



Kelly Porter
Prairie Village, KS

I love to think about perception, and the emotion that the viewers themselves bring to the piece and how they are relating to it. There are some things my paintings say that simply cannot be expressed with words. I believe my work brings people to a place of being thought-filled, and in many cases involves a state of play and imagination. I create moments of tension and release, just like in music. When making the pieces, it feels meditative, like I am in a deeper state, intensely focused. It's almost primal, or elemental. Each piece is marking time in a way or taking the moment and the active relationship I have with the piece and documenting it in a concrete, tangible object.

I love creating meaning and emotional engagement with paint, layering color, pattern and linework to create forms and repetition. I believe there is a dialog with the viewer, on a subliminal level, an emotional level, that is communicative in a deeper way. My biggest hope is for the work to actively engage individual viewers in a way that helps them feel, love, and connect.

My art for me is a sort of language, far more descriptive than written language. Reflecting on meaning, I feel my individuality, my existence and my place in the world is represented in the works. The process of painting for me is an investigation, questioning beauty, and the functionality and purpose in the beautiful forms and subjects I focus on. Abstracted, hybrid forms that were originally life at the microscopic level, I refer to them as atomic flowers. To me, they contain this incredible energy. They are small in and of themselves, but they are powerful, and this is where the everything comes into play. It's the relationships in between them, what is around them, what patterns they are creating and how I am representing them as subjects. I invent my own world with these forms and create my own visual language, and then the experience one can have with them is something entirely different than they can have with anything else.

I find the connection from these basic life forms to be fascinating. As subjects for me work, they are abundant, vivacious, and powerful. Sometimes the forms can be abstracted further, where the primary function and the form become lost and the abstraction itself is allowed to dominate - as part of the painting process. There are several pieces in this newest exhibition where I have allowed color to be the only driving force and where abstraction has entirely taken over. The direction of the palette itself is the only thing driving these paintings.

*The piece, **Twenty Five years of Subjects**, is my attempt to focus in on the important elements that have been studied in my artwork for years. I took a deeper look at the recurring subject matter since the year 2000, and traced reoccurring shapes and symbols that have played the part of "characters" through my pieces consistently over the years. It's significant because my formal art training in the academic setting ended in the year 1999, when I finished my Master's in Fine Art and focused my thesis on Teleology and the roll it plays in aesthetics. Since then, I started my professional career as a fine artist, I built my first studio and I set out to create work and show it in galleries across the country. I exhibited in Dallas, Chicago, NYC and Kansas City. Since then and over the course of the last 25 years, I have grown my practice and remained dedicated each and every year to pushing my boundaries and making new discoveries in my studio narrative. The Blue Gallery in particular has exhibited over 300 pieces of mine within this 25 year span. I wanted to honor the most treasured and special subjects in this time period, and the most dedicated gallery to growing my work, so I selected one from each year in particular and I am exhibiting them all together in this exhibition. I have always found it useful and interesting to dig in deep to a subject and really investigate it, so many of these 'subjects' have played a part in several pieces, and become what artwork is known for... for example, orchids, atomic flowers, concentric circles, fractals and geometric-type, metaphorical trees.*

-Kelly Porter

Blue Gallery
118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108
816.527.0823 BlueGalleryOnline.com

Kelly Porter

Prairie Village, KS

About Kelly Porter

Kelly Porter is from Dallas, TX. She received her BFA from Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO in 1997, where she studied printmaking and philosophy. Upon receiving a full scholarship, she continued her education at the State University of New York in Buffalo, NY, where she received an MFA in 1999. Porter returned to Kansas City for a teaching position at the Kansas City Art Institute and began showing her work in galleries across the country. Kelly Porter's work has been described by critics as "unique, composed and calming, with layered and labor intensive surfaces."

As a full-time professional artist, Porter has simultaneously produced work for multiple solo exhibitions, as well as creating and running the successful textile and wall covering company, Porter Teleo.

Her honors include being named as one of the "21 Under 30 Top Artists to Watch" in 2004 by Southwest-Art Magazine, "Top Visual Artist" in 2006 by Kansas City Magazine, a "Merit Award for Best Product Design" from Interior Design Magazine, 2008, and a number of editorials in Architectural Digest, Elle Décor, Vogue, Town and Country, Women's Wear Daily, Veranda, Metropolitan Home, House Beautiful, Spaces Kansas City and IN Kansas City Magazine for her surface design work for Porter Teleo.

