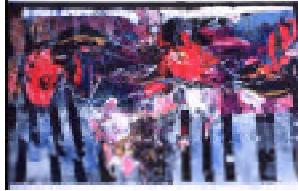


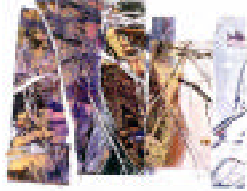
The Computer Made Me Do It!

Computages by Leslye Bloom

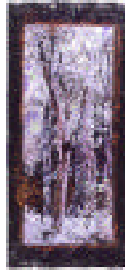
Cranwell International Student Center • April 15 to July 15, 2000



"Jamaica Jazz"
20.5"h x 27"w



"Stix"
19"h x 22"w



"Jura Wood"
26"h x 15"w



"Gilded Lilies"
28.5"h x 24"w



"Fantasyscape"
19"h x 23"w



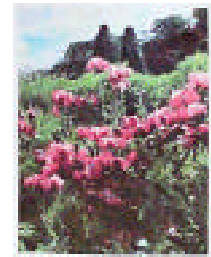
"Tree Weave"
31"h x 32"w



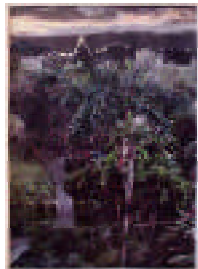
"Dragon's Teeth"
29"h x 25"w



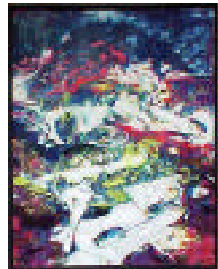
"Sunrise Beach"
25"h x 17," 14," and 17"w



"Crathes Poppies"
39"h x 30"h



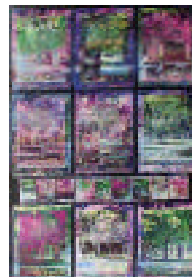
"Tropical Sunrise"
28"h x 22.5"w



"Blue Ridge Snow"
28"h x 27"h



"Golden Grove"
20.5"h x 16.5"w



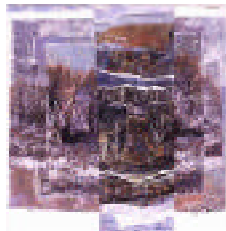
"Ferrum Quilt"
38"h x 24"w



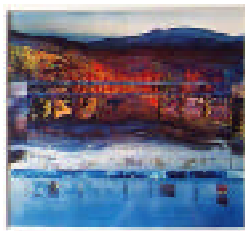
"Hot, Dry"
20.5"h x 27.25"w



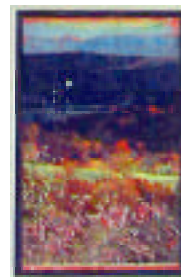
"Savannah Soot"
24"h x 19.5"w



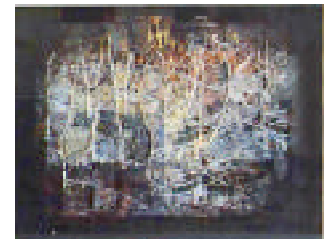
"Snowfall"
21"h x 20"w



"Mirage"
26.75"h x 25"w



"Jean's Back Yard"
24"h x 18.5"w



"Wintergreen*"
19"h x 23.75"w

Sponsored by the Blacksburg Regional Art Association, a Partner of the Virginia Museum For Fine Arts

* Representing this exhibition at Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, - Click to Enlarge -



Left to right: Frances Frederick, Dean Carter and Jan Spahr look over Leslye's shoulder at the computer terminal

Statement: No two of my computages evolve the same way, and I hope none of them matches the popular stereotype of "computer art."

I begin with the scanner and digital camera and use the computer to process images and print them. I'm more comfortable with a mouse these days than I am with a pencil, and the processes I use have become almost intuitive. I like to joke that I have a secret "make art" key.

Then I print thermal wax transfer proofs - usually without the life I saw on the screen, but often with something else I want to explore.

Initially I work small (Thermal wax transfer prints are expensive!) I remove or add wax with necessarily big swift strokes - the thin wax melts quickly and can be driven into the paper.

Then I size them, mount them on heavy stock, use encaustics, collage, tear, and rework them.

That's about all they have in common, except for the fact that:

Brushes don't make paintings, and computers don't make art. "Computers are Easy - Art is Hard.!"

