

Kevin Kelly

Biography

Kevin Kelly was born in 1978 and raised in a working class family. He received a Bachelor in art education from Wichita State University in 2001, and began teaching at Wichita West High School the same year. He earned his MFA in painting from Wichita State University in 2008. His painting has been recognized through the Golden art residence, the Harvester Arts Community Fellowship program, and the Oklahoma Visual Arts Commission. Kelly has been featured in group and solo exhibits in Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New York for the last 15 years. His work has been featured in several publications.

Artist Statement

For me, painting has always been about uncovering creative possibilities, freezing an artistic gesture, and finding an individual identity. This artwork awkwardly occupies the space between that romanticized, painterly experience of the world and the unromantic accessories of the Midwest I grew up in. There is a great deal of conflict between the figurative elements and the more painterly elements. I like to say that I am not so much using paint as I am using the vocabulary of painting as I dissect its processes, removing the paint from the canvas in large skins. By taking the painted gestures and the subjects out of their normal contexts, I hope to give both a fighting chance in this conflict.

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