

Kelly Wainwright

Cape Town, South Africa

510-846-2170 (US via WhatsApp) | +27714649864 (South Africa)

kellywilderwainwright@gmail.com | <http://www.kellywainwright.com>



OBJECTIVE

As a multidisciplinary artist with over two decades of experience in visual arts and creative production, I am currently expanding my practice into immersive installation and sensory-based experiential work, while continuing to deepen my abstract painting. My creative language is rooted in intuition, play, and disruption—whether on canvas, in space, or through collaborative performance.

I am drawn to what exists *outside the lines*: scribbles, textures, colors, and compositions that emerge from gut instinct rather than rigid concept. My process invites the unexpected, often dancing between absurdity and intimacy, ritual and chaos. Recent installation projects build upon years of visual research, notebooks, photography, and ephemeral sketches, now coalescing into large-scale, participatory experiences.

This work invites others into the wild and tender spaces I've long inhabited—whether through pigment or pink foam, gospel choirs or mirror barns. Across media, my goal remains the same: to create moments of aliveness, permission, and reawakening.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visual Artist & Conceptualist

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS

*Recent Work, **Bottled Energy***

- Returned to a new chapter with my paintings, with an emphasis on abstract works using acrylics and mixed media on canvas and paper, exploring the intersection of intuition, color, composition, and throwing all caution to the wind.
 - Developed a new series of mostly large-scale paintings, experimenting largely with scribbling & gestural marks, pushing the boundaries of abstraction and play.
 - Currently connecting and aligning with galleries and collectors with a variety of canvases and works on paper in tow.
 - **Currently Showing a portion of my BOTTLED ENERGY series at INK BOX Gallery, Kalk Bay, Cape Town.**
 - **Upcoming show at Chardonnay Deli, Constantia, Cape Town, September**
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ABSTRACT WRITINGS

*Recent Work, **B Wilder***

- Wrote a book “by accident”!
 - Blogs and vlogs accumulated over the years including the occasional haiku.
 - While simultaneously dabbling with a screenplay in 2023, about 30 poems “came through”. They seemed to sync well with the previous writings.
 - The culmination of works is a book of poetry, **B Wilder**, & is available soon on Amazon for purchase.
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INSTALLATION

*Work in Progress, **KinK***

- An accumulation of years of installation visuals in my head come-to-life, involving 5+ different installations all on the same desert farm-site, or similarly juxtaposed context.
- The installations involve models, live music, bright fabric, paints, & more. It is an interactive installation on an old farm or similarly juxtaposed context.
- Currently connecting and aligning with patrons & potential collaborators.

INSTALLATION

Work in Progress, Too Much/Not Enough

- A 5-part immersive installation series exploring relief, addiction, and consumer rituals through oversized candy, pill mounds, pink toilets, and peanut butter chaos.
 - Each space engages visitors with absurdity, scale, and emotional nostalgia—confronting wellness culture through sculptural environments and sound.
 - Currently seeking institutional partnerships and production collaborators.
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MOVEMENT LAB

Currently Offered Workshops & classes, MoFlo, FloMo

- A unique class formed after many years of release technique dance & an immersion with Carole Amend in the **AIM pilates** technique.
 - The classes emphasize gravity, relaxation, using our bones, & sinking deeper into our skin. The work marries contemporary dance conditioning with AIM pilates, resulting in a playful, nurturing, & strengthening class.
 - MoFlo is a play on words for Movement & Floorwork. FloMo is integrating the same principles into the visual arts.
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INSTALLATION & PHOTOGRAPHY

Play Jump Eat (2009–2011), Cape Town, South Africa

Visionary, Conceptualist, Art Director, & Producer

- Conceptualized and produced a large-scale, multimedia photography project in Cape Town, bringing on board 4 local photographers (**Inge Prins, Charley Pollard, Antonia Steyn, Saul Wainwright**), featuring over 100 models, including

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and acclaimed local-band **Freshlyground**, receiving global recognition.

