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RESOURCES

The Human Network:
Connecting with fellow artists
online

Art Communities

A group of mixed-media artists redefining the concept of digital art is creating a network for reaching each other and their audience.

by Karen Whitehouse August 12, 1997



"Dawn's Reverie," Helen Golden
on exhibit at the [911 Gallery](#)

Three years ago, computer graphics professor and artist Dorothy Simpson Krause held a small workshop, "Beyond the Digital Print," at the Massachusetts College of Art. For five days, artists from all over the country worked together to produce fine-art prints, using computers in conjunction with traditional media.



"Messages," Dorothy Simpson Krause
on exhibit at the [911 Gallery](#)

When the workshop ended, five attendees didn't want to leave the workshop atmosphere. Those artists-- Krause, Helen Golden, Bonny Lhotka, Judith Moncrieff and Karin Schminke-- decided to form an association to help promote their digital works as legitimate art. "Bonny Lhotka suggested we call it Unique Editions, because what we do with digital files is in fact make unique images," Krause recalled. "We called ourselves by the process that we felt we were doing." The five artists often begin a piece by scanning in their own photos, collages or found objects; manipulate and combine images on the computer; then enhance and alter the printed work with ink, pastel, water colors, gold leaf and other traditional techniques.

Moncrieff sees the mission of Unique Editions as "to educate, to hopefully to wake up a few people who are a little bit asleep and don't understand quite that the digital is here... and that it belongs in the art field, as well as other areas of business or any other area where the computer can be used."

To help fulfill this mission, the five women recently held a two-week workshop, open to the public, at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art. Called "The Digital Atelier," the event showcased the artists' works, gave people a chance to walk out with art of their own making and demoed high-end equipment that would cost nearly

as much as some pieces in the museum's collection-- were it not for an arrangement that's a mix of the Renaissance system of patronage and the modern model of sponsored events.

[The Digital Atelier](#)

[Modern Patronage](#)

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[The Human Network](#)

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