



A special award for a special piece of artwork

By LESLIE HAGER-SMITH, The ROANOKE TIMES

When Blacksburg artist Leslye Bloom learned last week that her work had been recognized at the 2001 Lynchburg Area Juried Show, that was good news. But when she learned that jurors created a special award on the spot just for her, that was even better.

A piece by Bloom called “Blue Ridge Snow” was awarded “Most Innovative” in the show, which opens today at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center. Bloom calls her creation a “computage.” She created it on a computer by manipulating a digital image shot by camera; then, she added pigments by hand.

“I worked from the image and I started painting it inside the computer.... I was in Jamaica then’ and the mountains and snows turned into reds and yellows and all kinds of wonderful, vibrant’ tropical stuff,” she recounted. “When I got home, I printed out one proof. I needed to see how big it wanted to be.”

“For me it’s a very rare piece” Bloom said. “It grew in a straight line, in terms of development of the piece.” Bloom was on her way to Jamaica, traveling from Roanoke to Charlotte. The triptook place between two snow-storms in late winter 1999. The image she shot from the plane window forms the basis of “Blue Ridge Snow.”

Bloom used a thermal wax transfer printer. As it turns out, it wanted to be 38 inches high and 27 inches wide, so the final product is cre-ated of 16 panels, which Bloom cut together and bonded onto hard board. To finish the piece, she overworked it with encaustic media which the artist describes like melted crayon. “The pigments are hand-ground” she said, “and they just glow.”

Bloom’s work can be viewed online at
www.leslyebloom.com

An opening reception for the show takes place from 2:30 to
4:30 p.m. today, at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center, 1825
Thompson Drive (804) 846-3804.

The Roanoke Times, New River Current
Sat. February 24, 2001, pp.3 &6.