

# Léo Hamelin

Eléonore Hamelin, [who goes by Léo](#), is a documentary filmmaker, illustrator and adjunct professor based in New York. She travels the country and the world to capture intimate, thought-provoking human stories.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Brut. America**, New York — *Head of Documentary*

2020 to 2023

- Produced, shot and edited 20 minute immersive short-docs for the Brut. platform (YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok.) Our docs targeted the GenZ audience and explore social issues from a place of empathy.
- Established Brut. as a hub for documentaries, reaching millions of views across platforms and receiving a YouTube Streamy Award in 2021, a Gold Telly Award and two Webby nominations in 2023.
- Made editorial decisions for the long-form content and managed a team of three (Researcher, Reporter and Editor,)

### **Blue Chalk Media**, New York — *Senior Producer, Director*

2014 to 2020 - 2024 to Present

Involved in non-fiction and documentary work from development to post-production, including researching stories and characters, handling production and leading interviews.

- DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: *Quiet No More*, *The New Yorker*  
Winner of **The Ellies Award** (National Magazine Award, ASME) in 2021  
Premiered at DocNYC, Winner at BronzeLens Fest
- DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: *The People's Newspaper*, *The New Yorker*  
With a grant from the **Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting**  
Premiered at the 2022 McMinville Short Film Festival, Awarded Best Native American Film.
- SENIOR PRODUCER: *A Chance to See Again* - National Geographic, *Emeldah* - Vastenactie, *Freedom is the Future* - Freedom House.
- PRODUCER: *Family Business* and *Living City* - The New York Times, *Taste the Weather* - The Weather Channel.

### **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)**, *Grantee* - 2018

Reported from the US-Mexico Border during the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy. BuzzFeed, BBC, Tampa Bay Times

### **European Journalism Centre (EJC)**, *Grantee* - 2017

Innovation in Development Reporting Grant to report on Gender Equality in Rwanda. Time, Marie Claire, Libération, El País. La Stampa

## GRAPHIC JOURNALISM/ ILLUSTRATION

- *Waiting for Normal*, **The Delacorte Review**  
Illustrated essay about the Lebanon Protests. Written with Tamara Saade.
- *Who Will Protect the Land*, **The New Internationalist**  
Illustrations about Native Colombian Environmentalists. Text by Hazel Sheffield.
- *Postcards from the Border*, **Buzzfeed News**  
Series of illustrated scenes and portraits from the US-Mexico border.
- *Rwanda's Future is Female*, **Marie Claire**  
Written and illustrated portraits of Rwandan women born after the genocide.

## EDUCATION

### **Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism**,

New York— *Masters of Science*, '12

Multimedia Storytelling concentration

### **Sciences Po**, Paris

— *Masters of Science*, '11

Ecole de Journalisme de Sciences-Po

Journalism and Media Study Center, Hong Kong University

— *Bachelor of Arts in Humanities*, '09

TEC de Monterrey, Mexico City

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## TEACHING AND MENTORING

### **New York University**

- *Adjunct Professor*

2022

Multimedia Reporting workshop that focuses on reporting techniques for photography, radio and online short-docs.

### **Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism**

- *Adjunct Professor*

2015 to 2022

Video journalism workshop that focuses on filming, editing, interviewing and ethics of online short-docs.

2013 to 2015 - *Adjunct Assistant*

2012 to 2013 - *Digital Media Associate*

### **International Center for Journalism** - *Mentor*

2019-2020

Teaching international newsrooms (Deutsche Well, BuzzFeed UK, AFP, Axel Ringier) about digital video storytelling and engagement strategies.

## SAFETY TRAINING

Hostile Environment and First Aid

Training 2017, 2019, 2023

## TECH SKILLS

Filming (Sony Fx6, a7siii)

Editing (Adobe suite)

Photography (Sony, Canon)

