

'Encaustic Computage' Runs Through Mar. 31

EXHIBIT IN CLIFTON FORGE COMBINES TECHNOLOGY WITH ART

"Brushes don't make paintings. and computers don't make art. Computers are easy; art is hard," says Leslye Bloom, whose unique show opened Feb. 24 at the Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center at Clifton Forge, VA, and continues through Mar 31. The show, "Encaustic Computage," combines technology with art to create work that recently won "Most Innovative" in the Lynchburg Area Juried Art Show.

"Encaustic Computage" represents over 10 years of experimentation with graphics and encaustics. Bloom's pieces are created through a process that involves manipulating and layering computer graphics, digital photos, translucent encaustics (wax) and traditional media

"First I compose, combine, and enhance my digital photos and scans. Then I print them using a thermal wax transfer printer. Once on paper, I melt them a bit to remove the wax, collaging and painting the work for more real world impact," she said. The resulting work appears to have been printed in layers, and the translucent encaustics make the works seem to glow with light.

The show also represents Bloom's experimentation with forms of presentation. Her work includes glassed frames, similar to framed watercolors, and framed works on board and stretched fabric, as in oils. She has also created pieces that are considered avant garde, including four-by-five foot free hanging flags. "I enjoy the freedom to be innovative and to experi-

ment," she said. In the year 2000, she was selected as one of 50 finalists from 13,900 entries in the American Artist's Magazine Competition. Experimental Category.

Bloom lives in Blacksburg with her husband. She has her Ph.D. in art education from Penn State and is a certified art therapist. She has also served as a consultant for the Virginia Art Standards of Learning and has worked on development projects for Penn State's Unified Arts Curriculum. Her research focus is teaching with senior and adult students.

"Encaustic Computage" continues through noon on Mar. 31 at the Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center. The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at no charge. Its programs are supported by contributions, memberships, and the support of the Cities of Clifton Forge and Covington (VA), the County of Alleghany, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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