

Kelly Birkenruth

Kelly Birkenruth's captivating paintings are in the style of contemporary realism while staying firmly grounded in the tradition of the Old Masters. She is able to pull the viewer into her paintings by interweaving emotion with a humanistic quality through her supreme handling of light. Through her portraits and still lifes she is able to evoke sensitivity and empathy, which in turn allows her to create images which transcend mere representation to capture the true essence of her subject. Kelly's arresting compositions, draftsmanship, use of color and observation of detail allow her to create paintings with a timeless quality.

After earning her degree from Pennsylvania State University, Kelly moved to southern California where she began a career as a fashion model. Her agency soon sent her abroad to Paris and Tokyo, where she spent the next several years modeling. When she wasn't walking the runway, she spent endless hours in the great museums of the world, closely observing and studying the works of the Old Masters. *"My time abroad, particularly in Paris, opened my eyes to the vast beauty and power of a great painting. After that I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to the pursuit of Fine Art"* said Birkenruth. After returning to the States, Kelly studied at Otis College of Art in Los Angeles, CA. She then continued her studies through workshops and private study with renowned artists such as Daniel Sprick, Steven Assael and Jesus Emmanuel Villarreal.

Her paintings hang in public and private collections and have been exhibited at many galleries and museums including MEAM Barcelona, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Rockwell Museum, Tucson Desert Art Museum, Mystic Museum of Art and New Britain Museum of American Art. She has won awards from prestigious organizations such as Art Renewal Center, Salmagundi Club, American Women Artists, Artists Magazine and Portrait Society of America.