## Leslie Moody Cresswell Artist Statement 2023

Several years ago I began a print series of monotype images I call "What's Left Behind" after I was confronted by the personal effects left behind after the death of someone very close to me. Empty clothing on hangers as well as pairs of shoes once worn on various comings and goings now without that life's history to fill them again.

This led me to take photos and images of my own clothing as a remembrance, hence my print, "Heckle & Jeckle". Besides images of my own clothing, I now also take and use images of vintage clothing and accessories as well; long ago lived-in at one time, to which I imagine a history: A pair of 1940's black suede shoes worn on a job search or to a party perhaps? Or soft leather lace-up driving gloves guiding the wheel of a 1920's Ford to . . . somewhere? These are a couple of *my* imaginations. I want to leave it up to the viewer to imagine a history on their own.

The method I use is to create a photopolymer intaglio plate from my images for printing. By using this print method I can achieve deep, almost velvety blacks, as well as wiping the plate selectively to enhance plate tone in more open areas. I use Gamblin and Akua etching inks with archival papers on a lovingly pre-owned, older model, Sturgis etching press. Most of my prints are AV (Artist's Variation), and/or are one of a kind.