

bert leveille

PRESS KIT

bert leveille
installations





photo by Victoria Senn



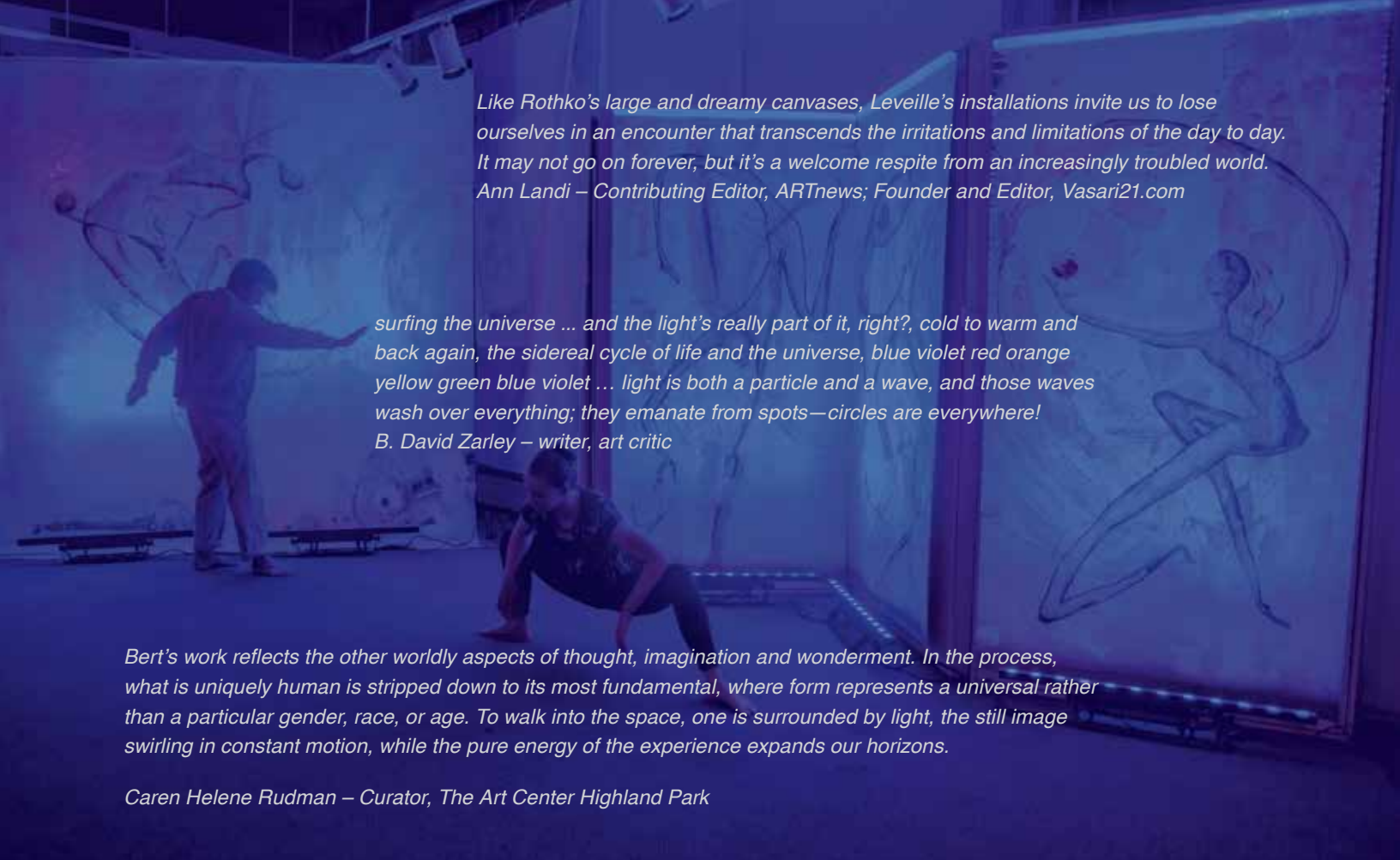
ABOUT BERT LEVEILLE

LEVEILLE creates installations in historic buildings: factories, court houses and walk-in vaults; on stage; with dancers; schools; and traditional gallery spaces – notably: **“Dreams 2”** (2024 - a 120 foot corridor) and 6 installations including **“Dreams”** (2023 - a 120 foot corridor) in the historic Starline Factory in Harvard, IL; **“connections after covid”** – featured solo artist in the historic Dole gallery (2023); **“As It Happens”** – a collaboration with poets in the small vault at Old Court House Art Center (OCHAC) (2020); **“streaming reflections”** – The Art Center Highland Park, gallery (2019), Stevenson HS, rotunda galleries and residency (2019); and OCHAC gallery and vault (2018).

