

KELLY HEUSS

ARTIST/DESIGNER

(407) 616-0567 • Davenport, Florida

kelly.l.heuss@gmail.com

www.kellyheuss.com

EDUCATION

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

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Airbrushing and Hand Painting
- Water- and Solven-Based Paints
- Animatronic Figure Finishing
- Lay-Up, Painting & Repair of Urethane, Fiberglass & Silicone
- Hair Punching, Fur & Feathers
- Basic Sewing and Pattern Making
- Special Effects Makeup
- Color Matching
- Adobe Creative Suite including Photoshop, Illustrator & InDesign
- Procreate
- Concept Design & Illustration
- Training Program Development
- Documentation & Archiving

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

Animatronics and Scenic Art

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 Epic Universe. 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.

Scenic Artist, Roundtable Productions • Winter Garden, FL 2021-2023

Design, fabricate and paint a variety of props and scenic elements for themed attractions, sporting events, special events, and non-profits. Work with art directors and clients to achieve their visions while staying within tight budget and time constraints. Projects include rockwork, oversized props, miniatures, and immersive, interactive experiences.

Figure Finish Technical Trainer, Universal Studios • Orlando, FL 2018-2021

Redesign the on-boarding program and coordinate training for new hires. Conduct on-going skills and safety training sessions for team of 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.

Figure Finish Artist, Universal Studios • Orlando, FL 2016-2018

Figure Finish Artist, LifeFormations • Bowling Green, OH 2009

Figure Finish Artist, KX International • Apopka, FL 2006

Creation, preventative maintenance and repair of hard and soft animatronic skins, props and show sets including work with silicone, fiberglass, urethane, fur, feathers, hair, costumes, and props. Scenic art and murals. Project management, coordination and scheduling. 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.

Character Head Painter, 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.

Graphic Design and Illustration

Owner, Uniquely Inviting • Davenport, FL 2020-Present

Owner, Puttin' On The Glitz • Perrysburg, OH 2008-2016

Design custom invitations, stationery, illustrations, and business marketing collateral for customers worldwide. Design vector graphics for in-house laser-cutting. Laser-cut a wide variety of gift and promotional items for individual and corporate clients.

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WORK EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Advertising Design Director, Toledo Free Press - Toledo, OH **2008-2010**
Prepress Graphic Designer Toledo Blade - Toledo, OH **2006-2007**

Design ads, page layouts, and eye-catching cover illustrations using Adobe Creative Suite for 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. Excellent adaptation to high-volume, deadline-oriented design projects.

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 Creative Suite for PC and Mac. Prepare designs for digital offset, flexographic, and thermographic printing processes. Effortlessly handle a high volume of daily projects.

Show Artist, Walt Disney World - Lake Buena Vista, FL **2004-2005**

Trained by Walt Disney Feature Animation and Disney Design Group as a character artist. Facilitated interactive guest experiences at the Disney/MGM Studios "Animation Academy", teaching guests the basics of animation and character art. Additionally, facilitated the Disney Youth Education Series half-day "The Magic of Disney Animation" program for visiting school groups.

Special Effects Makeup

Makeup Artist, Universal Studios - Orlando, FL **2003-2004, 2016, 2023-2024**

Lead Makeup Artist, Toledo Ballet - Toledo, OH **2015-2016**

Owner, Air-O-Dynamic Design & Production - Orlando, FL, Perrysburg, OH **2006-2016**

Makeup Artist, Ocean Park - Hong Kong **2005**

Design and apply a wide variety of special effects character makeups with water and alcohol-based products. Prosthetic application. Mask painting and maintenance. Wig styling and maintenance. Face and body painting. Events include Halloween Horror Nights, Ocean Park Halloween Bash, The Wizard of Oz, Alice in Wonderland. In addition, provided freelance makeup, face and body art services at special events, private parties, and fundraisers.

Horticulture

Gardener/Topiary Specialist, Walt Disney World - Lake Buena Vista, FL **2000-2004**

Plant Science Intern, Walt Disney World - Lake Buena Vista, FL **1999**

Responsible for creating and maintaining topiaries for the Walt Disney World Resort. Concept designs for horticultural displays and revisions to steel 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 documentation library of references, frame information, and historical references of the topiary collection, which numbered nearly 200 individual figures. Interned at Epcot's Land Pavilion. Plant propagation using hydroponic systems and integrated pest management best practices. Facilitated Gardens of the World and Behind the Seeds tours, as well as ladybug and butterfly releases as Dr. L. Bugg during the Epcot Flower and Garden Festival.

Full Portfolio and References Available Upon Request