

## **Kevin Curry Biography**

Born in Mt. Kisco, New York in 1960 Kevin Curry was raised overseas where he was exposed to multiple countries and cultures (Puerto Rico, South Africa, Australia) before returning to the United States in 1978. He attended the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit MI, where he earned his BFA in Graphic Design in 1983.

After working as an Art Director in New York and Philadelphia, Kevin started his own Graphic Design business in 1991, specializing in digital editorial illustrations. Throughout his career Kevin continued his artistic pursuits outside of the commercial field and in 2005 retired his business and entered the Sculpture program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL where he received his MFA in 2008. While attending SIUC, Kevin had the honor of being a Visiting Artist /Lecturer at Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA.

In the past two years, Kevin's work has been exhibited nationally at the Target Gallery, National Exhibition Space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA, the University of Missouri in Columbus, MO, White Flags Project Gallery in St louis MO and Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt Vernon, IL, as well as a recent solo exhibition in the University of Central Arkansas' Baum Gallery in Conway, AR.

In fall 2008, Kevin accepted an artist residency at the Lawndale Art Center in Houston TX where he currently lives.

## **Idea Fund**

### **Project Description for 'Housewarming'**

*Housewarming* consists of an oversized quilt that will be tailored to cover the outside of an entire house here in Houston, a metaphorical and physical embracing of the present by the past. It will be constructed out of donated and purchased second hand fabrics and sewn following a traditional 'log-cabin' pattern that has been enlarged fourfold.

The presentation of this work brings together the spectacle, the exhibition and the individual as well as community involvement, while moving art out of the confines of the gallery and into the public eye. In transferring importance onto an everyday structure and the lives of those involved, I believe that the ramifications of this project will move far beyond its physical manifestation.

Much of my interactive work addresses concepts of language and history through the use of materials that reflect the looked over, passed over and discarded aspects of society. *Housewarming* creates a dialogue reflective of history and familial bonds in which lives are nurtured by what came before them. The social aspect of a quilting-bee is mirrored in the personal connections that form as this work comes together and the reuse of fabric invokes quilting's traditional roots of making do with what you have on hand. The act of covering, as with a quilt, is not to hide but to embrace and comfort.

While I will attempt to secure volunteers, public and school based advertisements will be placed for people to work on this piece, for which they will be paid on a 'per panel' basis. In the past, this has amounted to an intermediate sewer making more than minimum wage, which is an important issue in raising public awareness of the arts and creative pursuits in general. The labor of ones hands should be rewarded and in doing so, create both a sense of pride and self-worth. In addition I have secured temporary additional space at Lawndale Art Center where I can set-up areas for cutting and sewing and will have sewing machines on hand. I have found in the past that the scale of this project alone entices people to become involved and I hope to move beyond merely supporting local artists to also focus on supporting the community in general.

As of yet, I have not secured a property to serve as a substructure for this work, but this in no way will hinder any progress, as individual panels still need to be constructed regardless, (although the final size and shape will be determined by the chosen house). I am hoping that in meeting those involved I will become connected with individuals that would be willing to have their home serve this purpose.

This is a piece that I began on my own over two years ago and brought with me when I relocated to Houston in September 2008. With over 950 square feet already completed and the financial assistance of this grant, I anticipate completion by summer 2009, with the final display date and duration being weather dependent.

I trust you will look favorably upon this proposal and enable this work to be finally realized.

Sincerely,

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