

## **Kiel Johnson**

b. 1975, Kansas City, MO

Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

### **Website**

[www.kieljohnson.com](http://www.kieljohnson.com)

### **Education**

2001 MFA, Drawing & Painting, California State University Long Beach, CA

1998 BFA, Sculpture & Drawing, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

### **Solo Exhibitions**

2018 Prepping for the Edge, Paul Kopeikin Gallery, Culver City, CA

2017 Laser Focus, Lunder Art Center, Cambridge, MA

South Island Field Notes, Christchurch Art Museum, Christchurch, NZ

NASA Star Fleet, Houston Space Center, Houston, TX

2016 Garden Variety, Orange County Fair Arts Pavilion Featured Artist, Costa Mesa, CA

2014 *Walldayallday*, Mark Moore Gallery, Culver City, CA

2011 *One Thing Leads to Another*, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA

2010 *New Work*, Davidson Contemporary, New York, NY

2009 *Publish or Perish*, Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

2008 *New Work*, Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

*The Awesomist Tomorrow*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY

*The Awesomist Tomorrow*, POVevolving Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2007 *Friction Ain't Fiction*, Irvine Fine Art Center, Irvine, CA

2006 *LO-FI*, Raid Projects, Los Angeles, CA

## **Two Person Exhibitions**

- 2018 Pairings w/ Andrew Shoultz, Denk Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 Big Idea: New Work by Kiel Johnson & Abel Alejandro, Doyle Art Center, Costa Mesa CA
- Kiel Johnson & Mark Dean Veca: New Works, Jaus Gallery, Santa Monica
- 2011 *Kiel Johnson & Cordy Ryman: Construct*, Mark Moore Gallery, Culver City, CA

## **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2019 Hand-job, Lava Projects, Alhambra, CA
- 2018 Earthly Delights, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA
- Paperworks: Re-folded, Brea Gallery, Brea, CA
- 2016 Vitality and Verve, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA
- Spoke Gallery Group Show, curated by Nathan Spoor, Spoke Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Extra-Ordinary Things, Biola University, La Mirada, CA
- 2015 6H to 8B, Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 *Watchman*, Torrance Art Museum, Curated by Max Presneill, Los Angeles, CA
- Draft Punk*, Autonomie Gallery, Curated by Kio Griffith, Los Angeles, CA
- Art Watch, Young Careers SB to Greater LAGreater*, Westmont College Art Museum, Santa Barbara, CA
- Ducks*, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013 *Palette to Palate*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA
- Luddite Fallacy*, Summer Camp Project Project, Los Angeles, CA
- OC Curator Challenge: Amy Grimm*, Orange County Great Park Gallery, Irvine, CA

- Still Living Through Living Stillness, Mix-Media Arts Gallery, Long Beach  
CA
- Copyrights*, University of Laverne Law School, Los Angeles, CA
- 2012 Paperless, The Southeast Center of Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem,  
NC
- Obscured Lines: Contemporary Drawing in Los Angeles*, Valley College  
Art Gallery, Valley Glen, CA
- 2011 *New Image Sculpture*, The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
- 2009 *Drawing Itself: A Survey of Contemporary Practice*, Brattleboro Museum  
and Art Center, Brattleboro, VT
- 2008 *This End Up: The Art of Cardboard*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose,  
CA
- Systems Theory*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA
- Narrations*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY
- Ground Us*, Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, CA
- 2007 *Atmospheric Conditions*, Architecture and Design Museum, Los Angeles,  
CA
- True Métier: Call For Entries '06-'07*, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts  
Forum, Santa Barbara, CA

