

KELLY HEUSS

ARTIST/DESIGNER

Davenport, FL 33837
kelly.l.heuss@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- M.S. Themed Experience
University of Central Florida
Expected Graduation May 2022
- B.S. Botany & Plant Pathology
Michigan State University / 2000

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Scenic and Hand Painting
- Airbrushing
- Blacklight Painting
- Color Matching
- Water- and Solvent-Based Paints
- Animatronic Figure Finishing
- Lay-Up, Painting & Repair of Urethane, Fiberglass & Silicone
- Hair Punching
- Fur & Feather Work
- Molding and Casting
- Basic Sewing and Pattern Making
- Special Effects Makeup
- Adobe Creative Suite including Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign

OTHER SKILLS

- Leadership & Training Experience
- Safety Representative
- Working on limited time frames
- In-the-field repairs and problem solving
- Effective communication
- Understand the importance of theming and storytelling in a theme park environment
- Work easily with art directors, management, peers & clients.
- Member of IAAPA and TEA

WORK EXPERIENCE

Creative Design Intern

Universal Creative - Orlando, FL

2022

Work with the park-wide themed finishes team to design and document scenic finishes for the construction of new theme park. Work with art directors to develop and document scenic paint techniques and colors based on concept renderings both in-shop and in the on-site sample yard. Select paint colors for interior and exterior projects based on concept renderings. Color concept renderings to reflect design intent of art directors and IP holders.

Owner

Puttin' On The Glitz - Perrysburg, OH

2008-2016

Uniquely Inviting - Davenport, FL

2020-Present

Design custom invitations, tags, labels and bridal stationery for customers worldwide. Design logos, advertising media, and signage for various businesses. Handle all in-house marketing including digital catalogs, print and web ads, e-mail newsletters, signage, and more using Adobe Creative Suite. Design and maintain Wordpress-based websites and blogs. Handle all social media accounts.

Figure Finish Technical Trainer

Universal Studios - Orlando, FL

2018-2021

Redesigned the on-boarding program and coordinate the training for new hires. Conduct on-going skills and safety training sessions for current team of about 50 artists and technicians. Compile documentation to write and edit Standard Operating Procedures for Universal Studios attractions and animatronic figures, including new attractions. Work with coordinators to update preventative maintenance documents and color call-outs. Serve as department safety representative to maintain and improve safe, OSHA-approved work conditions in the department and on job sites.

Figure Finish Artist

Universal Studios - Orlando, FL

2016-2018

Creation, preventative maintenance and repair of hard and soft animatronic skins, props and show sets. Coordinated projects to restore the Flight of the Hippogriff nest and Dr. Doom's Fearfall themed show action doors at Islands of Adventure. Partner with other departments to efficiently complete projects. Work both in the shop and out in the field. Assist with on-the-job training of new team members and current team members on new procedures. Fill-in lead position as needed to assign work, troubleshoot problems, prepare pass-down reports and support team members. Served as department safety representative to maintain and improve safe, OSHA-approved work conditions in the department and on job sites.

Marketing Director

Toledo Pride - Toledo, OH

2010-2016

Volunteered as the marketing director for the Toledo Pride Festival from its inception in 2010. Designed and produced all marketing materials, advertisements, posters, merchandise and a Wordpress-based website. Handled all social media accounts. Grew the festival from a first year attendance of about 2,000 to a 2016 attendance of over 25,000.

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WORK EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Figure Finish Artist

LifeFormations - Bowling Green, OH

2009

Finish high-quality silicone animatronic figures using a wide variety of techniques including working on armatures, hair punching, airbrush and standard painting techniques, and costume design, selection and distressing for attractions worldwide. Skilled in painting latex, silicone and fiberglass. Supply sourcing, selection and ordering. Assist with company project scheduling and management.

Advertising Design Director

Toledo Free Press - Toledo, OH

2008-2010

Design ads, page layouts, and eye-catching cover illustrations using Adobe Creative Suite for weekly newspaper. Design in-house marketing materials. Work closely with both sales and editorial staff. Design proposals for prospective advertisers and prototypes of new publications. Major clients include auto dealers, grocery stores, home furnishing and appliance stores, entertainment venues and more. Supervise summer design interns.

Graphic Designer

Century Marketing - Bowling Green, OH

2007-2008

Design and format vector and raster images for a wide variety of custom promotional products. Exceptional skills with Adobe CS3 for PC and Mac. Prepare designs for digital offset, flexographic, and thermographic printing processes. Effortlessly handle a high volume of daily projects.

Prepress Graphic Designer

Toledo Blade - Toledo, OH

2006-2007

Design and layout advertisements for a wide variety of clients. Graphic and logo design. Image retouching. Major account experience includes large auto dealers, real estate agencies, and home decor. Adobe Creative Suite for both PC and Mac platforms. Excellent adaptation to high-volume, deadline-oriented design projects.

Figure Finish Artist

KX International - Apopka, FL

2006

Employ a wide variety of techniques for finishing silicone and fiberglass animatronic figures for attractions worldwide, including Rainforest Cafe and Great Wolf Lodge. Fur, feather and hair work. Airbrush and hand painting. Costume design, creation, selection, and distressing. Sculpting of new hands and feet for gorilla animatronics. Vacuforming.

Character Head Painter/Working Foreman

Walt Disney World - Lake Buena Vista, FL

2004-2005

Responsible for maintenance and repair of character costume pieces while maintaining Disney's strict standards of character integrity. Train new artists in proper techniques and procedures. Spearheaded effort to streamline shop processes, increase efficiency, and update all reference and documentation materials. Develop and instruct airbrush training classes for Creative Costuming and Cosmetology. Provide on-site support for Disney On Ice at Lakeland, FL training facility.

Gardener/Topiary Specialist

Walt Disney World - Lake Buena Vista, FL

2000-2004

Responsible for creating and maintaining topiaries for the Walt Disney World Resort throughout all steps of the process. Concept art for horticultural displays and revisions to steel rebar frames. Selection of plant material. Layout of designs and colors. Planting and daily maintenance of plant material. Experimental trials with different materials and techniques. Partnered with Walt Disney Imagineering and Walt Disney Feature Animation to improve the character integrity of the topiaries. Compiled a massive documentation library of references, frame information, and historical references of the topiary collection, which numbered nearly 200 individual figures.

Full Portfolio and References Available Upon Request