

A Little Bit About...

# KELLI FOLSOM



Raised in the panhandle of Texas and southeastern Oklahoma, Kelli Folsom's love of creating art began as a young girl spending her free time drawing and copying other artist's work on the floor of her childhood bedroom. "I always found drawing to be a source of peace and joy. It was not merely an enjoyable activity, but a place inside of me that I could go anytime as long as I had pencil and paper."

The inspiration she received from her grandmother's paintings and drawings, as well as other artists, coupled with her inherent desire to create, planted a seed that would later lead her to studying art full-time.

Kelli received her B.F.A. from Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts in 2011. She has also studied at the Gage Academy and under artists: Sherrie McGraw and Leah Lopez. In 2011, she was a recipient of the John F. and Anna Lee Stacey Scholarship through the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Since graduating she has been teaching adult group and private lessons and exhibits her work in museums and galleries throughout the country. Kelli's passion for "old masters" like: Rubens, Rembrandt, Velasquez and the joy she takes from in depth life study strengthens her work as a young emerging artist. Her greatest pleasure is being in the studio painting and sharing learning experiences with other artists.

In response to the question "What keeps you committed to the path of an artist?" Kelli says, "This is how I choose to understand and explore this life and I am gratefully rewarded in growth every day. I hope that others will be able to experience the beauty that I have perceived."

Kelli is now scheduled to teach classes at the Kemp Center for the Arts, and we are excited to have her!