Letter PRESS KIT "synapse" - the last vault installation at the Old CourtHouse Arts Center



bert leveille

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BERT LEVEILLE creates her final art installation in the vault before art center closes.

Woodstock, **IL**, **November 7**, **2020** — You will not want to miss the last BERT LEVEILLE art installation, "synapse" in the small vault at the Old CourtHouse Arts Center (OCHAC) in Woodstock, IL this November. LEVEILLE delivers another meditative experience and journey into consciousness. As you approach the vault, while you may not be able to enter the installation; your mind might take you through the glass and into the vault.

LEVEILLE is one of the artists collaborating with Atrocious Poets, "As It Happens" – a unique art exhibition pairing visual art and its process with poetry. Poets ANNIE HEX and JEN MAY are collaborating with BERT LEVEILLE. Looking through their poems displayed on the plexiglass enriches and expands this multi-disciplinary experience. To learn more about the process and this vault installation please visit the web page: http://www.bertleveille.com/withHexandMay.html

A virtual movie of the installation with spoken poetry and all movies from the collaboration with Hex and May can be seen at: https://vimeo.com/showcase/7795629

LEVEILLE art installations are nothing new to OCHAC. "In To the Ellipse" was in this same small vault in 2014. Leveille created "Listen to Colour – Colour Voyage" in the large vault in 2017. In 2018, "Streaming Reflections" extended from the large vault into the adjacent gallery. A large gallery installation, "the END is the Beginning", was seen in 2015. Some other smaller installations included BridgEs in 2019 and "Ocular Fracture" in 2020. These were in conjunction with E-artgroup (now E*) exhibitions which LEVEILLE co-curated and facilitated.

OCHAC included LEVEILLE installations in "the Sheriff's House" for the Woodstock Art Walk. One memorable exhibition was a moving tribute to 9/11 held on September 11, 2015 – a collaboration with sculptor Angela Swan and musician Cellmod.

It's fitting that LEVEILLE returns to the small vault, where she created her first vault art installation, for this final installation. THE ARTS CENTER IS CLOSING at the end of 2020. This is a great loss to the artists and the community. The vision of Beverly Ganschow resulted in a 30 year history offering opportunities to artists – locally, nationally and internationally, and enriching the cultural development of Woodstock. LEVEILLE said, "Like so many things, we do not truly appreciate them until we lose them. I am so grateful for the freedom I have had to explore my artistic vision at OCHAC. What a great adventure! And, during this pandemic, I want to thank the gallery directors, Victoria Senn and John Heng for making it possible for me to share my work."

BERT LEVEILLE has been — planning, presenting, curating exhibitions and exhibiting for several years nationally and throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. She works on exhibitions with E* and the Chicago Women's Caucus for Art and is their principal graphic designer. Her studio is a "must see" experience during 4th Fridays Open Studios at Starline in Harvard.

EXHIBITION DATES: November through December, 2020.

To learn more about BERT LEVEILLE, please visit: http://www.bertleveille.com Images can be found in DROPBOX.



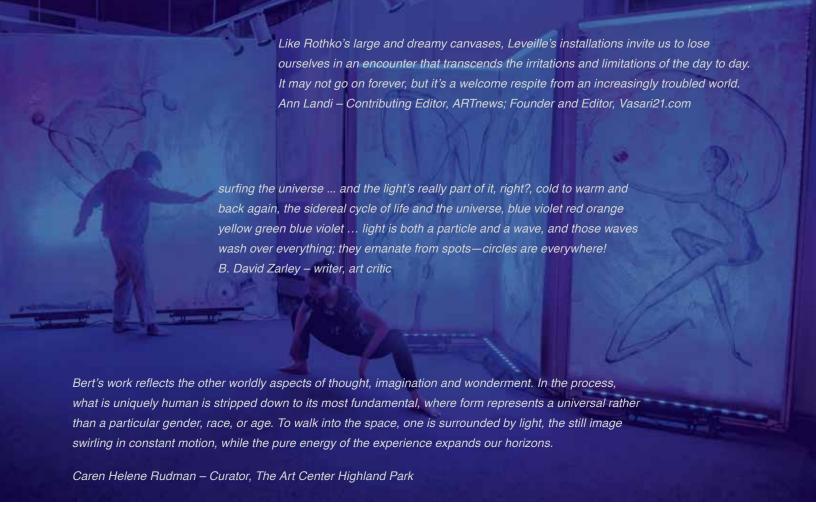


ABOUT BERT LEVEILLE

BERT LEVEILLE's passion for finding images in clouds as a child, a love of the smell of greasepaint at Elmhurst College, and a fascination with stage environments that create another space, world, time – these are the foundation for her abstract art and immersive art installations.