Kelly Porter's personal contemporary artwork can be seen in private and corporate collections nationwide, including: Poetry and Rare Books Collection of New York, NY, Utilicorp, KC, MO, Sprint Corporate Collection, Overland Park, KS, Brandmeyer Enterprises, LLC, Leawood, KS, Shook Hardy and Bacon, KC, MO, Houlihan's Restaurant Corp, Chicago, IL, American Century, KC, MO, and other public spaces including New York Fashion Week VIP Lounge, the Greenville Symphony Auditorium and the New York Palace Hotel Lobby. She has received numerous accolades in the art and design community and was recently honored as a guest speaker at the Creative Leadership Symposium through Hallmark, KC, MO.

Porter lives and works in Kansas City. She has been represented by Blue Gallery in the Kansas City Crossroads Arts Districts since 2000.

Curriculum Vitae

Education:

1999 Master of Fine Arts, with concentration in printmaking and philosophy, State University of New York, Buffalo, New York
1997 Bachelor of Fine Arts, with concentration in printmaking and philosophy, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri
1995 Undergraduate Courses, with concentration in film production and editing, North Lake College, Dallas, Texas
1994 Independent Study Abroad, with concentration in visual art and writing (visual studies abroad for 1 year in Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Belize, and Costa Rica), Kansas City Art Institute

Exhibitions:

2024 **Atomic Flowers 25 Years of Subjects**, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2021 **Atomic Flowers and Parabolic Meaning**, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2017 **Atomic Flowers and Sound Stories**, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2015 **Blankets and Brambles**, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2010 **Pattern Noise/Soft Control**, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2009 Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis City Wide Open Studios, Saint Louis, Missouri
2009 **Preservation of Site Memories**, Solo Exhibition, Elizabeth Rozier Gallery, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
2007 CADD Contemporary Art Dealers of Dallas Inaugural Art Fair, Three Three Three First Avenue, Dallas, Texas
2008 **Works On Paper**, Park Avenue Armory, New York, New York
2007 **The Inauguration of Kind Aspects**, Solo Exhibition, Valley House Gallery, Dallas, Texas
2007 **Here and Now: Kansas City Regional Prints**, Leedy-Vouklos Art Center, Kansas City, Missouri
2007 Art Chicago, art fair, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
2006 **Works on Paper**, Park Avenue Armory, New York, New York
2006 McNay Print Fair, The Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas



Kelly Porter

Prairie Village, KS

2006 **Kelly Porter Solo Exhibition: New Works**, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2005 **In Collaboration**, Joscelyn Himes and Kelly Porter, Blue Gallery Kansas City, Missouri
2004 50th Anniversary Exhibition, Valley House Gallery, Dallas, Texas
2004 **Flourish, Jenny Becker and Kelly Porter**, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2004 **Works on Paper**, Park Avenue Armory, New York, New York
2004 Art Chicago, art fair, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois
2003 Beaux Arts Ball, Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Dallas, Texas
2003 **Kelly Porter Solo Exhibition: Etudes**, Valley House Gallery, Dallas, Texas
2002 Big Orbit 10th Anniversary for New York State Non-Profit Galleries, Anderson Gallery, Buffalo, New York
2002 **Beyond the Lines: Maura Cluthe & Kelly Porter**, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2002 **Abstraction**, McLaren Markowitz Gallery, Boulder, Colorado
2001 **New Works by Kelly Porter, Solo Exhibition**, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2001 American Century, Corporate Permanent Collection Exhibition, the Dolphin Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2001 **Prints and Plants**, Group Exhibition, The Morgan Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri
2001 Prints & The Lawrence Lithography Workshop, The Untitled Gallery, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
2000 Opening Exhibition, Aardvark Gallery, curator Elisa Hughey de Orbe, Ellicottville, New York
1999 MFA Exhibition, S.U.N.Y. Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, curator Al Harris
1999 **The Privileged Instant**, Solo Exhibition, Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo, New York
1997 **Ephemeral**, Solo Exhibition, the Dirt Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri, curator Leo Esquivel
1996 **Sexual Identities**, Group Exhibition, Curator China Marx, Painting Gallery, K.C.A.I., Missouri

Awards and Honors:

2008 Best Product Design Merit Award, "En Plein Air Wallcovering," **Interior Design Magazine**
2006 "Best Visual Artist," **Kansas City Magazine** "Best of 2006"
2004 "Best Artists in the Country Under 30 To Watch Now", **Southwest Art Magazine**
1999 Mark Diamond Grant, Visual Art Grant Award, New York State
1999-1997 State University of New York, Buffalo, Teaching Fellowship Award, Visual Arts Dept.
1999-1997 State University of New York, Buffalo, Full Tuition Scholarship Award, Visual Arts Dept.
1996-1995 Kansas City Art Institute, Dean's List, top Academic Achievement

