago resident.

Mazur would not say whether the inquiry had been completed or with whom the **Secret Service** had spoken, but he said no artwork had been confiscated.

"We need to ensure, as best we can, that this is nothing more than artwork with a political statement," Mazur said.

The two federal agents arrived at the exhibit's opening night Thursday, took photos of some of the works and asked for the artists' contact information, said CarolAnn Brown, the gallery's director.

Brown said the agents were most interested in Chicago artist Al Brandtner's "Patriot Act," a sheet of mock 37-cent red, white and blue stamps showing a revolver pointed at President Bush's head.

Brandtner did not return a call to his design studio Tuesday.

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U.S. National - AP

Art Exhibit Featuring Bush Stamp Probed

Ap Associated Press

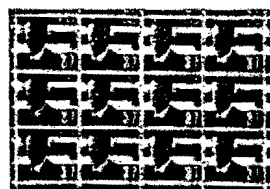
Tue Apr 12, 10:24 PM ET

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[U.S. National - AP](#)

By **TARA BURGHART**, Associated Press Writer

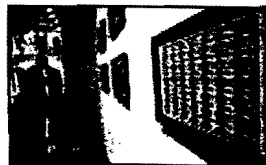
CHICAGO - The Secret Service sent agents to investigate a college art gallery exhibit of mock postage stamps, one depicting President Bush with a gun pointed at his head.



AP Photo

The exhibit, called "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin," opened last week at Columbia College in Chicago. It features stamps designed by 47 artists addressing issues such as the Roman Catholic sex abuse scandal, racism and the war in Iraq.

None of the artists is tied to the college.



AP Photo

Secret Service spokesman Tom Mazur would not say Tuesday whether the inquiry had been completed or whom the Secret Service had interviewed, but he said no artwork had been confiscated.

[Slideshow: "Axis of Evil" Exhibit](#)

The investigation began after authorities received a call from a Chicago resident.

"We need to ensure, as best we can, that this is nothing more than artwork with a political statement," Mazur said.

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Opinion & Editorials

Brandtner did not return a call to his design studio Tuesday.

The exhibit's curator, Michael Hernandez de Luna, said the inquiry "frightens" him.

"It starts questioning all rights, not only my rights or the artists' rights in this room, but questioning the rights of any artist who creates — any writer, any visual artist, any performance artist. It seems like we're being watched," he said.

Last spring, Secret Service agents in Washington state questioned a high school student about anti-war drawings he did for an art class, one of which depicted Bush's head on a stick.

On the Net:

Glass Curtain Gallery: <http://cspaces.colum.edu>

Secret Service: <http://www.secretservice.gov/>

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To me, however, the most interesting pieces transcend this narrowly framed definition of illegality. Take Michael Hernandez de Luna's fake postage stamps. While they abuse trademarked designs, such as the color and shape of Viagra pills (not to mention the name), the more intriguing element is the artist's abuse -- make that manipulation -- of the U.S. Postal Service. You see, Hernandez de Luna actually sends his artwork though the mail, and "Illegal Art" includes a few canceled letters.

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Los Angeles Times

April 14, 2005 Thursday
Home Edition

SECTION: CALENDAR WEEKEND; Calendar Desk; Part E; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 217 words

HEADLINE: **Secret Service** checks out political art exhibit

BYLINE: From Times wire services

DATELINE: CHICAGO

BODY:

The **Secret Service** sent agents to investigate a college art gallery exhibit of mock postage stamps, one depicting President Bush with a gun pointed at his head.

The exhibit, called "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin," opened last week at Columbia College in Chicago.

It features stamps designed by 47 artists addressing issues such as the Roman Catholic sex abuse scandal, racism and the war in Iraq. None of the artists is tied to the college.

Secret Service spokesman Tom Mazur would not say whether the inquiry had been completed or whom the **Secret Service** had interviewed, but he said no artwork had been confiscated.

"We need to ensure, as best we can, that this is nothing more than artwork with a political statement," Mazur said.

Columbia College officials said Tuesday that the school stands behind its decision to host the exhibit.

College spokeswoman Micki Leventhal confirmed that two **Secret Service** agents visited the Glass Curtain Gallery and asked questions about the artists.

The agents took photos of several pieces, including "Patriot Act," the faux 37-cent stamp created by Chicago artist Al Brandtner that shows a gun pointed toward President Bush, she said.

They also asked the gallery's director for the names and numbers of the exhibit's artists, she added, but the director declined.

LOAD-DATE: April 14, 2005

12-1

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE April 25, 2005
REPLY TO Acting SAIC – Chicago
ATTN OF
SUBJECT b6, b7c
TO Headquarters (INT/IB/REGION 2)

U.S. Secret Service
127-671-35836

b6, b7c

Further reference is made to the Headquarters (INT/IB/Region 2) official message, dated 04/14/05, requesting the Chicago Field Office discontinue the investigation of the subject.

IDENTITY OF SUBJECT:

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

b6, b7c

On 04/07/05, the Chicago Field Office was contacted by b6, b7c who reported while reading the Chicago Reader Newspaper, he noticed an article on stamp art, which included a photograph showing President Bush with a gun pointed to his head. b6, b7c further advised this stamp art was being displayed during an exhibit held at the Columbia College, 1104 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL, on this date. The exhibit, Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin, featured more than 100 works of art, each with a perforated piece of social commentary.

On the same date, and prior to the opening of the exhibit, SA b6, b7c and SA b6, b7c responded to Columbia College, Glass Curtain Gallery, where they observed the subject stamp art. The stamp art was entitled, "Patriot Act", and the artist as b6, b7c Chicago, IL. The agents took digital photographs of the "Patriot Act" stamp display.

On the same date, SA b6, b7c and SA b6, b7c spoke with Columbia College Director of

COPY

(C) Spaces, : b6, b7c in reference to the exhibit. b6, b7c stated the curator of the exhibit was b6, b7c and the stamp art was previously displayed in Philadelphia. b6, b7c mentioned the exhibition originated in Philadelphia last week, and she did not expect any of the artists except b6, b7c to be present during the show. b6, b7c asked if we were interested in speaking to b6, b7c reference to the exhibit or the artist of the Patriot Act, b6, b7c. At that time, we stated it was not necessary for us to speak with anyone.

On 04/08/05, SA b6, b7c contacted the IDDD and briefed the duty agent, SA b6, b7c b6, b7c on the circumstances of this case. Digital photographs of the subject stamp art were also e-mailed to SA b6, b7c and ID/Region 2.

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Approved:

b6, b7c

Acting Special Agent in Charge