Her large-scale artwork; collaborations with musicians and performers; dancers playing with her 3-D figures and dancing thru her 15-foot art tunnel; color changing LED lighting; animation and video — all contribute to the illusion of movement; enhancing the installation experiences, and encouraging viewers to immerse themselves in consciousness; become part of the art; enter this other world.

LEVEILLE has exhibited extensively in the Chicago area and nationally. She uses her Starline studio as an incubation, exhibition, installation, experimentation studio that is a "must see" during Starline 4th Fridays Open Studios. LEVEILLE plays an active role in exhibition development for E* (formerly E-artgroup) and Chicago Women's Caucus for Art. She is the principal designer for both organizations and a board member for CWCA.



BERT LEVEILLE ARTIST STATEMENT

I desire to give one a space for reflection and connection – a stage where one can enter a stream of consciousness reflecting an expanding reality, both internally and externally.

As I paint, often to music and/or sounds of nature, I attempt to explore consciousness using myself and my world as a conduit — revealing, intertwining, connecting and exploring a more universal world.

Beginning with metallic silver paint on canvas, I continue to layer metallic paint before and while I add acrylic paint. I see the life-size, somewhat gestural, figurative beings (human-like although not necessarily human) as mindful — with the same challenges, emotions, desires, pain, uncertainty, disappointments, surprise... I see them more like us than not, you more like me than not; and my reality more connected to the greater universe than not. LED changing colored lighting washes over the canvases creating different moods while hiding and highlighting different elements. I am exploring a fine line of one being on stage looking out; becoming part of the stage; and/or viewing the stage.



BERT LEVEILLE ARTIST STATEMENT ABOUT "SYNAPSE"

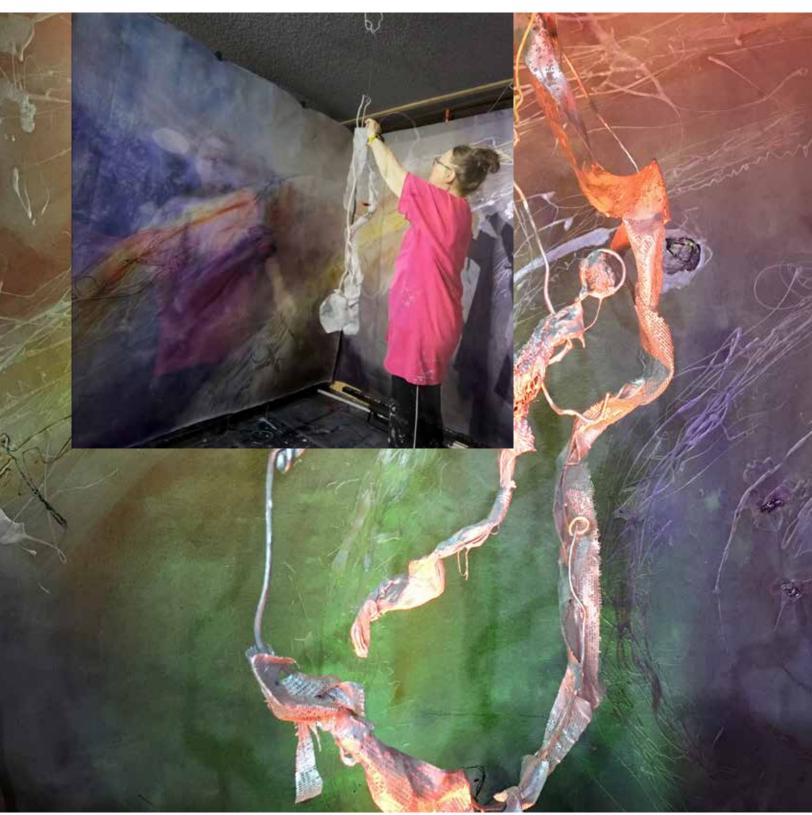
This small vault afforded me the intimacy and challenge of a space that could reach beyond its physical limitations. I see these simulated tiny electrical charges – synapses – transmitting, connecting, expanding and far reaching beyond the vault and yet protected by the vault.