- The project was featured in **Elle Decor**, **Oprah Magazine**, and many other local and international publications.
- The project was highly praised for its bold conceptual approach and diverse representation.

EXHIBITIONS & COLLABORATIONS FOR PLAY JUMP EAT:

- **Infecting the City**, Cape Town, South Africa, Feb. 2010, chosen artist for prestigious festival in week-long experiential exhibitions around the CBD
- **Exposure Gallery**, Cape Town, South Africa, May 2010
- **Misael Art Space**, Cape Town, South Africa, June 2010
- **Olympia Cafe**, Cape Town, South Africa, 2010
- Proactive planning initiative for PJE auction with **Complete Events**, for 300 seats at **Groot Constantia**, 2010
- Interview with the **Danish Library Association**, Copenhagen (via Skype), 2010
- **Repped by The Imaginarium**, Cape Town, South Africa (2010)
- Collab with **Amelia John Photography** on USA Bed Jump shoots, Madison/Pardeeville, WI area, 2012
- **Presenter at Pecha Kucha**, San Francisco, 2012

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS FOR PLAY JUMP EAT:

Magazines:

- **Elle Decor Magazine** (Feature on “Play Jump Eat” project), 2/2010
- **Oprah Magazine (South Africa)** (Feature on “Play Jump Eat” project), 7/2010
- **Design Indaba Magazine** (2-page spread), 2/2010, during the Design Indaba Expo
- **Itch Magazine**, Multiple Issues
- **Top Billing** (use of images, 2010)
- **City Views Magazine**, 9/2009
- **021 Magazine**, 4/2010
- **Golden Arrow German Magazine**, First Issue, “2010 South African Fever”

- **British Airways In-flight Magazine** (Horizons, 2/2010)

Newspapers:

- **South African Art Times**, 2010
- **Daily Voice Newspaper**, 2010
- **Sunday Independent Newspaper**, 2/2010
- **Mail & Guardian Newspaper**, 2/2010
- **Cape Argus Newspaper**, Front Page of Tonight Section, 2010
- **London Paper**, “The South African”, 2010
- **Die Burger Newspaper** (1/2010)

Online News Platforms:

- **OkayAfrica**, 2011
- **Cape Town Creatives Interview**, 4/2010
- **IOL.co.za**, 2010

Blogs:

- **TheFreedom2BMe Blog**, 2/2010
- **Crafty Muslimah Blog**, 4/2010
- **Aesthetics of Joy Blog**, 4/2010
- **Life is Savage Blog**, 2/2010
- **ifor1.co.za Blog**, 2010
- **Misael Space Show**, 2010 (Featured “Best of July” in Cape Town Creatives Blog)
- **Cape Town Daily Photo Blog**, 2010
- **Design Indaba Blog**, 3/2010
- **Creative Cape Town Blog**, 1/2010
- **Vanessa Rafaely, Editor of Cosmopolitan Mag SA, & Editorial Director of Oprah Mag SA, Blog**, 5/2010
- **Sussigkeiten Blog**, 6/2010

- **Rachelwcole.com Blog**, summer 2010

TV:

E-TV, 2/2010

Published Books:

- **Oxford University Press Southern Africa: Grade 9 Arts & Culture Textbook**, Feb. 2010
- **Print: Fashion, Interiors, Art by Simon Clarke**, Published by Laurence King, Feb. 2014

ARTS-BASED EVENTS COMPANY

Messy Monkey Arts (2004–2010), San Francisco Bay Area

Founder, Creative Director

Messy Monkey Arts was a creative experiential-events company that specialized in original, out-of-the-box ideas. Their clients ranged from **Global Business Network**, **Eventbrite**, & **Google**, to name a few. The company curated playful and inspiring experiences, including:

