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Kelly Herring Artist Statement

Kelly Herring
Old Dominion University

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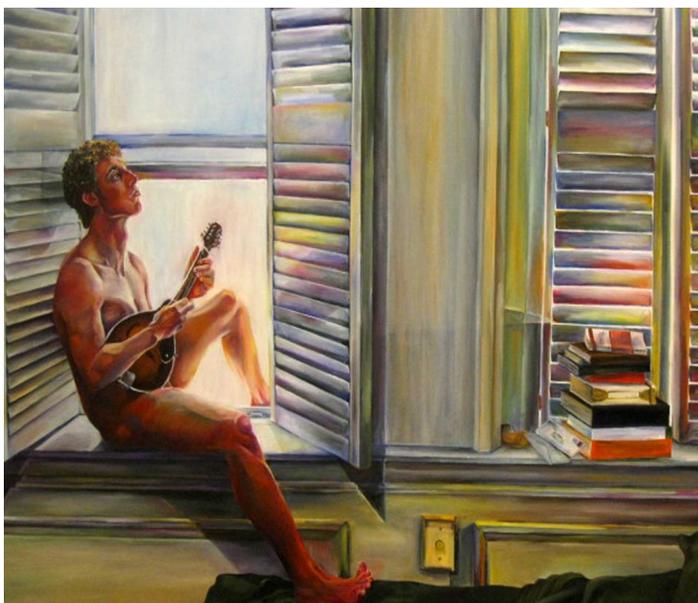
KELLY HERRING ARTIST STATEMENT

This series is about growing up and coming of age. All my work has a social and perhaps psychosexual content demonstrating relationships and how people cope with the world around them. My series is about surviving adulthood and dealing with all those unexpected situations that show you who you are and who you want to become. My paintings are about discovering oneself, making hard choices, and forgiveness for past mistakes.

I paint nudes because it causes my models to bear all. Clothes can be a way of hiding oneself, and I ask that my models take off that mask and show who they are underneath. I depict the person my models really are and try to stay true to their mindset and souls. My models are close friends, and they have grown with me. We are all at that scary age that is no longer childhood, but we still have a lot to learn about being adults. We have made many mistakes, some small and some life altering. Through

painful experiences
we are forced to ques-
tion our values and
belief systems and
through each other
we reclaim what we
have lost and grow
stronger.

I paint to
understand the world
around me. Paint-
ing is when I am most
honest with myself
and is a way of medi-
tating on my feel-
ings and intuitions. I
hope to take the
viewer to a time of un-
certainty, but also
one of growth and un-
derstanding. I paint
because at times we



are all lost and confused. I paint because we live in a world full of troubles but also full of love. I paint to reclaim my faith in humanity and in myself. I paint because we all make mistakes and we all need to be forgiven.