



#### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BERT LEVEILLE at West Loop Contemporary Fine Art Expo booth #10, February 21 - 23, 2025.

Chicago, IL, February 2025 — Visit BERT LEVEILLE's booth #10 and view her installation on the stage at the inaugural West Loop Contemporary Fine Art Expo at the Stephen M Bailey Auditorium, Plumbers Hall (1340 W. Washington Blvd) situated in the West Loop/Fulton Market locale..

The *First Look Preview* is from 6PM to 9PM on Friday, February 21, 2025. The **WEST LOOP FINE ART EXPO** is from 10am – 6pm on Saturday, February 22, and from 11am – 5pm on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

The **West Loop Contemporary Fine Art Expo** is a curated Boutique Expo showcasing works from over 40 invitation-only fine artists from eight states. Exhibiting artists will encompass a variety of styles, including: Abstract & Abstract-Expressionism, Cityscapes, Encaustic, Expressionism, Figurative, Impressionism, Mandala, Pastel, Plein Air, Portraiture, Post-Impressionism, Realism, Sculpture, Still Life, and more.

**BERT LEVEILLE**'s booth will display large and small paintings and some never before exhibited watercolors. A site-specific installation will include elements from **LEVEILLE**'s waterfall exhibition – large painted panels, video and LED color changing lights. "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. 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

Gourmet Expos has created and produced West Loop events for seven years, as it is one of the most vibrant and growing commercial districts in Chicagoland. The historic venue is the perfect backdrop for the new fair, allowing curious art seekers to discover new artists and embrace the city's thriving arts community.

The **West Loop Contemporary Fine Art Expo** is supported by various local arts organizations, including the Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists (CAVA), Chicago Women's Caucus for Art (CWCA), and Fulton Street Collective. **LEVEILLE** is a member of CAVA and CWCA.

To buy tickets and to learn more about "West Loop Contemporary Fine Art Expo": https://www.westloopartexpos.com

#### **ABOUT BERT LEVEILLE**

BERT LEVEILLE has been planning, presenting, curating exhibitions, and exhibiting for several years nationally and throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Her artwork is a combination of herself, and her world as a conduit – intertwining, connecting, and exploring a more universal world in search of an expanded yet connected consciousness.

Exposure to and love of theater permeates her art practice with mural sized abstract paintings, 3-D elements, and collaborations with dancers and musicians. Immersive installations include color sequenced lighting, animation, sound, and video. 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.

LEVEILLE creates installations in historic buildings: factories, court houses and walk-in vaults; on stage with dancers; schools; and traditional gallery spaces. Notably: 6 installations including "Dreams" (2023) and "Dreams 2" (2024) in the historic Starline in Harvard IL; "streaming reflections" – The Art Center Highland Park, gallery (2019), Adlai HS, rotunda galleries and residency (2019), and Old Court House Art Center (OCHAC) gallery and vault (2018); "As It Happens"— a collaboration with poets in the small vault at OCHAC (2020); and "connections after covid" — featured artist solo in the historic Dole gallery (2023). She tests and shares concepts in her Starline "incubation, experimentation, installation, exhibition studio".

**EXHIBITION DATES:** First Look Preview: Friday, 6PM to 9PM, February 21; WEST LOOP FINE ART EXPO, Sat (10am – 6pm) and Sun (11am – 5pm), February 22 - 23, 2025

VENUE: Stephen M Bailey Auditorium, Plumbers Hall (1340 W. Washington Blvd.)

PURCHASE TICKETS - "West Loop Contemporary Fine Art Expo": https://www.westloopartexpos.com

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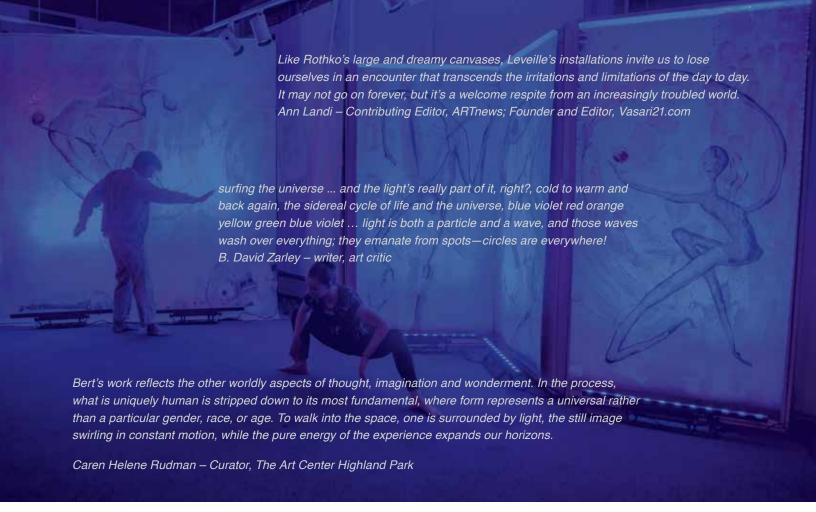
## **ABOUT BERT LEVEILLE**

