

Tennis, anyone?

Area Photographers “bounce” images back and forth

from staff reports

What happens when a computer/mixed media artist becomes friends with two digital photographers in another town? Instant rapport! And what happens when, despite the distance between their locations, they are able to share their work through the immediacy of the Internet?

In this case, they begin an ongoing contest of Photoshop “tennis” culminating in a show that will have an opening reception from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fe. 18 at central Virginia Community College.

The show will remain in CVCC’s Merritt hall and Amherst Galleries until the end of February.

If you’re Going

- WHAT: “Photoshop Tennis: A collaborative Digital Art Project.
- WHEN: opening reception from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 18; exhibit on display through Feb. 28
- Where: Central Virginia Community College

In this case the artists are Leslye Bloom, who describes her art as evolving through and beyond the computer. She coined the term “computage” to describe her fusion

of computer imaging and collage. Her complex process involves digital images, computer work, collage, and, finally, an ancient medium— wax encaustic—to produce the final piece.

Bloom first met Craig Shaffer and Kathy Cudlin when she was invited to speak at the Blue Ridge Photographic Arts Society (BRPAS) in Lynchburg, Virginia. Both Shaffer and Cudlin are photographers who have an interest in the manipulation of images through the

computer program, Adobe Photoshop.

Shaffer, an avid photographer, uses intense color images to push the envelope of reality with imaginative Photoshop work. Cudlin, whose photography is often traditional in nature, relies on Photoshop skills in her advertising career.

Bloom suggested the collaboration and the BRPAS web site became the on-line “court” for the collaboration, with “volleys” of images/responses going back and forth for the better part of a year.

The work of Lynchburg sculptor Sally Shaffer also came into the

mix on selected works when husband Craig posted her masks on the web site.

One artist would “serve” an idea - a photo, a fragment, a drawing, or a mask, or even a well known masterpiece - and another could download, change, elaborate or re-combine it and then “return” their response to the site.

Once the newly manipulated idea was posted back on the site, it became a candidate yet more alterations.

While some works evidence subtle changes between the collaborative variations, others have been so morphed it’s difficult to see the relationship.



This image, “Waiting for Wonderland” was worked on by Sally Shaffer and Kathy Cudlin. The show will move in March from CVCC to Bedford Library.