Plexiglas separates and protects the fragility of these perceived threads of energy. I encourage a more psychic connection to the art. My hope is that one's mind will go through the glass; enter this space and connect to a larger space of consciousness.

This journey is further facilitated by the interpretive poetry of Annie Hex and Jen May. For more info on the collaboration with Atrocious Poets "As It Happens" please check out the blog posts: http://bertleveille.com/wordpress1/



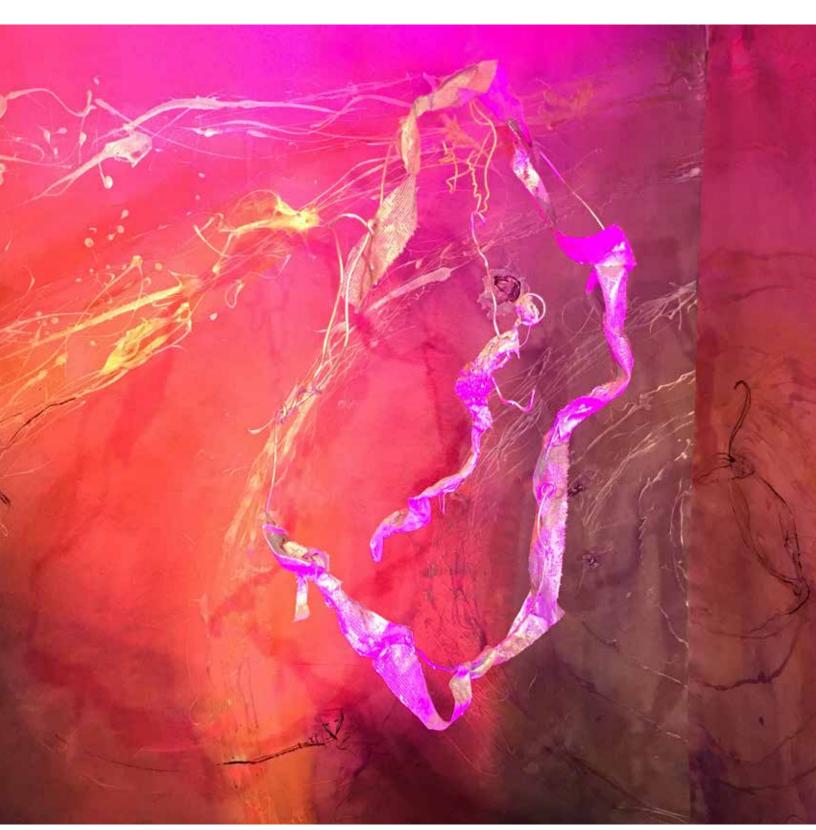
BERT LEVEILLE OLD COURTHOUSE ARTS CENTER (OCHAC) SMALL VAULT "SYNAPSE" INSTALLATION IMAGES



insert: bert leveille in her studio creating the 3-D piece for the "synapse vault installation "synapse" detail, installation view with LED changing colored lighting



BERT LEVEILLE OCHAC SMALL VAULT "SYNAPSE" INSTALLATION IMAGE



"synapse" detail, installation view with LED changing colored lighting



BERT LEVEILLE OCHAC SMALL VAULT "SYNAPSE" INSTALLATION IMAGE



"synapse" detail, installation view with LED changing colored lighting



BERT LEVEILLE PAST OCHAC SMALL VAULT "INTO THE ELLIPSE" INSTALLATION IMAGES









BERT LEVEILLE PAST OCHAC LARGE VAULT INSTALLATION IMAGES









"STREAMING REFLECTIONS"





BERT LEVEILLE PAST OCHAC GALLERY INSTALLATION IMAGES

images can be found in DROPBOX





"the END is the beginning" installation view with LED changing color back-lit lighting and animation video



"911" installation view with LED changing colored lighting, video; sculpture by Angela Swan; and music by Cellmod



"streaming reflections" installation view with LED changing colored lighting, dancer Ellyanna Hope Anderson

"Bridges"
installation view
with blue LED
lighting, led
candles and
walkable bridge





"Ocular Fracture" installation view with LED changing color back-lit lighting. Pose by Molly Hahne and Photo by Sarah Hahne



BERT LEVEILLE PRESS

Like Alvin Schwartz sketches bathed in cherry wine red and punch drunk orange, the paintings appear on queen-size canvas and stretch along every wall in the college's newly renovated art space. The more entrancing illustrations play respectfully into what Leveille calls her alternate universe and consciousness, featuring more gothic creations draped with threaded appendages and thinner shadows. "Nebular Breach" and "Future," both acrylics on canvas, are prime representations of Leveille's calendar style; it's one she expresses as a challenged essence of reality, while up close the drawings speak proverbial volumes of imagination revolting from repression.

