

bert leveille
PRESS KIT

Lake
Geneva
Art
Museum
sponsored
storefront
installation



*The first plastic white backlit panel
exhibited during the July 2015 4th Friday
open studios in leveille's "incubation
installation experimentation exhibition"
art studio - 204F at Starline in Harvard, IL.*

bert leveille



bert leveille, featured Lake Geneva Art Museum artist – Lake Geneva storefront installation

Contact: bert leveille, 708-309-3333, bertl@att.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2016

Lake Geneva Art Museum (LGAM) featured artist bert leveille's storefront installation can be experienced walking down Lake Geneva Streets at 231 Cook Street!

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, August 3, 2016 — On August 20th from 8-10pm Lake Geneva Art Museum and featured artist bert leveille will host a reception celebrating leveille's storefront art installation at Good Eggs, 220 Cook Street (across the street from the installation). There will be an opportunity to win bert leveille art and t-shirts; food, wine and beer for sale with partial proceeds benefiting LGAM; and music by the very talented Alizé Jireh.

leveille attempts to engage the passer-by with her figures occupying the spaces just beyond the glass. The dimension, slight movement of the clear plastic panels, and the figurative lines themselves suggest movement. This is enhanced with the video "the End is the Beginning", perhaps questioning where lines and movement itself stops and begins. leveille's figures are human-like, but not necessarily human, suggesting that we are all more the same than different and somehow connected universally. Every installation is site specific and this storefront combines the outside with the inside. With the reflections of people, cars, trees, flowers, buildings, sky and the changing light - the outdoors becomes a part of the art. As the sky darkens, the subtle colors become more intense and move through the figures and reach beyond the storefront - the art becoming part of the outside.

This installation is a spin-off from leveille's "the END is the beginning" installation at the Old Courthouse Arts Center (OCHAC) in Woodstock, Illinois. But, it began with a new material, one that leveille had never used before. It was generously donated by another Starline artist studio resident, Barbara Skiba-Poniatowski's son, Alek Poniatowski and EMD Technologies. This white plastic material sparked the idea to use changing colored lighting to back-light leveille's large acrylic, drawing-like figures. After experimenting in her studio at Starline, and receiving great feedback during the July 2015 4th Friday event, leveille continued to create her entire "the END is the beginning" installation with these large white panels. Going further, she set out to animate these figures to enhance the experience with these life-size beings. These installations have a different feeling than many of leveille's other more colorfully painted canvas installations. It is somewhat more contemplative and mesmerizing, as is her "In to the Ellipse" video animation.



bert leveille, featured Lake Geneva Art Museum artist – Lake Geneva storefront installation (continued)

The art/artist reception/celebration will be held Sat., Aug. 20 from 8–10pm at Good Eggs, 220 Cook St., Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. RSVP's would be appreciated (but are not necessary to attend) by Aug 15. Contact: LGAM: ehchappell@yahoo.com, 262-903-8035; or ARTIST bert leveille: bertl@att.net, 708-309-3333.

The installation can be viewed at 231 Cook St. through September 7, 2016.

Lake Geneva Art Museum – A mobile Museum, bringing art out of the box and into the community.

bert leveille, a contemporary artist, has created several art installations exploring an “alternative” world which is connected to her world. This exploration seeks new perspectives, understandings and connections. Her installations “Connecting” at Starline Gallery; “in to the Ellipse” and “the End is the beginning” at OCHAC were examples of this art journey. leveille has collaborated with Shawn Coyle (choreographer), cellmod (musician), and other performers and artists – notably, a collaboration with Angela Swan, that became a moving tribute to 911 during one of Woodstock’s Art Walks. leveille has had several solo exhibits and has been juried into several art exhibits including the legendary Chicago Show. She currently has a studio at Starline (204F) and participates in Starline’s 4th Fridays in Harvard, IL. She uses her studio to experiment with installation exhibition ideas.

Alizé Jireh has performed outside of leveille’s studio during Starline 4th Fridays. She is returning from performing in Israel, and she will be on the main stage August 26 for 4th Friday at Starline. Alizé Jireh has always been inspired by the way music is able to impact people in a deep and beautiful way. She got her first ukulele when she was 11 years old and wrote her first song “Life Goes On” a week later. She realized how writing and using her voice to share a unifying vision with everyone around her is a gift that she is meant to share and give... Her music and her voice are all about feeling and connection. Nothing else. leveille feels she and Jireh have an artistic connection to the universality of peoples and cultures.

