



*Leslye Bloom combines highly technical procedures and organic energy. She uses the computer as a medium, as other artists use paint, charcoal, or the earth. But there is nothing in her prints that readily suggest the hi-tech mechanics used to make them. In addition she often resolves them with added collage, paint, and encaustic.*

- Ann Weinstein

### Statement

Computers, encaustics and mixed media fuse in my work. I have worked with computer graphics for over three decades and with encaustics for over 10 years.

There are wonderful characteristics in translucent encaustics (wax) and computer thermal wax transfer prints - nothing on paper has the same vibrant light - the works seem to glow from within - as do images on the monitor. Often I start with the scanner and digital camera and digitally 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.

Next I print wax/silicate proofs - first I work small. With encaustic media: I move or add wax with big swift strokes, or melt thin wax layers into the paper. With Acrylics, I work traditionally, over a matte medium glaze.

Or, I create new compositions using collage.

Frequently I scan successfully manipulated parts and rework the computer files.

Then I ponder how large they should be, creating and attaching sections for works larger than 8.5 x 11, assembling them on heavy stock, and finishing them using more encaustics, acrylics and collage. Beyond this general procedure, no two of my computages has ever developed the same way. Even those who have worked in the studio with me are hard pressed to describe what I do or how I do it.

I like to joke that I have a secret "make art" key. I've coined the term "computage" to counter "computer generated art" because:

**Brushes don't make paintings,  
and computers don't make art.  
Computers are easy. Art is hard!**

### Education and Exhibitions

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. 2004 marks her 37th year working in computer graphics. Her works are housed in private collections across North America and Europe.

Her digital/painted images have met with increasing critical and popular acceptance since she began full-time studio work. Not satisfied with technical solutions, she prefers to work through and beyond the computer.

Leslye lives in Blacksburg, Virginia with her husband and three long-haired dachshunds. Her works are housed in private collections across the US, Jamaica, and Great Britain. She has chaired, curated and judged art shows in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

**International Shows:** Digitally Speaking at womanmade Gallery, Chicago, IL September 2003, Juror Dorothy Simpson Krause; Digitized Computer Art - International Juried Show, Troy, NY (Third prize)

**National Honors:** Art Finalist, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002: Artist's Magazine, experimental category (over 13,000 entries each year.)

**Juried Shows:** 2003 VA Highlands Festival Fine art Exhibition, Arts Depot, Abingdon, VA Award of Excellence, M.A. Braukman, Juror; Visual Expressions on JAZZ: NY City 2001, 2 & 3; New River Art '01 (Best in Show); VA Highlands Festival Juried Art Exhibition, 2001 (Award of Merit); Dimensions 2001, Winston-Salem, NC, Lynchburg Area Juried Art Show Feb. 24 to March 30, 2001 (Most Innovative Award.) New River Art '01 (Best in Show), "Digital Art," Harmony Hall, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Bristol (VA/TN) Artists, November 2000 (award), the Roanoke City Show '02, '00, New River Art '99 (award,) VA Highlands Festival (Abingdon: '00, '99, '98 award,) Roanoke College '00, '96, "From These Hills" (Abingdon: '97 & '99,) and Community Artists '13 (Bristol VA/TN '98.)

**Solo shows:** VTLS April 2004, TACBR, May 2004, Lynchburg Fine Arts Center, Dillard Gallery, May 2 to June 14, 2003 with Leslie King.; Miller off Main Gallery Sept.-Oct., 2002, (Blacksburg); "Art in the Office" The Arts Council of the Blue Ridge (Roanoke); Virginia Intermont College (Bristol); Alleghany Highlands Arts & Crafts Center (Covington); The Arts Depot (Abingdon); The Arts Place (Chilhowie); the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley (Pulaski); Hollins College (hollins); The Reynolds Family Homestead (Critz.); New River C.C., Patrick Henry C.C.; and the Montgomery Miller Museum (Christiansburg); and numerous solo shows with the Blacksburg Regional Art Association.

**Books:** *Spring Thaw* is featured as one of 15 works by artists who have moved digital art "into a more painterly realm" in *The Tra-Digital Artist*, by Theresa Airey, ©pending, Lark Books.

*All Jazzed Out* is used as an example of digital art in *Spotlight on Art*, grade 8, by Dr. Rebecca Brooks. pending ©2005, Scott Foresman

### Leslye's Web Sites:

<http://leslyebloom.com/>  
<http://www.absolutearts.com/portfolios/l/leslye/>