Leveille is searching for waterfalls to project her art onto, to video and to include in gallery exhibitions for a project called **“WATERFALL PORTALS”**.

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 – mural sized abstract paintings, 3-D elements, and collaborations with dancers and musicians. Immersive installations include color sequenced lighting, animation, sound, video and recently, waterfalls. She explores a fine line of one being inside the art (“on-stage”) looking out; becoming part of the art; and/or viewing the art, encouraging viewers to immerse themselves in consciousness; become part of the art; enter this other world.

She uses her Starline studio as an incubation, exhibition, installation, experimentation studio that is a “must see” during Starline 4th Fridays Open Studios. LEVEILLE co-curates exhibitions for E* (formerly E-artgroup) and Chicago Women’s Caucus for Art (CWCA).



*Like Rothko's large and dreamy canvases, Leveille's installations invite us to lose ourselves in an encounter that transcends the irritations and limitations of the day to day. It may not go on forever, but it's a welcome respite from an increasingly troubled world.
Ann Landi – Contributing Editor, ARTnews; Founder and Editor, Vasari21.com*

*surfing the universe ... and the light's really part of it, right?, cold to warm and back again, the sidereal cycle of life and the universe, blue violet red orange yellow green blue violet ... light is both a particle and a wave, and those waves wash over everything; they emanate from spots—circles are everywhere!
B. David Zarley – writer, art critic*

Bert's work reflects the other worldly aspects of thought, imagination and wonderment. In the process, what is uniquely human is stripped down to its most fundamental, where form represents a universal rather than a particular gender, race, or age. To walk into the space, one is surrounded by light, the still image swirling in constant motion, while the pure energy of the experience expands our horizons.

Caren Helene Rudman – Curator, The Art Center Highland Park

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 large canvases that I treat like large watercolors sometimes beginning with metallic paint, I continue to layer the paint. I see 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 synchronized 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.

“WATERFALL PORTALS” is my current project – searching out waterfalls, incorporating them into my art, and projecting my art onto waterfalls. Exhibitions will be in galleries as well as natural settings. WATERFALL PORTALS is a project examining our connections to the earth, each other, and consciousness. The intent is that projecting my images onto waterfalls connects mindful beings, who travel the waterfalls of the universe, to water and to us. This then creates portals to the universe; to consciousness. So, imagine the sound of rushing water cascading over the edge and pounding the earth below; mindful beings, not necessarily human – no specific gender, nationality, race or age, emerge from inside the waterfall and enter portals. White noise is a backdrop for colorful visuals vacillating from illusive abstractions to vibrant figurative forms.

performance artist, smooVements and dancer, Ellyana Hope Anderson, Eldon-Schulz-Photography ©2018

“DREAMS 2”



“DREAMS”



“WALL”



“the END is the beginning”



“WATERFALL”



“Fractals”