Biography: A Blacksburg, VA resident, Leslye holds a BS, MS, and Ph.D. in Art Education from Penn State and is a Certified Art Therapist. In 1990 she retired from consulting and teaching grad/undergraduate Art Education and Art Therapy courses at VA Tech, UVA, the University of Evansville (IN) and Penn State. Now she works full-time in the studio, and teaches digital art techniques.

2000 marks her 33rd year of work in computer. She has soloed at The Arts Place (Chilhowie,) the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley (Pulaski), Hollins College, The Reynolds Family Homestead (Critz.), New River C.C., Patrick Henry C.C., VA Western C.C. and the Montgomery Miller Museum (Christiansburg.)

Recent juried exhibitions include the Roanoke City Show '00, New River Art '99 (award,) VA Highlands Festival (Abingdon: 1999, 1998 award,) Roanoke College '96, "From These Hills" (Abingdon: '97 & '99,) and Community Artists '13 (Bristol VA/TN '98.)

Honors: Sunflower *Dreaming* was a finalist (50 of 13,300 entries) in the Artist's Magazine 1999 competition, experimental category. Her work *Jamaica Joy* was recently selected for the *Good Goddess 2002 Calendar* sponsored by the Arts House, Bristol, VA.

The Computer Made Me Do It!
Computages by Leslye Bloom
 Cranwell International Student Center • April 15 to July 15, 2000

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 "com-putage." She created it on a computer by manipulating a digital image shot by camera; then, she added pigments by hand.

"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 trip took place between two snowstorms in late winter 1999. The image she shot from the plane window forms the basis of "Blue Ridge Snow."

"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



"Blue Ridge Snow" by Leslye Bloom was named "Most innovative" at the 2001 Lynchburg Area Juried Show.

big it wanted to be." 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 created of 16 panels, which Bloom cut together and bonded onto hard board. To finish the piece, she overworked it with encaustic me-

dia 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.digital-states.com/users/lbloom/new-work/blue-ridge.html

PLEASE SEE PEOPLE/6

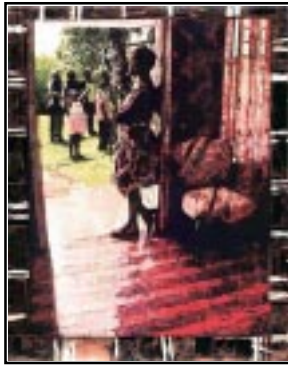
FROM 3

People

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.

Honors



"Jamaica Joy"
19.75"h "x 15.25"w,
Computage,
1999

National Competition: Artist's Magazine 2000 Competition Finalist, Experimental category (50 selected of 13,900 entries,) Edward Betts, juror.
Juried show: Roanoke College 6th (2000) Biennial Exhibition, Adam Lerner, Juror.
Juried show: Virginia Highlands Festival 2000, Abingdon VA, Marilyn Hughey Phyllis, Juror.
Calendar: *Good Goddess 2002 Calendar* sponsored by the Arts House, Bristol, VA.

Review by Charles Goolsby (*Washington County News*, August 2, 2000 • Page 1B):

Leslye Bloom of Blacksburg explores her thoughts and feelings through the contemporary medium of digital art. Her manipulated photographs appear to have been printed in many layers. This creates intensity in the color. In addition, the method provides the viewer with multiple vantage points in contrast with the traditional perspective of the western landscape. Her computage "Hot Day" has a surface that simultaneously appears old and new.

Juried show: Virginia Highlands Festival 2000, Abingdon VA, Marilyn Hughey Phyllis, West Virginia author and watercolorist, Juror.



"Hot, Dry"
Computage,
20.5"h x 27.25"w,
2000

Feature Article: "The Computer Made Her Do It" by Donna Alvis banks, *The Roanoke Times*, Thursday, June 22, 2000. pp. NRV 3, 14 ("Jamaica Jazz" was lead image)

"The results are striking images, often abstract or impressionistic, that make viewers look critically and contemplatively."



"Jamaica Jazz"
"21h x 28" w,
Computage
encaustic/acrylic,
1999

Juried show: Roanoke City Art Show, 2000, Art Museum of Western VA, Juror: Kevin Grogan, Director of Contemporary Art Center of VA, Virginia Beach, VA.



"Interstate Jewels"
21"h x 22.75 "w,
Computage,
2000

Juried show: *New River Art '99 Juried Exhibition*, 4th Prize, Blacksburg, VA, Katherine Hunt, Juror.



"Sunflower Dreaming"
19"h x 16 "w,
Computage,
1998

National Competition: Artist's Magazine 1999 Competition Finalist, Experimental category (50 selected of 13,300 entries,) Louise Cadillac Juror.