### **Collaborative Community Projects**

- 2020 Everyone's a Winner, The Williston Northampton School, Easthampton,  
MA- the entire student body will be asked to build a large scale cardboard  
trophy for something they are passionate about. We will attempt to build the  
largest trophy case in the world. A select team of students will work as a team to  
shoot video project. Ages 14-18
- 2019 Yekaterinburg City Days Parade, Yekaterinburg, Russia- Week  
long collaboration to build and organize a three block long parade  
completely with cardboard and creativity and collaboration. 500+  
participants
- Everyone's an Architect, Strelka Center, Moscow, Russia- 50 participants  
came together to build a Russian city of the future with simple

materials. We then shot video in the village and a stop motion sequence. Adults

Creativity Extractor, Yeltsin Center, Yekaterinburg, Russia- Collaborated with 30 young people to build a sculptural walk in full body scanner machine that extracts the creative juices of its patients and stores the energy in batteries for artist collective, Cardboardia to use at a later time for a different project. All ages

Collaborative Community, Worldz Conference, Long Beach, CA- Worked with 150 conference participants and the support of VANS to build the creative spaces of our imagination with shoe boxes and simple materials. Together we assembled a 10' geodesic dome collaborative community sculpture complete with landscaping and hand painted roads connecting all the structures. Adults

See Monster, Sea Monster, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach CA- Asked participants to use colored clay to create anything they might find in the ocean. The results were photographed and then digitally manipulated to insert the creatures into beach scenes shot from a museum viewing platform. All ages.

Time Lapse Rocket Launch, Buckley School, Los Angeles, CA - Collaborative workshop with 50 4th grade students. Each was challenged to build a spaceship that represented them or the future of space travel. We then shot a stop motion film with the ships flying thru space and entering a black hole. 4th graders

Flight Simulator, Orange County School for the Arts, Santa Ana, CA - week long collaborative flight simulator cockpit building project. Full student body in Fine Art Dept. Entire community was invited to help create anything that might find itself useful on the flying machine of your imagination. 400 participants ages 14-18

Getty's Dragons, Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA-Three dragons were constructed to interact with young people to highlight the Medieval Beasts exhibition. All ages.

Largest Paper Cactus Garden on the East Coast, Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Springfield, MA. Large scale cactus sculptures and multiple paper flowers with a stop motion video element, shot in one day and built over one week. ages 14-18

Super Bloom, New Roads School, Santa Monica, CA - large scale cactus sculptures and multiple paper flowers with a stop motion video element all shot in one day and built over six weeks. ages 14-18

2018 Full Cardboard Orchestra, LA Phil, Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA. I constructed each instrument in cardboard and invited the public to come on stage and pick the instruments and pretend to play. You could also stand on the podium and pretend to conduct. All ages line around the building but mostly kids 2-14 with parents

Toy Wooden Boats and Costumes, Fogo Island Inn, Nomadic School of Wonder, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, CA - I organized a toy boat workshop with materials foraged on the island and invited the community to make them with me. We then shot video of the boats in the waves and smashing into rocks.

Desert Barrel Raft, College of the Desert, Palm Springs, CA. - One week collaborative sculpture of a 1940's era old dumb barrel raft with all the trimmings. 200 students and two instructors. Ages 15-22

Percy Jackson Celebration, Getty Villa, Los Angeles, CA - I created multiple large scale cardboard sculptures and wearable props for kids of all ages to interact with and take photos with. Ages 7-15

2017 Lesley Art and Design Art Car Parade & Videography Workshop, Cambridge, MA - One week collaboration with 300 undergraduates and five graduate students to build model vehicles for a stop motion art car parade. I built a model of the school and the surrounding buildings on Massachusetts avenue.

South Island Field Notes, Christchurch Art Museum, Christchurch, NZ - community wide collaboration to build anything that might inspire visions of the South Island landscapes. ie: flowers, trees, cabins, historical markers, and camping gear. I created a hot-air balloon basket hanging from the ceiling dropping in through the clouds

The Oneida - Annenberg Beach House, Santa Monica, CA - week long collaborative yacht building project. small team on the ship and entire community was invited to help create anything that might find itself in the pacific ocean. 200 participants

Handmade Aquarium, SEA/ART Festival, Mariana Del Rey, CA - one day community wide collaborative workshop that asked the participants to make and draw ocean life that you might find in the pacific ocean.