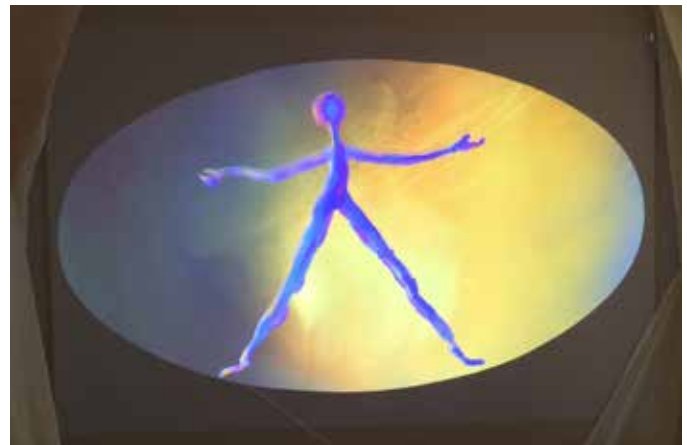
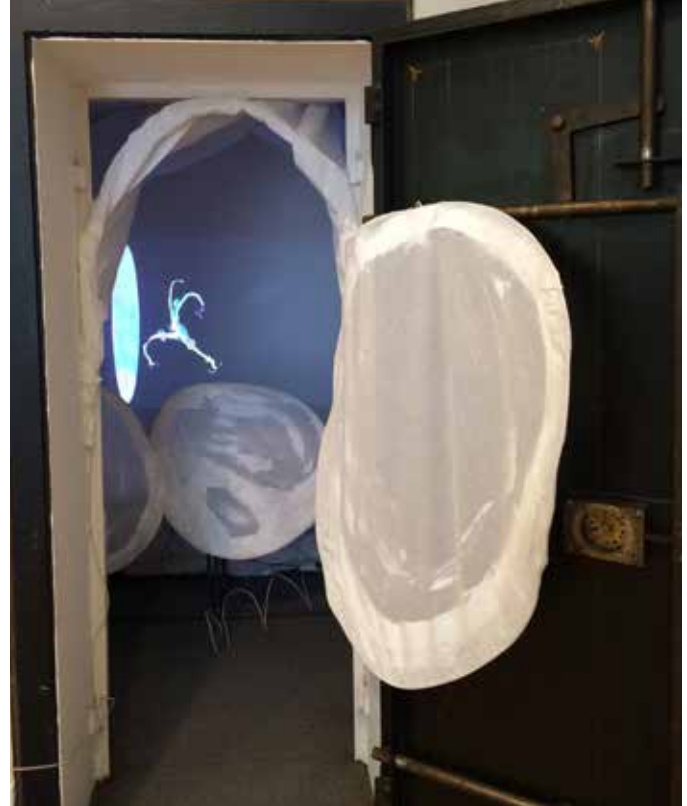


“Listen to Colour”



“Streaming Reflections”





“Synapse” details, installation view with synchronized LED

“Into the Ellipse” details, installation view with animation

colored lighting; TOP photos by Victoria Senn



“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 IMAGES IN DROPBOX

for DROPBOX link contact: bertl@att.net



leveille_2023_starline_dreams-1.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_dreams-2.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_end-1.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_end-2.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_fractals.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_wall.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_waterfall-1.jpg



leveille_2023_starline_waterfall-install.jpg



AsItHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaultL_synapse_5.jpg



AsItHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaultL_synapse_6.jpg



AsItHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaultL_synapse_7.jpg



AsItHappens_leveille_2020_OCHACvaultL_synapse_8.jpg



leveille_2014_OCHACvaultS_ELLIPSE_1.JPG



leveille_2014_OCHACvaultS_ELLIPSE_2.JPG



leveille_2014_OCHACvaultS_ELLIPSE_3.JPG



leveille_2014_OCHACvaultS_ELLIPSE_4.JPG



leveille_2015_OCHACgallery_911.JPG



leveille_2015_OCHACgallery_END_1.jpg



leveille_2015_OCHACgallery_END_2.jpg



leveille_2015_OCHACgallery_END_3.JPG



leveille_2017_OCHACvaultL_ colour_1.JPG



leveille_2017_OCHACvaultL_ colour_2.JPG



leveille_2018_OCHACgallery_ streaming_1.JPG



leveille_2018_OCHACgallery_ streaming_2.png



leveille_2018_OCHACgallery_ streaming_3_...tography@.jpg



leveille_2018_OCHACgallery_ streaming_4_...tography@.jpg



leveille_2018_OCHACvaultL_ streaming_1.JPG



leveille_2018_OCHACvaultL_ streaming_2.jpg



leveille_2018_OCHACvaultL_ streaming_3.JPG



leveille_2018_OCHACvaultL_ streaming_4.JPG



leveille_2019_OCHACgallery_ Bridges_1.jpg



leveille_2019_OCHACgallery_ Bridges_2.JPG



leveille_2020_OCHACgallery_ _ocular_1.JPG



leveille_2020_OCHACgallery_ _ocular_2.jpg



leveille_2020_OCHACgallery_ _ocular_3.jpg



leveille_bert_OCHACgallery.j pg



leveille_bert_studio_painting_ _synapse.png



leveille_bert_studio1.jpg



PRESS_BIO_LEVEILLE_BERT_ long.pdf



PRESS_BIO_LEVEILLE_BERT_ short.pdf



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: SEP 2004*

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, NOV 1992*



To read more including

- essays & catalogs
- Interviews
- comments from exhibition attendees
- and poems about LEVEILLE art:

https://www.bertleveille.com/bIABOUT_press_writings.html



ABOUT BERT LEVEILLE ESSAY EXCERPTS

They swoop and bend and perform magical arabesques, both as solo performers and as animated partners. They are otherworldly, and yet strangely benign. ...