Will Petty, Editor in chief, Leader - Cult(ure) Issue: 9/14/04

Viewing the latest exhibit by artist Bert Leveille is a far cry from simply walking between paintings hung on the wall. The experience is more like taking a stroll through Leveille's subconscious ...

Mary Piskorski, Daily Herald, NOV 1992

While novelists frequently say their characters take on a life of their own, it is far more unusual to hear a painter speak in those terms. But that is precisely how...Bert Leveille regards her work. ...

- Hugh Hart, Chicago Tribune, November 26, 1992



To read more including:

- · essays & catalogs
- Interviews
- comments from exhibition attendees
- and poems about LEVEILLE art: http://www.bertleveille.com/ blwritings.html



A CONVERSATION WITH BERT LEVEILLE

"synapse" - the last vault installation at the Old CourtHouse Arts Center

Q: Does this exhibition have special meaning to you?

A: Yes, I have mixed emotions. This will be my last installation at the Old CourtHouse Arts Center (OCHAC). It is also in the same vault where I did my first installation at OCHAC. That installation included my first animation. The first always holds a special place, so I am glad that my last one will be in this same vault. The fact that it is a more intimate space and somewhat inaccessible speaks to the sadness of loosing the space – the inevitability of things changing.

Q: Was that installation your first experience with the gallery?

A: No, my first experience was when I was juried into "Women's Works" the year that "Groundhog Day" was being filmed on the Square. The night of the opening was warm and there was fake snow on the ground. Afterwards, we went to a local Mexican restaurant and saw Andie McDowell led to a private room with her daughter. A fun evening!

Q: Is the gallery closing because of COVID19?

A: No, The city owns it; they are rennovating it; and have plans for an event center. I've witnessed disinvestment in visual arts in other communities. The good thing is that the Old CourtHouse building is not being demolished to be replaced by a parking lot. But the loss is immeasurable. Beverly Ganschow had the vision and for 30 years this building has supported the arts, the community, and the artists locally, nationally and internationally. John Heng and Victoria Senn have been actively seeking a new home for Northwest Area Arts Council.

Q: Has the pandemic affected your art?

A: Yes. I work intuitively and my experiences definitely find their way into my art. I never quite know how, when or if they will reveal themselves to me. I would say that the more obvious effect has been my process. At the beginning of the pandemic, I had difficulty motivating myself to work. I had two exhibitions to create for, so I had to find the energy. One was in August. This one is in November. I have had to figure-out the logistics of getting my work into the gallery. That being said, I am very excited about this one, and the collaboration with Annie Hex and Jen May. Artists continue to work. We adapt. We have been meeting on-line via ZOOM. I hung and lit the art in my studio to mimic the vault that "synapse" will be installed in. Annie and Jen have been viewing my process and art through an on-line blog. I cannot wait to see their contributions to the collaboration!



"ocular fracture"
being carried into
OCHAC by gallery
directors, John Heng
and Victoria Senn
(August 2020)

BERT LEVEILLE IMAGES IN DROPBOX



AsItHappens leveille 2020



AsltHappens leveille 2020 OCHACvaultL_synapse_1b.jpg OCHACvaultL_synapse_2.jpg OCHACvaultL_synapse_3.jpg OCHACvaultL_synapse_4.jpg



AsItHappens leveille 2020 AsItHappens leveille 2020









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ELLIPSE_3.JPG



ELLIPSE_4.JPG



911.JPG



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END_2.jpg



END_3.JPG



colour_1.JPG



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streaming_1.JPG



streaming_2.png





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streaming_1.JPG



streaming_2.jpg

BERT LEVEILLE IMAGES & BIO'S IN DROPBOX

these images & docs can be found in DROPBOX









streaming_3.JPG

leveille_2018_OCHACvaultL_ leveille_2018_OCHACvaultL_ leveille_2019_OCHACgallery_ leveille_2019_OCHACgallery_ streaming_4.JPG

Bridges_1.jpg

Bridges_2.JPG









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New photos added from the Old CourtHouse Arts Center taken by Victoria Senn



AsItHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaul tL_synapse_01_Senn1.jpg



AsltHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaul tL_synapse_01_Senn2.jpg



