

GALLERY REVIEW

Five artists use technology to create works

CLINTON — "Digital Art and the Computer," an exhibition of five artists at the Kirkland Art Center through Feb. 16, shows how each uses the computer to create art.

No matter how you cut it though, in most cases, computer art is only an adjunct to the normal art world. It employs different processes, which have transformed time and creative elements, but not the product itself.



Jonas Kover

Barta is a surrealist. He splices parts of photographs together to make a totally different and impressive picture. Landscapes, for instance, show the same building in different sizes and distortions, multiple images in differing spaces.

One of a bicycle and rider is a puzzle that you piece together visually. Full of different parts and features, it resembles the subject in form.



'Bike/Rider'

Submitted photo

... Les Barta

Photo constructions

Surreal color at Rosewood.

by JUD YALKUT

Digital processing has redefined the nature of photography. Computer manipulation permits new visual images to be pieced together out of disparate elements, creating new realities. Simultaneously, photography out of the camera and darkroom has been stimulated to transcend conventional light and color, revealing other hidden worlds. Two concurrent exhibitions, running through May 14 at the Rosewood Gallery in Kettering, present the work of two artists who represent these divergent means of visual exploration.

Les Barta, of Incline Village, Nev., pieces fragments of reality into digital "photoconstructions." Geoffrey Aronson of Atlanta uses long exposures and contrasting lighting sources to create unsettling surrealistic views of "urban vegetation."

By means of what he calls "metaphorical algebra," Barta selects a visual subject or "paradigm such as a tree, a flower, or one of the structural elements present in a setting." The whole being greater than the sum of its parts, Barta's images reveal seldom seen and uncommon continuities.

"Tree" combines architectural and abstracted human elements, with textured vertical columns, the eave of a roof ending in a shovel, and a patch of leafy green, all standing on a pair of blobby legs. The neighboring "Two Trees" is a more formal amalgam of mechanical elements around a cornice, with a burst of blue smoke and balancing circular shapes hovering over dual trunk-like entities. Barta's sense of space recalls the horizon line of the desert, commingled with the rolling mounds of California hills.

"Tahoe View of Roses" uses foliage and thorns as bands of energy, horizontally inset in rows, or as part of a rosy textural flowering. Golden sunset patches and magnified rose stem details create a floating world in which leaves become clouds over flowery mountains. "Frank Synthesis" is a tribute to the architectural fantasies of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Allyn Stewart and Les Barta have a more illustrative or graphics approach, both lively and flat at the same time.

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