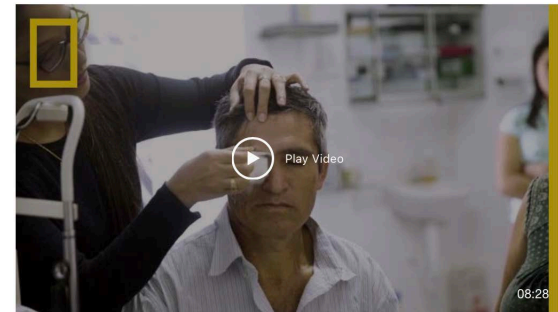
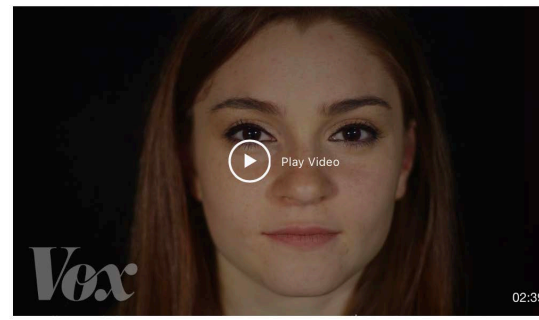
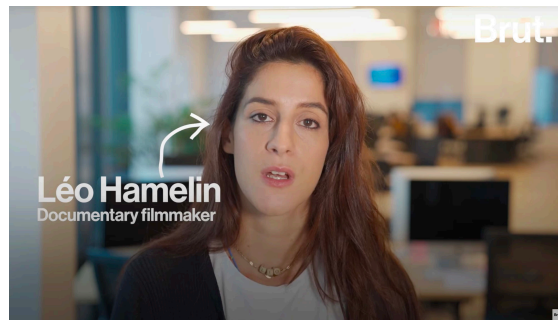
Audio (Podcast Recording and Editing)

**INTERNATIONAL** Works regularly in North and Central America, Europe and Africa. Born in France, grew up in Brazil and Thailand.

Languages: **French (Native)** **English (Fluent)**, **Spanish (Fluent)**, **Thai and Portuguese (Basic)**

*Member of the Video Consortium*

*Member of Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective*



Léo Hamelin is a videojournalist, illustrator and educator based in New York.

As Head of Documentaries at Brut. America, she produced over 30 immersive short-docs covering issues such as homelessness, addiction, grief, or access to abortion care. Her team followed an empathy-based and character-driven approach, intended to break taboos and spark conversations with their mostly GenZ audience.

Prior, she directed two New Yorker documentaries: "Quiet No More" explores the narrative of forgiveness after the Charleston Church massacre. It premiered at DocNYC and received a National Magazine Award. "The People's Newspaper" is an immersion into the Navajo Times newsroom when Navajo Nation had the country's highest rate of Covid-19. It received a Pulitzer Center grant.

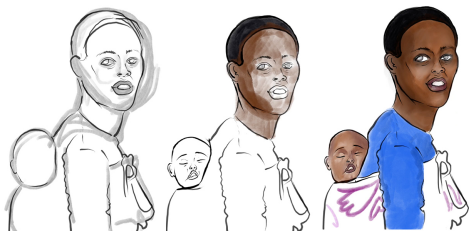
In Spring 2018, Léo got a grant from the IWFM to draw and film from the US-Mexico border as families were being separated (Buzzfeed News, BBC). She spent summer 2017 reporting on Gender Empowerment in Rwanda. Her illustrations and videos were published in Time, Libération, El Pais, La Stampa and Marie Claire UK.

In her six years as Senior Producer at Blue Chalk she conducted international projects about disappearances in Northern Mexico, safe water in Colombia, blindness in the Peruvian Amazon (NatGeo). In 2016, she traveled across Africa to interview twelve Heads of States for the US-Africa Summit. Léo frequently teaches Multimedia Storytelling and Online Documentary workshops at Columbia's J-School where she received her masters in '12. She was born in France but grew-up on three continents. She speaks four languages.

THEY CALLED HIM THE PROTECTOR OF THE RIVER OF FIVE COLOURS. HE CAME FROM THE Sierra de la Macarena, AN ISOLATED MOUNTAIN RANGE WHERE UNIQUE FORMS OF RED, PURPLE, YELLOW, GREEN AND BLUE ALGAE IN THE Caño Cristales RIVER GIVE IT THE APPEARANCE OF LIQUID RAIN.



BUT WHEN JAVIER FRANCISCO PARRA CUBILLOS WAS GUNNED DOWN, HE BECAME ANOTHER NAME ON A LONG LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNERS MURDERED FOR TRYING TO DEFEND THE MOUNTAINS, JUNGLES AND RIVERS OF COLOMBIA.



IN SEPTEMBER 2019, THE EXCHANGE RATE WENT THROUGH THE ROOF. IN OCTOBER, UNCONTROLLABLE WILDFIRES ENVELOPED THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT DID NOTHING. INSTEAD, THEY IMPOSED A TAX ON MESSAGING APPS - TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THEY OWED IN DEBT.

THAT WAS IT.



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PROTESTERS GATHERED

PEOPLE SNAPPED

AND THUS BEGAN THE "THAWRA"



I'M AT THE BORDER BETWEEN LAREDO, TEXAS, AND NUEVO LAREDO, TAMAUPLIPAS.

THE TWO CITIES - ALSO REFERRED TO AS "DOS LAREDOS" - GO WAY BACK.



THIS MURAL IN NUEVO LAREDO TELLS THE STORY.