Garden Variety, Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, CA - community wide 30 day collaboration to build the largest hand-made paper garden. All ages

NASA Star Fleet, Houston Space Center, Houston, TX - collaborated with 700 science teachers and all the families and school groups that came to the center over the course of a week to build their version of a spacecraft

2016 Solo Squadron, Costa Mesa Community College, Costa Mesa, CA - one week collaborative sculpture of a 1940's era single engine crop duster with all the trimmings. 200 students and five instructors.

Traffic School, Viewpoint Academy, Calabasas, CA - One week collaboration with 1200 students k-12 to build a detailed world together. We then shot a short film in the set we built on the weekend with the film students

Sweet Fleet, University of New Castle, New Castle, AUS - Collaborative

workshop with 40 students. Each was challenged to build a ship that represented them. We then shot a stop motion film with the ships in the streets of New Castle.

*Animated Adjectives*, Crossroads School, Santa Monica, CA - Three week long collaboration with the community of the school to build and animate 3-D adjectives that describe themselves.

2015 *Prairie Schooner Project*, Weber State University, Ogden, UT - Week long collaboration with the University Community to build sculptural, life sized covered wagon, loaded with gear

2014 *Animal Mask Workshop*, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA -Utilizing templates to facilitate individual projects, participants trace basic components and customize their artwork.

*Sweet Fleet*, University of Minnesota, Milwaukee, MN -Week long collaboration with the University community to build a sculptural, tall ships project.

2013 *Sovereign Nation of You Workshop*, TEDActive, Palm Springs, CA - Utilizing hundreds of templates, attendees were invited to envision a flag that represented them; flags were displayed across the public square for the duration of the conference.

*Ransom Note Project*, Heart of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA - Collaboration with middle and high school students to create 3D cut-out lettering of HOLA's mission and value statement.

*Remodel The Getty Center*, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA -A scale model of the Getty Center was built and the public was invited to participate in remodeling the architectural wonder; in conjunction with *Overdrive: L.A. Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*.

*The Crowd Sourced Sentence Lab*, Adobe Max, Creativity Conference, Los Angeles, CA -Participants were invited to construct personalized 3D letters, to create a communal wall installation.

*Everyone's an Architect*, Heritage Museum and Gardens, Sandwich, MA - Community is invited to participate in the creation of a miniature city utilizing recycled materials to represent their personal landscape.

2012 *Getty Center, Mt Vesuvius Project*, Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA - Weekend long participatory art installation to celebrate the opening of, *The Last Days of Pompeii* exhibition.

*Everyone's an Architect Workshop*, TEDxChristchurch, Christchurch, NZ - Community is invited to participate in the creation of a miniature city utilizing recycled materials to represent their personal landscape.

*Everyone's an Architect Workshop*, TEDxAIain, AI Ain, UAE

- Everyone's an Architect Workshop*, TedxUSC, Los Angeles, CA
- Everyone's an Architect Workshop*, TEDActive, Palm Springs, CA
- Blow Up Your Drawings*, Eagle Rock Art Center, Los Angeles, CA - Participants made drawings on notecards and projected their images onto a 3x5' picture plane to create large-scale drawings.
- 2011 Bot Prom Costume & Videography Workshop, Cypress College, Los Angeles, CA -Collaboration with 40 students to create and customize robot costumes for a short-film; art direction Kiel Johnson.
- 3-D Monogram Project*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX -Participants were invited to construct 3D monograms using recycled materials.
- 2009 Mask Workshop, Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA - Utilizing templates to facilitate individual projects, participants trace basic components and then customize their artwork.
- 2008 Geodesic Dome Build Off, Santa Barbara Contemporary Art Center, Santa Barbara, CA -Day long workshop, K-8 students learn about the strength of the triangle, Buckminster Fuller, and build a large-scale geodesic dome.
- 2007 ArKIDtecture Geodesic Dome Building Workshop, Architecture & Design Museum, Los Angeles, CA -Day-long community workshop, participants learn about the strength of the triangle, Buckminster Fuller, and build a large-scale geodesic dome.
- Family Drawing Day Workshop*, Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, CA -Participants used gridding or projection of their small-scale drawings to create large-scale line drawings.