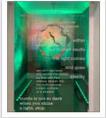
AsItHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaul







AsItHappens leveille 2020 OCHACvaul tL_synapse_01_Senn4.jpg



AsltHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaul tL_synapse_01_Senn5.jpg



BERT LEVEILLE CV

STUDIO: 204F, Starline Studios, Harvard, IL; MAIL: P.O. Box 1123, Woodstock, IL 60098; 708-309-3333 • www.bertleveille.com • bert@leveille.net

COLLABORATIONS

- 2020 "As It Happens" Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "synapse", vault installation and virtual with Annie Hex and Jen May for Atrocious Poet's art/poetry collaboration exhibition
- 2015 "EXPLORING RELATIONSHIPS/ REMEMBERING 911", Sheriff's House Pop-up, Woodstock IL September 11, evolved into a moving tribute to "911", Angela Swan, sculptor
- **1992** "TUNNEL" Dance performance, Shawn Coyle, choreographer:
 - · Chopin At The Gallery Theater, Around the Coyote (ATC), Chicago, IL
 - Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
 - · Bubotto, Elgin, IL

RESIDENCIES

2019 *Curator -* John DePinto, Adlai Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL, – Artist of the Month, two concurrent art installation exhibitions and artist talks

SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND/OR INSTALLATIONS

- **2020** Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "XrE*al", *installation*
- **2020** Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "XrE*al", *installation*
- **2019** Curator Caren Helene Rudman, The Art Center Highland Park, Highland Park, IL, main gallery: "STREAMING REFLECTIONS" installation back gallery: "STREAMING REFLECTIONS"
- **2019** *Curator -* John DePinto, Adlai Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL, main gallery: "STREAMING REFLECTIONS CROSSOVER", *installation* upstairs gallery: "STREAMING REFLECTIONS CONNECTING", *installation*
- 2019 Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "BRIDGES", installation
- **2018** Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL E*, "streaming rEflections" *vault & gallery installation*
- **2018** Wabi Sabi Gallery, Idaho "NANO WAVES", *installation*
- **2017** Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL "EXPLORING CONSCIOUSNESS" *installation*
- **2017** Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "LISTEN TO COLOUR COLOUR VOYAGE" *vault installation*
- **2017** Harris Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan ART PRIZE, "IMAGINE"
- **2016** Lake Geneva Art Museum, Lake Geneva, WI storefront *installation*
- 2015 Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "the END is the beginning" installation
- **2015** Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL "CONNECTING" *installation*
- 2014 Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL "INTO the ELLIPSE" vault installation
- **2010** Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL "EXPERIENTAL"
- **2004** Accelerator Art Space Gallery, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL "BRIDGING THE MILLENNIUM" *installation*
- 2004 Raue Centre for the Arts, Crystal Lake, IL
- **2004** Algonquin Old Town Hall, and Books and Beans Coffee House, Algonquin, IL *installation*



- **1995** Bubotto, Elgin, IL *installation*
- 1994 Campbell House, Geneva, IL
- **1992** Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL "TOTALLY TUBULAR" *installation*
- 1992 Chopin At The Gallery Theater, Around the Coyote (ATC), Chicago, IL
- 1992 Elgin Art Expo "AMERICA IN FLUX", Elgin, IL installation
- 1992 Excalibur, Chicago, IL
- 1992 Norris Cultural Arts Center, St Charles, IL
- **1992** Bubotto, Elgin, IL *installation*
- 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" *installation*
- **1989** LeAd, LeBel and Seri Graphics, South Elgin, IL "EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY" *installation*
- 1988 Judson College, Elgin, IL "EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY"
- 1988 Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL "EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY"
- 1985 Hemmens Auditorium, Elgin, IL

JURIED AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- **2020** Exhibition Facilitators bert leveille & Victoria Senn, Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL "XrE*al"
- **2019** *Exhibition Facilitators* bert leveille & Victoria Senn, Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL "E*BRIDGES"
- **2018** TACHP, Highland Park, IL "WOMEN OF COURAGE"
- **2018** Old Courthouse Art Center, Woodstock, IL CWCA, "#NAKEDTRUTH"
- **2018** *Curator -* Rex Bruce, LACDA Los Angeles Cntr for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA. "ELECTRON SALON"
- **2017** *Curator -* Caren Helene Rudman, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL "UNDEFINABLE: WOMEN'S HEALTH IN AMERICA"
- 2017 Curator Sergio Gomez, ZhouB Art Center, Chicago, IL "LAYERED"
- **2017** Fulton Street Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL "UNPRESIDENTED"
- 2017 Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL CWCA, "TRANSMOGRIFICATIONS"
- **2017** Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL "LISTEN"
- 2016 Juror Sergio Gomez, Freeport Art Museum, Freeport, IL 13th REGIONAL EXHIBITION
- **2016** Juried Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL "WOMEN'S WORKS"
- 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"
- **2009** *Juried* Koehnline Museum of Art, DesPlaines, IL "DOWN TO THERE: WOMEN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO HAIR"