Leveille speaks of “spirituality” and her desire to connect with a “more universal consciousness.”

These are sentiments very much of our times, when many turn to meditation, not just as a way of cooling our hyperactive brains but of tuning into a higher realm of being, where possibilities of ecstasy exist and can be accessed through art.

— *Ann Landi, Contributing Editor, ARTnews; Founder and Editor, Vasari21.com*

Monumental paintings are unfurled like tapestries both against the wall in gallery fashion and also free falling to reveal both sides.

Amorphous beings emerge from layers of gestural marks and washes, harkening back to the surrealists’ practice of automatic writing. Leveille’s figures feel like a conduit to the subconscious. . .

— *Sandra Bacon Artist, Curator, Educator*

As literature creates worlds in the unconscious imagination, Bert’s work reflects the other worldly aspects of thought, imagination and wonderment. In the process, what is uniquely human is stripped down to its most fundamental, where form represents a universal rather than a particular gender, race, or age. To walk into the space, one is surrounded by light, the still image swirling in constant motion, while the pure energy of the experience expands our horizons.

— *Caren Helene Rudman, Curator, Artist*

...naked and raw, inviting in its softness and lack of manipulation; to the alien figures—they are like us in gestural form, less physiology than a spirit, less a figure than a feeling—who first bewilder, next frighten, next coax through chimerical, impossible dance, apian language, coquettish motion, come join us, uncanny valley bridged by dancing limbs, colonial beckoning into bert’s attempt to dial us up, or in the very least inspire us to try, to join what they call “mindful figures,” ... bodies free from the brutal oppression of outline and anatomy, black and grey with gilded obliques, violet hair, sanguine lips, eyes abyssal yet alive, abalone chests and clavicles, different and yet us, a possible us...

— *B. David Zarley, Writer, Art Critic*

To read more: complete essays • Interviews • comments from exhibition attendees • and poems about LEVEILLE art:

https://www.bertleveille.com/bIABOUT_press_writings.html



BERT LEVEILLE RESUMÉ

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

COLLABORATIONS

- 2020** “As It Happens” – “synapse”, vault installation with Annie Hex and Jen May for Atrocious Poet’s art/poetry collaboration exhibition; Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2015** “*EXPLORING RELATIONSHIPS/ REMEMBERING 911*”, Sheriff’s House Pop-up installation; 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; and Bubotto, Elgin, IL

RESIDENCIES

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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS and/or INSTALLATIONS

- 2024** “*DREAMS 2*”, installation; Starline Ferris Room, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*DREAMS*”, installation; Starline Ferris Room, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*Isolation*”, installation; Starline Upper Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*WALL*”, installation; Overland Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*WALL*”, installation; Starline Upper Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*Fractals*”, installation; Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*END is the Beginning*”, installation; Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2023** “*Connections after covid*”, Dole Gallery, Crystal Lake, IL
- 2020** “*XrE*al*”, installation; Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2019** “*STREAMING REFLECTIONS*”, installation; **Curator** - Caren Helene Rudman, The Art Center Highland Park, Highland Park, IL
- 2019** “*STREAMING REFLECTIONS – CROSSOVER*”, main gallery, installation and “*STREAMING REFLECTIONS – CONNECTING*”, upstairs gallery; **Curator** - John DePinto, Adlai Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL
- 2019** “*BRIDGES*”, installation; Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2018** “*STREAMING REFLECTIONS*”, vault & gallery installation; Woodstock, IL – E*
- 2018** “*NANO WAVES*”, installation; Wabi Sabi Gallery, Idaho
- 2017** “*EXPLORING CONSCIOUSNESS*”, installation; Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2017** “*LISTEN TO COLOUR - COLOUR VOYAGE*”, vault installation; Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2017** “*IMAGINE*”; mini installation; ART PRIZE, Harris Building, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2016** “*END is the Beginning*”, storefront installation; Lake Geneva Art Museum, Lake Geneva, WI
- 2015** “*END is the Beginning*”, installation; Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2015** “*CONNECTING*”, installation; Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2014** “*INTO the ELLIPSE*”, vault installation; Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2010** “*EXPERIENTAL*”; Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
- 2004** “*BRIDGING THE MILLENNIUM*”, installation; Accelerator Art Space Gallery, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL –