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For more information about the bert leveille storefront art installation, please contact: featured artist, bert leveille at 708-309-3333 or email bertl@att.net. and/or LGAM Board President, Elizabeth Chappell at 262-903-8035 or ehchappell@yahoo.com,

The animated video of leveille’s installation on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/143490938>
<http://www.bertleveille.com>
<http://www.lakegenevaartmuseum.org/>
<http://www.alizejireh.com>

bert leveille

installation view at 231 Cook St, Lake Geneva - a LGAM initiative



bert leveille

installation view at 231 Cook St, Lake Geneva - a LGAM initiative



bert leveille

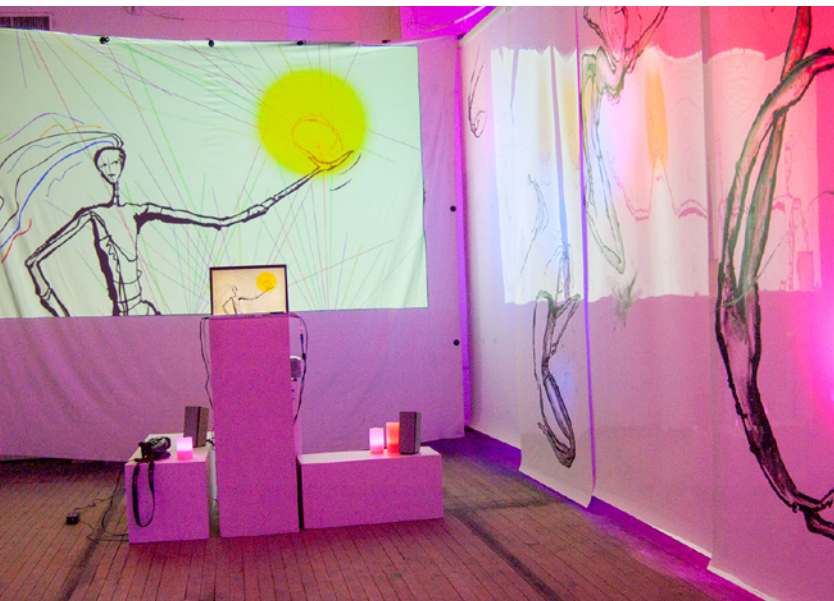
installation view at 231 Cook St, Lake Geneva - a LGAM initiative



bert leveille

top: installation view bert leveille studio 204F Starline, Harvard, IL

bottom: installation view at Old Courthouse ArtCenter, Woodstock, IL





about bert leveille

Who would have guessed that a passion for finding images in clouds as a child would develop into a lifelong art journey? leveille received her BA from Elmhurst College, where she discovered that she was not meant to be an actress, but an artist. Her love of the smell of greasepaint, and stage environments were telltale signs of leveille's journey into art and art installations.

bert leveille, a contemporary artist, has created several art installations exploring an "alternative" world. Among collaborations with musicians and performers, Shawn Coyle's dancers played with her 3-D creatures and danced through her 15-foot art tunnel. Large-scale paintings completed the stage's transformation to this alternate world and provided the inspiration for Coyle's choreographed dance, "*Tunnel*". In March of 2015, leveille's installation "*Connecting*" at Starline Gallery included her animated video "*ellipse*" with music by cellmod. The music by cellmod was again used on Sept 11, 2015, as a part of leveille's collaboration with Angela Swan during the Woodstock Art Walk – this collaboration pop-up (the third of three Art Walk installations) evolved into a moving tribute to 911. The year 2015 wrapped up with leveille's installation, "*the END is the beginning*" at the Woodstock Old Courthouse Art Center during the E-artgroup "*END*" exhibit. leveille's list of solo exhibits and juried group art exhibits includes the legendary Chicago Show.

leveille, an accomplished designer, uses her computer skills to explore her art with digital media as well – digital painting and animating.

leveille resides in McHenry County and has a studio at Starline in Harvard, IL. As an exhibiting member of E-artgroup, leveille plays an active role in show development and guest artist selections – most recently "*END*". leveille is a board member of Chicago Women's Caucus for Art; a member of Chicago Artists Coalition, and Woman Made Gallery; a past commissioner on the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission; a past board member of Contemporary Center for the Arts of Arlington; and a past Bubotto board member. bert leveille art work can be seen at www.bertleveille.com



bert leveille – artist statement

I am exploring consciousness. My experiences filter through me and connect me.