- **Teambuilding:** Created dynamic, immersive group experiences combining a playful lens on art (e.g., painting with brooms and toilet plungers) in unique settings (think urban bouncy ball races and throwing paint on rooftops amidst live music), culminating unexpectedly into their own gallery shows and boardroom exhibits, leaving them with a refreshed sense of life and work.
- **CRE8:** Curated successful fundraising events involving 8 artists, 8 canvases, and 8 minutes of painting each, culminating in a high-energy art auction and raffle involving a DJ and large crowds.
- **Party in a Box:** Created a DIY package of interactive, art-based exercises, including original Messy Monkey games, like “Musical Canvases,” with a

recorded soundtrack by the MMA team, produced by Frank Zincavage (of **Romeo Void**) to guide participants through their creations.

- **Mobile Recess:** Co-founded and organized “Mobile Recess,” with “**Das Frachtgut**” where groups were transported in a trendy bus for spontaneous, “messy-monkey-like” games during lunch breaks.
- **Experiential Events:** Everything from somatic movement workshops, outside-the-box parties (birthday/engagement), travel curation, & photography gigs also sprung out of the platform.

PRESS & PUBLICATIONS FOR MESSY MONKEY ARTS:

- **Eventbrite Blog**, 7/2011
- **Oakland Local** (summer 2010)
- **SF Gate**, 6/2010
- **The Oakbook**, 11/2008
- **Oakland North**, 11/2008
- **The 510 Report**, 11/2008
- **Biz Bash**, 11/2007

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Guest Artist/Movement Workshop, Bridges for Music**, Langa, Cape Town, RSA, 2020
- **Installation/Photography collaboration with Paige Green Photography**, Petaluma, CA, 2008

PAINTINGS 1.0 (2001-2005), San Francisco Bay Area

*Past Work, **Pink Ladies***

- Fell into a painting career from whimsical mixed-media signs made for **Rainbow Orchards**, shown at the SF Bay Area Farmer's Markets. They were known for their bright energy & sophisticated use of color.
- Had a plethora of shows in the area selling a significant number of paintings, eventually pushing the boundaries out of the original works on paper in fun frames to large-scale acrylic paintings on canvas. The evolution of the paintings abstracted a bit, but stuck with a fruit/veg/flower theme.
- **Scouted** by Rockwell, **Sense Fine Art**, Woodside, CA, 2002
- **Represented Statewide**, **Lyssa Morgan Gallery**, Florida (2004)
- **Acceptance for Grant Fellowship**, **Vermont Studio Center Fellowship**, Johnson, VT (2003)

EXHIBITIONS & SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR PAINTINGS 1.0:

- **A substantial number of shows** in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, 2001-2005
- **Collective show** by resident artists, **Lyssa Morgan Gallery**, Tampa, Florida, 2004
- **Commissioned Mural**, private residence, Cape Town, RSA, January 2003
- **Commissioned Painting**, **Traci's Gourmet Granola**, Oakland, CA, Winter 2003
- **Commissioned Large-Scale Paintings**, **Monterrey Market**, Berkeley, CA, Spring 2003
- **Guest Artist/Speaker**, **Island High School**, Alameda, CA, Fall 2003
- **Conceptual design** for future indoor market, **Agricultural Institute of Marin**, San Rafael, CA, 2005
- **Commissioned design illustrations** for print, **Blue Lotus Bags**, Santa Cruz, CA, 2005
- **Commissioned Mural/Lettering**, **Namaste Yoga Studio**, Truckee, CA, 2011

EDUCATION

Bachelor's of Interior Architecture,

Thesis: Designed a Movement Therapy Center

University of Oregon, 2000

Minored in Architecture and Art History (with a near-minor in Dance).

National Honors Society

Study Abroad:

- **Danish Institute for Study Abroad** (Copenhagen, Denmark, Summer 1999)
- **Fackelbararnas Bibelskola** (Sweden, 1992-1993)
- **Ebenhaezer Youth Hostel** Internship, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (March, 1993)