

bert leveille **PRESS KIT**



The first plastic white backlit panel exhibited during open studios in leveille's art studio at Starline in Harvard.

bert leveille

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2015

“the END is the beginning” bert leveille art installation can be experienced at the E/ND exhibit at the Woodstock Old Courthouse Arts Center on Halloween!

Woodstock, Illinois, October 24, 2015 — The E/ND reception will take place amidst the Halloween festivities on the square. Old Courthouse Art Center will host story telling, music, tarot card reading and innovative art forms including an art installation, “The end is the beginning” by bert leveille.

The inspiration for this installation was a new material, 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 backlight leveille’s large acrylic (ink and charcoal looking) figure drawings. After experimenting in her studio at Starline in July and receiving great feedback during the 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 the figures to enhance the experience with these life-size beings. A wall size video animation can be viewed at the END wall of the installation gallery space. This installation has a different feeling than many of leveille’s other more colorfully painted canvas installations. It is somewhat more contemplative and mesmerizing, more like her “In to the Ellipse” video animation.

“E/ND” is the collaborative brainchild of the E/Artgroup, a local artist collective including Mary Beth Bellon, Susanne Clark, Sarah Hahne, Mary Hilger, bert leveille, Victoria Senn, and Nan Seidler. Each year the E/Artgroup carefully selects and invites other artists to explore eclectic themes and exhibit with them. This year’s theme is “E/ND”. Selected co-exhibiting artists are: Sophia Anastasiou-Wasik, Esther Aron, Feng Biddle, Keri Colestock, Brandon Ellis, Nanette Garcia, Carol Hamilton, Joe Isacson, Kathleen Isacson, Paul Justen, Laura LaRue, Jeffrey Olson, Jeff Sevener, Julie Sittler, Angela Swan, and Gail Willert.

The “E/ND” artists’ gala reception will be held Saturday, October 31 from 6 - 9 pm at The Old Court House Arts Center. The reception will kick off with story-telling by Jim May and then music provided by Bradley Dargan from 7 - 9 pm. There will be tarot card readings by Holly Clifford.

Although the “E/ND” art exhibit will close November 1 after the ENDing reception on Halloween, “the END is the beginning” leveille art installation begins again! It can be experienced through January 9, 2016 during regular gallery hours, Thursday thru Saturday 11 – 5 pm and Sundays 1- 5 pm at The Old Court House Arts Center on the historic Woodstock Square.

bert leveille, a contemporary artist, has created several art installations exploring an “alternative” world. In March, she had an installation “Connecting” at Starline Gallery. leveille has collaborated with Shawn Coyle (choreographer), cellmod (musician), and other performers and artists. 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.

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For more information about the “End” exhibit and the bertl leveille art installation, “The end is the beginning”, please contact bert leveille at 708-309-3333 or email bertl@att.net.

Sampling of this art installation exhibit “the End is the beginning” is on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/149207427>

and on the on the Old Courthouse Arts Center facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/www.oldcourthouseartscenter.org/videos/439966872870728/?video_source=pages_finch_main_video

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

installation view



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installation view



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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 thru 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 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.

Light, motion, human-like figures not necessarily human – painting this alternate world (connected to and reflective of my familiar world) jolts my perceptions.

I strive to take the viewer to a place that allows them to reflect on their relationship to their world.

This installation deals with beginnings and endings. What may appear to be an end may be a beginning. 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 holes cut into them. I have even painted both sides and installed the canvases from the ceiling exposing the images on either side. While I'm working on the floor with the painting at arms length it is necessary to envision the painting hanging from a distance.

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 the imagery.

Digital paintings are created beginning with a blank computer screen; painted digitally with a program called "Painter®" and a Wacom® Tablet and Stylus on a Mac® platform. They are then viewed digitally or printed on archival paper with an Epson® printer and Epson® archival inks. Some of the paintings are animated – either showing the painting as it develops or incorporated into larger animations.

Whether the medium is oil, acrylic, watercolour, clay or digital 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 Bubbotto, 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
- 1985 Hemmens Auditorium, Elgin, IL

GROUP EXHIBITS

- 2014 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL – “END”
- 2013 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”
- 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 FGURATIVE 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”



curriculum vitae cont.

GROUP EXHIBITS (CONT)

- 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 Burkhart, 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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bertl@att.net

PO box 1123, Woodstock, IL 60098

708-309-3333

studio at 204F, Starline, Harvard IL 60033

“the End is the beginning” video:

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The animated video portion of this installation can be viewed on vimeo:
<https://vimeo.com/143490938>

other video:

“In to the ellipse” animated digital painting video with original music by cellmod was
originally viewed in an installation in a vault. 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 2004,
“BRIDGING THE MILLENNIUM”

<https://vimeo.com/130124433>

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