### **Visiting Artist Lectures**

- 2019 US Embassy, Moscow, Russia
- US Consulate, Yekaterinburg, Russia
- Yeltsin Center, Yekaterinburg, Russia
- Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia
- PROARTE Foundation, St Petersburg, Russia
- St. Petersburg Teen Center, St Petersburg, Russia
- CSU Summer Arts Keynote Speaker, Fresno, CA

2018 New Roads School, Santa Monica, CA  
Long Beach Museum of Art Lecture Series, Long Beach, CA  
Long Beach Museum of Art Members Lecture, Long Beach, CA

2017 Orange County School of the Arts, Santa Ana, CA  
TEDxChristchurch, Christchurch, NZ

2016 University of New Castle, New Castle, AUS  
Crossroads Art High School, Santa Monica, CA  
Long Beach Museum of Art Lecture Series, Long Beach, CA

2015 University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK  
Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA  
Weber State, Ogden, UT

2014 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI  
Memphis Art Institute, Memphis, CA

2013 Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA  
California State University Fullerton, Fullerton, CA  
California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

2012 TEDxChristchurch, Christchurch, NZ  
TEDxAIAin, Al Ain, UAE  
TEDxSanta Monica, Santa Monica, CA  
Mobile Roadie Inspire Series, Beverly Hills, CA  
University of Nevada, Reno, NV

2011 Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC  
McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX

2007 Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA  
Gallery C, Redondo Beach, CA



Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, KS

Guest Artist Lecture, Olathe South High School, Olathe, KS

### **Academic Appointments**

2006-2008 Part-time *Lecturer*, School of Art, California State University Long Beach, CA

2000-2011 Galleries Coordinator, School of Art, California State University Long Beach, CA

### **Notable Collections**

Beth Rudin DeWoody, Miami (FL)

University Of Kansas School of Business, Lawrence (KS)

Creative Artist Agency, Beverly Hills (CA)

Sprint World Headquarters, Kansas City (MO)

Fudge Factory Comics, Los Angeles (CA)

Todd Oldham, New York (NY)

Steve Martin, New York (NY)

### **Awards & Honors**

2019 US Embassy Speakers Program, Cultural Agent, Russia

2018 Art Collectors of Orange County 2018 Fellowship recipient

2017 Orange County Fair Featured Artist

2008 Pollock-Krasner Grant

2007 Durfee Foundation ARC Grant

## **Selected Bibliography**

- 2018 Gary Brewer, "Kiel Johnson, The Animated World of Everything," Art & Cake, Nathan Spoor, "Suggestivism," Paragon Books
- Mahairi Flett, "On the Paper Trail," GSM: Creative in Print
- "Meet Kiel Johnson," VoyageHouston.com
- 2017 "Kiel Johnson Reaches New Heights with Cardboard Aircraft," Strictly Paper
- 2016 Nadene Budden, "Coast to Coast, Country to Country; Connecting Artist Across the Globe," Yak: The Travel Issue
- "5 3/4 Questions w/ Kiel Johnson," AdobeCreative.com
- 2015 Paige Zeigler, "The Johnny Appleseed of Art," CreatIV Magazine
- Lori Zimmer, "The Art of Cardboard," Rockport Press
- "Crowd Sourced Cardboard Robots," HiFructose
- 2014 Eve Wood, "Pick of the Week," Artillery Magazine.
- Caro, "On View: Walldayallday at Mark Moore Gallery," Hi-Fructose.
- Imagine Architecture, "Artist Visions of the Urban Realm," Gestalten Press.
- 2013 New American Paintings, No. 109, Pacific Coast Edition, Open Studio Press
- Jane Kenower, "Artist Kiel Johnson and Crowd Sourced Dancing Robots," Hi-Fructose.
- 2012 TED 2012 Annual Report, Everyone's an Architect feature.
- Architecture, NZ, "The Cardboard Expert interview with Kiel Johnson," Opus Architects.
- Steven Matijcio, "Paperless," Southeast Center of Contemporary Art
- Thu-Huong-Ha "Kiel Johnsons Paper City on Vimeo," TED Active Truth or Dare
- Brock Batten, "Hyperbole Studios: Threaded," The Lucky For Some Issue, #13.