- 2009 Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL "smallEr works"
- 2008 Juried Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL "REAL PEOPLE"
- 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** *Juried* Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL "REAL PEOPLE"
- **2005** Chicago Artist's Coalition, Chicago, IL "CHICAGO ART OPEN"
- **2004** Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL "VISIONS"
- 1992 Juror Mary Phelan, Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL "WOMEN'S WORKS"
- 1992 Around the Coyote, Chicago, IL
- 1991 Juror Joy Horwich, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1991 Osterle Library Gallery, North Central College
- 1990 Jurors Neal Benezra, Kenneth Burkhart, Marva Pitchford Jolly, Paul Sierra and, LynneWarren, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL, "CHICAGO SHOW" 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 Juried ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL
- **1987** *Juror* Marianne Philbin, Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1987 The Limelight, Chicago, 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 Juried IDEA Exhibit, Triton College, Chicago, IL
- **1971** George Williams College

AWARDS AND COLLECTIONS

- Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts "FIELD OF VISION" on display
- Elgin Community College Collection
- Continental Bank (Sponsor of Chicago Show, 1990) award art to be used for Show poster
- Nominated for Margaret Hillis Award for the Arts 1988
- Elmhurst College Purchase Award for Permanent Collection first student art purchased

PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL WRITINGS

- **2019** Essay by Ann Landy bert leveille "streaming reflections"
- **2019** Curator's Statement by Caren Helene Rudman bert leveille, "streaming reflections" "streaming reflections
- 2017 "Transmogrification" catalog, Photograph and statement, Elmhurst Museum Guild Gallery, Elmhurst, IL, CWCA Press
- 2016 "Connections" catalog, Photograph and statement, Mayslake Peabody Exhibition Space, Oakbrook, IL, CWCA Press



- 2015 "Connecting" catalog, Photographs, statement and essay, "Human Nebulae" by B David Zarley, Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL, leAD design Press
- **2015** "Beyond the Studio" catalog, Photographs, North Shore Senior Center Gallery, Northfield, IL, CWCA Press
- **2010** "No Place Like Home" catalog, Photograph and statement, Koehnline Museum, Oakton College
- 2009 "Down to There: Women and Their Relationship to Hair" catalog, Photograph and statement, Koehnline Museum, Oakton College
- 2007 "Chicago Art Open 2007" catalog, Photograph, Chicago Artists Coalition

EDUCATION AND SKILL SETS

- Adobe Software: Photoshop, Flash/Animate, Illustrator, In-Design, Acrobat; Final Cut Pro, Garageband
- Numerous software and photography seminars and on-line classes including Cinema 4D, Adobe Premier, Adobe After Effects

1971 Elmhurst College, BA – Art

2005 Northern Illinois University, Graduate Studies Art

MEMBERSHIPS

Board member – Chicago Women's Caucus for Art, member/exhibition planner – E* (formerly 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

CONTACT INFO

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facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bert-leveille-visual-artist-56967468259/

instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bertleveilleartist/

blog - art: http://bertleveille.com/wordpress/

blog - art/poet collaboration: http://bertleveille.com/wordpress1/

web page – art/poet collaboration: http://www.bertleveille.com/withHexandMay.html virtual movie of the installation with spoken poetry and all movies from the collaboration with Hex and May:

https://vimeo.com/showcase/7795629

linked in: www.linkedin.com/in/bertleveilleartist



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instagram: https://www.instagram.com/bertleveilleartist/

blog - art: http://bertleveille.com/wordpress/

blog - art/poet collaboration: http://bertleveille.com/wordpress1/

web page - art/poet collaboration: http://www.bertleveille.com/withHexandMay.html

virtual movie of the installation with spoken poetry and all movies from the collaboration with Hex and May: https://vimeo.com/showcase/7795629

linked in: www.linkedin.com/in/bertleveilleartist

other exhibits and links to videos: http://www.bertleveille.com/blexhib.html

