

Make Your Own History Exhibition, Spring 2008
Historic Blatz Building, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Beer Barons & Brewery Workers

A collaborative project between A. Bill Miller and Brandon Bauer

The Project *Beer Barons & Brewery Workers* creates a dialog across the history of the brewing industry in Milwaukee. Animated portraits of beer barons from the era of the rise of the brewing industry interact with archival text about the 1953 brewery strike, a strike that anticipated the decline of the brewing industry in Milwaukee. The subtle and humorous animated gestures engage both the viewer and the texts shedding light on these important historical events. These two historical points become bookends to a history that is still very much a part of the fabric and character of the city of Milwaukee.

Along with the projections a site-specific drawing in the exhibition space weaves the portraits and texts in an abstract and fragmented way around the floor and on to a central column of the space. This intertwining of these disparate events within the Blatz building is a physical representation of how these two events are inextricably linked to the history of the building, as well as to the larger history of the Milwaukee brewing industry.

The animated .gif's can be viewed online at:

<http://www.master-list2000.com/abillmiller/beerbaronsbreweryworkers/beerbaronsbreweryworkers.html>