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Check out Kelly Lynn Jones's Artwork



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Today we'd like to introduce you to Kelly Lynn Jones.

Every artist has a unique story. Can you briefly walk us through yours?

I have been making art since I could hold a crayon and really see being an artist as a way of life. It is how I view and navigate the world. I also have always seen making art as something we can do together. Collaborating and community have been a huge focus for me in my adult years. After graduating from undergrad, I started an arts organization, Little Paper Planes. It started out as an online shop to sell the ephemera my friends and I were making at the time in 2004 but grew to be so much more. Beyond being a shop, I curated shows, published books and prints, did special collaborations, hosted classes, and so much more.

However, the most special part for me was running an artist residency program from 2013-2018. It was such an honor to give artist space to think and create. I closed my business in July 2018 which was bittersweet, but time for me to move on to the next evolution in my life. I was living in San Francisco and moved to Los Angeles at the end of July and started teaching art in an elementary school last August. I realized that I wanted to share my knowledge and experiences with our kids and help guide them to explore art and creativity. It has been so rewarding as an artist and as a mother. My art practice has shifted many times over my life so far, but definitely slowed down in the last few years when I had my son. Finding a balance between motherhood, artist, and work life has been a challenging, but also has informed how I make work.

Please tell us about your art.

My art education has always been rooted in painting so even when I create sculptures, installation, or video I am still coming to the work with the sensibilities of a painter. My work has always revolved around objects. I especially have had an obsession with the things in old photos. This might be due to the passing of my dad when I was young and only getting to know him through the handful of photos I have of him. I have studied those photos many times and it gives me insight on what his day was like, life was like by what was on the table, the walls, what he was wearing, etc. Those things create a narrative whether it is a truth it doesn't really matter; it's my own story I create with that limited information.

I am fascinated with what fills our homes and studios and how they create a certain identity of "who we are". This is one perception and is a judgment on face value, however, some truth or insight of who an individual is does lie within the objects that they own. We create relationships with the things we buy, receive from another or make. Objects inherently tell stories whether they are utilitarian or art, so as the viewer we create our own idea of a place or person by what fills the place. Remaking, these objects, extends a connection with the objects, the place, and the people even if it is indirectly.

Currently, I am looking at 19th-century interior paintings. These are paintings of wealthy people who had painters document their rooms, places they visited, or if they just had a room redecorated. In a sense, it was an early Instagram where people wanted to show off their well-curated rooms of glamour and wealth. I find it interesting that these are not true representations of the actual rooms, but an artists interpretation of them. I wonder how things in the painting may have been altered or are true to the original space. What information was added or lost? I also love that paintings are our only view into how life was lived before the invention of photography. We view history through the lens of the painter.

I am looking at these interior paintings and highlighting objects from them and repainting them. They live on in a new context without the room they originally belonged. Right now I have just created small paintings but will most likely make larger pieces to create paper installations.

All the above is the why I make work, but I really just hope viewers of my create their own stories from my pieces.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing artists today?

Personally, my challenge is time. I think money will always be a constant struggle, but time is so hard to find when you are a working mother and artist. I had a hard time in these three years of motherhood in terms of feeling like I was failing in some way that I didn't have enough time to make work or not having a show. I was feeling somewhat invisible as a mother in the art world. However, in the last year I have felt empowered and realized that being a mom isn't something to hide nor is it a weakness. If anything my son has been such an inspiration and I feel grateful for him. Also since moving to Los Angeles, I have met so many amazing artist/mothers and really feel lucky there is such a great community of women here.

How or where can people see your work? How can people support your work?

Right now I am finishing a small group of paintings that will be on view at The Wing in Los Angeles.

For current work: [instagram.com/kelly_lynn_jones](https://www.instagram.com/kelly_lynn_jones)

www.kellylynnjones.com

Contact Info:

- **Website:** www.kellylynnjones.com
- **Email:** misskellylynnjones@gmail.com
- **Instagram:** [kelly_lynn_jones](https://www.instagram.com/kelly_lynn_jones)