Press:

"Schone des Sudens," **AD Germany**, June 2014
"Brushstrokes," **Elle Décor**, May 2014
"Triple Threat," **Lonny**, Oct 2013
"Bridgett Cochran and Kelly Porter On a Roll," **Modern Luxury Interiors**, Dallas, TX, Oct 2013
"Bonesteel Trout," **Interiors Magazine**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept 2013
"Painted Perfection," **Spaces Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, Aug 2013
"Drama Queens," **M the Magazine** for Kansas City Moms, April 2013
"Gathered Around the Living Room," **Architectural Digest**, April 2012
"Glamorous Wallcoverings," **House Beautiful**, Oct 2010
Trend Setters," **Elle Décor**, June 2010
"Favorite Things," **Town & County**, Jan 2010
Porter Teleo Profile, **California Homes Magazine of Architecture-the Arts & Distinctive Design**, Feb 2009
"Hardware," **Veranda**, May, June 2008
"House Proud," **Vogue**, Jan 2008
"Porter Teleo Redefines Art in Wallpaper," **Kansas City Star**, April 2008
"Local Color," Q&A with Kelly Porter and Bridgett Cochran, **Kansas City Star**, January 2008
"Best of Year" Design Merit Award, **Interior Design Magazine**, Nov 2007
"Regional Printmaking Review," **Review Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, March 2007
"Wall Art," **Spaces Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, January 2007



"Best and Brightest," **KC Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, 2006 (Kelly Porter voted Best Visual Artist in Kansas City by the readers of KC Magazine)
"All in the Family," **Colorado Homes**, Mount, March 2006
"Trip the Light Fantastic" **Southern Accents**, Jan/Feb 2006
"Tweet Dreams," **Metropolitan Home**, January 2006
Proof is in the Paper," **KC Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, 2005
"Wall's Treats," **HFN**, Fairchild Publications, 2005
"Great Wall of China," **Interior Design**, 2005
"Wall Flowers," **Women's Wear Daily**, Fairchild Publications, New York, Aug 16, 2005
"Wonder Wall," **People Newspapers**, Dallas, Texas, June 2, 2005
"Wall or Art?" **D Home**, Dallas, TX, June 2005
50th Anniversary Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Valley House Gallery, Dallas, TX, March 5 – 27, 2004
"Three at Morgan, Prints & Installation," **Review Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, 2002
"Becoming Paintings – Depicting Process," **Review Magazine**, Kansas City, MO, 2002
"Exhibition Illustrates Causes & Effects," **Kansas City Star**, 2002

Teaching & Occupation:

2014 – Guest Speaker, Creative Leadership Symposium, Hallmark Cards Kansas City, MO
2005-present: Founder and Co-Owner, Porter Teleo L.L.C., Designing & Manufacturing Hand-Printed Wallcovering & Fabric
2005 – present Internship Program through Porter Teleo: Supervise, Teach and Employ Interns and Students in the Arts from the following schools: Kansas City Art Institute, Southern Methodist University, University of Texas, Oklahoma University, Washington University, University of Chicago, and University of Missouri Saint Louis.
2007 Southern Graphics Printmaking Conference, Guest Panelist
2001-2003 Adjunct Professor, Kansas City Art Institute, Painting/Printmaking Department
1997-1999 Adjunct Professor, State University of New York, Buffalo, Painting/Printmaking Department

Collections:

Greenville Symphony, Municipal Auditorium and City Hall, Permanent Public Installation, TX
Mediflex, Corporate Permanent Collection, Kansas City, MO
Nodaway Valley Bank, Corporate Permanent Collection, Maryville, MO
Missouri Bank, Corporate Permanent Collection, Kansas City, MO
Hallmark, Corporate Permanent Collection, Kansas City, MO
Sprint, Corporate Permanent Collection, Overland Park, KS
Poetry and Rare Books Library, Amherst, NY
UtiliCorp, Corporate Permanent Collection, Kansas City, MO
Shook, Hardy & Bacon Law Firm, Corporate Permanent Collection, Kansas City, MO
American Century Companies, Corporate Permanent Collection, Kansas City, MO
Waddell & Reed, Corporate Permanent Collection, Overland Park, KS