My art has always been about connecting to the collective conscious. I strive to tap in to that which I do not know; to discover unexpected images, connections and visual relationships; to explore emotions. I open my mind while I'm working and work from my subconscious; connect to this collective conscience; and selectively manipulate the imagery I find in the paint.

My explorations in abstraction have led me to an “alternate” world with “alternate” characters in an “alternate” environment. This affords me new perspectives, as I strive to go beyond my personal “tunnel” vision for a better connection to my self, to others, to my world and to the universe. I strive to take the viewer to a place that allows them to reflect on their relationship to their world. I search for kernels of hope amidst adversity; spirit surpassing challenges; connections, compassion and empathy rather than discord ...



bert leveille – the process

My large unstretched acrylics are treated more like tapestries and hung from a stretcher bar at the top. Some of them have materials attached and some have material extracted. I have even painted both sides and installed the canvases from the ceiling exposing the images on either side. Often, I envision the painting hanging and from a distance while I'm working on it on the floor at arms length.

My watercolours are more like water drawings - mixed media with pencil and crayon added and occasionally other collage items. The immediacy and fluidity of the medium facilitate experimentation of liquid imagery.

Digital paintings are created beginning with a blank computer screen. They are painted digitally with a program called "Painter®" and a Wacom® Tablet and Stylus on a Mac® platform. They are then animated and/or viewed digitally or printed on archival paper with an Epson® printer and Epson® archival inks.

Installations can contain some or all of these elements. Every installation is site specific

Whether the medium is oil, acrylic, watercolour, clay, digital, animation or installation — the approach is the same; to manipulate the medium while discovering available images and exploring an "alternate" world as it presents itself to me during the process of creating.



bert leveille – curriculum vitae

SOLO EXHIBITS

- 2015 Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL – “the END is the beginning”
- 2015 Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL – “CONNECTING”
- 2010 Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL - “EXPERIENTAL”
- 2004 Accelerator Art Space Gallery, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL - “BRIDGING THE MILLENNIUM”
- 2004 Raue Centre for the Arts, Crystal Lake, IL
- 2004 Algonquin Old Town Hall, and Books and Beans Coffee house, Algonquin, IL
- 1995 Bubotto, Elgin, IL
- 1994 Campbell House, Geneva, IL
- 1992 Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
- 1992 Chopin At The Gallery Theater, Around the Coyote (ATC), Chicago, IL
- 1992 Elgin Art Expo - “America In Flux”, Elgin, IL
- 1992 Excalibur, Chicago, IL
- 1992 Norris Cultural Arts Center, St Charles, IL
- 1992 Bubotto, Elgin, IL
- 1991 Barrington Area Arts Council (BAAC), Barrington, IL
- 1991 St. Luke’s Presbyterian Fine Arts Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1990 Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL - “TOTALLY TUBULAR”
- 1989 LeAd, LeBel and Seri Graphics, South Elgin, IL - “EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY”
- 1988 Judson College, Elgin, IL - “EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY”
- 1988 Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL - “EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY”
- 1985 Hemmens Auditorium, Elgin, IL

COLLABORATIONS

- 2015 Sheriffs House Pop-up, Woodstock IL – September, “Exploring Relationships” evolved into a moving tribute to “911”, Angela Swan, sculptor
- 2013 Chopin At The Gallery Theater, Around the Coyote (ATC), Chicago, IL; Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL; and Bubotto, Elgin, IL – “TUBULAR”, Shawn Coyle, choreographer

GROUP EXHIBITS

- 2016 Mayslake Peabody Mansion, Oak Brook, IL – CWCA, “Connections”
- 2015 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “END”
- 2014 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “ELLIPSE”
- 2013 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “FLY”
- 2013 Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL – SPACE 900
- 2012 Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL – “NEW VISION”
- 2011 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “E/GLUED”
- 2011 Elmhurst College Barbara A Kieft Accelerator Art Space, Elmhurst, IL
- 2010 Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL - “E-FIVE”



curriculum vitae cont.