- 2004** *Solo exhibition*; Raue Centre for the Arts, Crystal Lake, IL
- 2004** *Installations*; Algonquin Old Town Hall; Books and Beans Coffee House, Algonquin, IL
- 1994** *Solo exhibition*; Campbell House, Geneva, IL
- 1992** “*TOTALLY TUBULAR*”, installation; Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
- 1992** *Installation*; “*AMERICA IN FLUX*” Elgin Art Expo, Elgin, IL
- 1992** *Solo exhibition*; Excalibur, Chicago, IL
- 1991** *Solo exhibition*; Barrington Area Arts Council (BAAC), Barrington, IL
- 1991** *Solo exhibition*; St. Luke’s Presbyterian Fine Arts Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1990** “*TOTALLY TUBULAR*”, installation; Contemporary Center For the Arts of Arlington, Arlington Heights, IL
- 1989** “*EXPERIMENT IN FANTASY*”, installation; LeAd, LeBel, Seri Graphics, South Elgin, IL

JURIED AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020** “*XrE*al*”, Exhibition Facilitators: Sarah Hahne, bert leveille & Victoria Senn; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2019** “*E*BRIDGES*”, Exhibition Facilitators: Sarah Hahne, bert leveille & Victoria Senn; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2018** “*WOMEN OF COURAGE*”; TACHP, Highland Park, IL
- 2018** “*#NAKEDTRUTH*” CWCA; Old Courthouse Art Center, Woodstock, IL
- 2018** “*ELECTRON SALON*”, Curator, Rex Bruce, LACDA Los Angeles Cntr for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017** “*UNDEFINABLE: WOMEN’S HEALTH IN AMERICA*”, Curator, Caren Helene Rudman, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL —
- 2017** “*LAYERED*”, Curator, Sergio Gomez; ZhouB Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2017** “*UNPRESIDENTED*”; Fulton Street Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2017** “*TRANSMOGRIFICATIONS*”, CWCA; Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- 2017** “*LISTEN*”; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2016** “*13th REGIONAL EXHIBITION*”, Juror, Sergio Gomez, Freeport Art Museum, Freeport, IL
- 2016** “*WOMEN’S WORKS*”, Juried - Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2016** “*CONNECTIONS*”, CWCA; Mayslake Peabody Mansion, Oak Brook, IL
- 2015** “*End*”; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2014** “*ELLIPSE*”; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2013** “*FLY*”; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2013** *SPACE 900*; Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
- 2012** “*NEW VISION*”; Starline Gallery, Harvard, IL
- 2011** “*E/GLUED*”; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2010** “*E-FIVE*”, Schaumburg Prairie Center For the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
- 2009** “*DOWN TO THERE: WOMEN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO HAIR*”, Juried; Koehonline Museum of Art, DesPlaines, IL
- 2009** “*smallEr works*”; Old Court House Arts Center, Woodstock IL
- 2008** “*REAL PEOPLE*”, Juried; Old Courthouse Gallery, Woodstock, IL
- 2008** “*E/GO*”; Dole Gallery, Crystal Lake, IL
- 2008** “*E/mersion*”; Sage Gallery, Crystal Lake, IL

AWARDS and COLLECTIONS

- Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts – “*FIELD OF VISION*” on loan
- 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, Koehline Museum, Oakton College
- 2009** “Down to There: Women and Their Relationship to Hair” catalog, Photograph and statement, Koehline 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* (E-Artgroup); Past Commissioner on the Elgin Cultural Commission; Past Board Member, Contemporary Arts of Arlington; and Past Board Member, Bubotto



CONTACT INFO

BERT LEVEILLE

phone: (708) 309-3333

mail: PO Box 1123, Woodstock, IL 60098

email: bert@bertleveille.com

website: <http://www.bertleveille.com>

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

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

blog – art: <https://bertleveille.com/bertleveilleBLOG/>

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

other exhibits and links to videos: <https://www.bertleveille.com/blvideo.html>

linktr.ee: <https://linktr.ee/bertleveille>

Images can be found in dropbox –for *DROPBOX* link contact: bertl@att.net