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) and 6 installations including "Dreams" (2023) in the historic Starline Factory in Harvard, IL; "connections after covid" — featured artist solo 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).

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 artwork is a combination of herself, and her world as a conduit – intertwining, connecting, and exploring a more universal world in search of an expanded yet connected consciousness.

Exposure to and love of theater permeates her art practice with mural sized abstract paintings, 3-D elements, and collaborations with dancers and musicians. Immersive installations include color sequenced lighting, animation, sound, and video. 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).



#### 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.



## "DREAMS"



"WALL"

"the END is the beginning"



"WATERFALL"



"Fractals"



5 of 19

## BERT LEVEILLE – OCHAC LARGE VAULT

"Listen to Colour" (top) and "Streaming Reflections"

for DROPBOX link contact: <a href="mailto:bertl@att.net">bertl@att.net</a>









"Streaming Reflections"



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#### **BERT LEVEILLE – OCHAC SMALL VAULT**

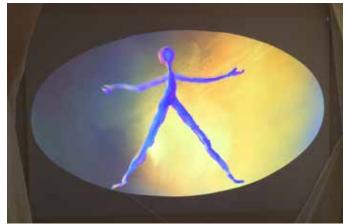
## "Synapse" (left) and "INTO the ELLIPSE" (right) installation IMAGES

for DROPBOX link contact: bertl@att.net















**"Synapse"** details, installation view with synchronized LED colored lighting; TOP photos by Victoria Senn

"Into the Ellipse" details, installation view with animation



#### **BERT LEVEILLE - OCHAC GALLERIES**

"the END is the beginning", "911", "streaming reflections", "Bridges", and "Ocular Reflections"

for DROPBOX link contact: bertl@att.net





"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







"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









ms-1.jpg

leveille\_2023\_starline\_drea leveille\_2023\_starline\_drea leveille\_2023\_starline\_end-1 leveille\_2023\_starline\_endms-2.jpg

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2.jpg









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fall-1.jpg

fall-install.jpg









OCHACvaultL\_synapse\_5.jpg OCHACvaultL\_synapse\_6.jpg OCHACvaultL\_synapse\_7.jpg OCHACvaultL\_synapse\_8.jpg

AsItHappens\_leveille\_2020\_ AsItHappens\_leveille\_2020\_ AsItHappens\_leveille\_2020\_ AsItHappens\_leveille\_2020\_









ELLIPSE\_1.JPG

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ELLIPSE\_3.JPG

ELLIPSE\_4.JPG









911.JPG

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END\_2.jpg

END\_3.JPG

#### **BERT LEVEILLE IMAGES & BIO'S IN DROPBOX**

for DROPBOX link contact: bertl@att.net





leveille\_2017\_OCHACvaultL\_ colour\_1.JPG



colour\_2.JPG



leveille\_2017\_OCHACvaultL\_ leveille\_2018\_OCHACgallery\_ leveille\_2018\_OCHACgallery\_ streaming\_1.JPG



streaming\_2.png







leveille\_2018\_OCHACgallery\_ leveille\_2018\_OCHACgallery\_ leveille\_2018\_OCHACvaultL\_ leveille\_2018\_OCHACvaultL\_ streaming\_1.JPG



streaming\_2.jpg





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streaming\_3.JPG



leveille\_2018\_OCHACvaultL\_ leveille\_2018\_OCHACvaultL\_ leveille\_2019\_OCHACgallery\_ leveille\_2019\_OCHACgallery\_ Bridges\_1.jpg

Bridges\_2.JPG







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leveille\_bert\_studio\_painting

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#### **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.

Amorphic 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; Koehnline 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, 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\* (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**

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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