GROUP EXHIBITS (CONT)

- 2009 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “SMALLER WORKS”
- 2008 Dole Gallery, Crystal Lake, IL – “E/GO”
- 2008 Sage Gallery, Crystal Lake, IL – “E/MERSION”
- 2007 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “EVERY-BODY, A FIGURATIVE EXHIBITION”
- 2007 Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL – “1-NITE STAND”
- 2006 Norris Cultural Arts Center, St Charles, IL - “CONNECTIONS”
- 2006 Art Encounter, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL – “TRANSFORMATIONS”
- 2006 Artistic Bits, Dundee, IL – “20/20”
- 2006 Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL – “NOW AND THEN”
- 2006 Chicago Artist’s Coalition, Chicago, IL – “CHICAGO ART OPEN”
- 2005 Chicago Artist’s Coalition, Chicago, IL – “CHICAGO ART OPEN”
- 2004 Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL – “VISIONS”
- 1992 Around the Coyote, Chicago, IL
- 1991 Osterle Library Gallery, North Central College
- 1987 The Limelight, Chicago, IL
- 1971 George Williams College

JURIED GROUP EXHIBITS, AWARDS and COLLECTIONS

- 2009 “Down to There: Women and their Relationship to Hair”, Koehline Museum of Art, DesPlaines, IL
- 2008 “Real People Show”, Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL
- 2005 “Real People Show”, Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL
- 1992 Juror- **Mary Phelan**, “Women’s Works”, Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL
- 1991 Juror- **Joy Horwich**, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1990 “Chicago Show” Jurors- **Neal Benezra, Kenneth Burkhardt, Marva Pitchford Jolly, Paul Sierra and, Lynne Warren**, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
Continental Bank (Sponsor of Chicago Show) award – art to be used for Show poster
- 1990 Jurors - **Ralph Arnold and John F. Miller**, Norris Gallery, St Charles, IL
- 1990 Juror- **Jane Neville**, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1988 ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1988 Nominated for Margaret Hillis Award for the Arts
- 1987 Juror- **Marianne Philbin**, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1986 Juror- **Ann Nathon**, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1985 Juror- **Ralph Arnold**, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1979 IDEA Exhibit, Triton College, Chicago, IL
- 1971 Elmhurst College Purchase Award for Permanent Collection

EDUCATION

- 1971 Elmhurst College, BA - Art • 2005 Northern Illinois University, Graduate Student At Large

MEMBERSHIPS

Board member of the Chicago Women’s Caucus for Art, member of Chicago Artists Coalition, E-Artgroup, Northwest Area Cultural Council, Past Commissioner on the Elgin Cultural Commission, Past Board Member of Contemporary Arts of Arlington, and Past Board Member of Bubotto



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WEBSITE: www.bertleveille.com

EXHIBITS: <http://www.bertleveille.com/blexhib.html>

VIDEOS: <http://www.bertleveille.com/blvideo.html>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/bert-leveille-visualartist/56967468259?ref=bookmarks>

VIDEOS

The animated video portion of this installation can be viewed on vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/143490938>

OTHER VIDEO:

“the End is the beginning” video:

Sampling of this art installation exhibit “the End is the beginning”

is on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/149207427>

and on the Old Courthouse Arts Center facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/www.oldcourthouseartscenter.org/videos/439966872870728/?video_source=pages_finch_main_video

“In to the ellipse” animated digital painting video with original music by cellmod was originally viewed in an installation in a vault at the Old Courthouse Arts Center, 2014

It was also part of a larger installation “CONNECTING”, 2015

<https://vimeo.com/user40857853/intotheellipse>

or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPnNBHwWMFs&feature=youtu.be>

Video of a walkthrough of the art installation in Woodstock “REVISITING THE MILLENNIUM”, 2015

<https://vimeo.com/135543180>

Video documentation of the original art installation in Elmhurst, “BRIDGING THE MILLENNIUM”, 2004

<https://vimeo.com/130124433>