

In The Spotlight this month is **LESLEE ASCH**,
An Independent Curator & Writer
[Photo here]

Leslee, a new Letters member, among her many endeavors, served as Executive Director of Silvermine Arts Center from April 5, 2010—April 5, 2016. Her personal passion is work that unites the visual and performing arts and as such she presented work by multi-disciplinary artists including Brent Green, C. Ryder Cooley, Bridgman|Packer Dance, and Miwa Matreyek. She compiled and authored essays for the ninetieth anniversary commemorative book; helped create the Sculpture Walk; expanded and renovated the offices and back-campus studios; and enabled the addition of bronze casting, glass working and woodworking to the art curriculum.

She also spent six years as Executive Director of National Dance Institute, a nationally recognized, award-winning arts education program, founded in 1975 by New York City Ballet principal dancer, Jacques d'Amboise. Prior to NDI, she ran her own consulting firm helping clients ranging from Anna Deavere Smith to Walt Disney World with events, writing and strategic planning.

Additionally, She worked for Jim Henson and the Jim Henson Company for over 20 years. She began her career as a puppet builder, and then went on to serve as Director of Exhibitions for Jim Henson Productions, curating and managing exhibitions worldwide. She also served as Executive Director of the Jim Henson Foundation and Producing Director of the Henson International Festivals of Puppet Theater. She co-curated the five Henson festivals working with numerous NYC theaters, including The Public Theater, LaMama, and the New Victory. Artists presented included visual artist and director, William Kentridge with Handspring Puppet Company, Robert Lepage, Mabou Mines, Basil Twist, and Dan Hurlin.

Leslee is currently working on a book about the Henson Festivals.

[Contact info here: website, blog, etc., professional email]

[Images of work here: book covers, photography, artwork, etc.]