- Steven Matijcio, "Paperless," SECCA Press.
- Vivian Gatica, "Making Art Come to Life," Dig Magazine
- High Touch, "Tactile Design and Visual Explorations," Gestalten Press
- Sara Gates, "Paper City: Kiel Johnson Crafts Tiny Cityscapes from Scraps of Cardboard," Huffington Post.
- Phung Huynh, "Obscured Lines: Contemporary Drawing In Los Angeles," Artweek LA.
- 2011 Jamie Zollars, "Push Paper," Lark Press.
- Robert Hirsch, "Exploring Color Photography: From Film to Pixels"
- Leah Stoddard, "Kiel Johnson: One Thing Leads to Another," Taubman Museum.
- Barilleaux Rene Paul, "New Image Sculpture," McNay Art Museum, Marquand Books.
- Robert Hirsch, "Exploring Color Photography," From Film to Pixels, 5th edition, Focal Press.
- Ellen Caldwell, "We Have A Pulse," *New American Paintings Blog*.
- Shana Nys Dambrot, "Mark Moore Gallery: The Kids Are Alright," LA Canvas.
- Angela Ratzlaff, "Robot Prom Glances into Future Plans," The Cypress Chronicle.
- 2010 Janet Koplos, "Kiel Johnson," Art in America.
- Rebecca Seales, "My Work is Rubbish: The Artist That Creates Sculptures From Cardboard," Daily Mail
- Jennifer Pappas, "Kiel Johnson, Publish or Perish," Hi-Fructose Magazine, Vol. 14.
- Alysia Mazzella, "Kiel Johnson," 21-7 Magazine.  
"Interview with Kiel Johnson Creator of Cardboard Cameras," Photoxels.
- Travis Milliard, "Kiel Johnson Studio Visit," *Fecal Face Dot Com*.
- Jen Pappas, "Kiel Johnson's 8-bit Gary," Hi-Fructose Magazine.
- John Funk, "8-Bit Men Invade Real Life," The Escapist.

2009 Deborah Rockman, "Drawing Essentials," Oxford Press.

Leah Ollman, "Crafty with his Craftsmanship," Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, CA.

Christopher Miles, "Kiel Johnson at Mark Moore Gallery," LA Weekly, Los Angeles, CA.

Kris Wilron, "Kiel Johnson in Los Angeles," ArtInfo.

Sasha Lee, "Behind the Scenes at Kiel Johnson's Studio," Beautiful/Decay.

Annie Owens, "Publish or Perish: Kiel Johnson," Hi-Fructose Magazine

2008 Michael S. Gant, "Material World," Metro Active.

Daniella Walsh, "Ground Us Digs Deep in Huntington Beach," The Orange County Register, Santa Ana, CA.

2007 Greg Stacy, "Mighty Irvine Power Artist," OC Weekly, Orange County, CA.

New American Paintings, Pacific Coast Edition, The Open Studio Press.

### **Selected Workshops videos:**

Traffic School : <https://vimeo.com/249732765>

Flight Simulator: <https://vimeo.com/326680711>

Oneida: <https://vimeo.com/230388101>

Space Center Start Fleet: <https://vimeo.com/249674509>

Paper Metropolis: <https://vimeo.com/64654212>

Rocket Launch: <https://vimeo.com/205841953>

### **Selected commercial projects:**

Disney BTS w/ Kiel Johnson: <https://www.youtube.com>

TEDxChristchurch Letters: <https://vimeo.com/240276673>

Disney Sno-bots: <https://vimeo.com/264698413>

UBER Avoid the Blitz: <https://vimeo.com/265432088>

UBER Skip the Lot: <https://vimeo.com/264664999>

Roger TV Short Stack: <https://vimeo.com/16800457>

History THINGAMABOB Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/84258139>