

BIO

Originally from Chicago, Kelly teaches art at Lusher Charter High School and has made her home in Mid-City, New Orleans with her 2 dogs and 9 chickens. Painted by hand with the assistance of a projector, her art centers on the tension between natural forces and systems, and the human tendency to subvert these systems. She received her MFA from Northern Illinois University and is currently a member of Baton Rouge Gallery, LA, and a recent member of The Front in New Orleans' St. Claude Arts District. She attends artist residencies whenever possible outside of her teaching, including such places as Hambidge, GA; Stone House, CA; Philadelphia Art Hotel, Dorland Mountain Art Colony, and a research trip to the Amazon Rainforest as a Surdna Fellow.

Artist Statement

A departure from my larger work of the last 3 decades, "End of Days" was a tongue-in-cheek response to the pandemic and other dark events of 2020 and 2021. Reimagined through the lens of the New King James bible Book of Revelations (as ingested through a K-12 Catholic school education), it becomes all too easy to adapt the rich symbolism of the end of days to our contemporary disasters. Re-written as REVELATIONS 2020, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse become cowgirls, the Seraphim, roller derby girls; and through them, with a dash of hope and dark humor, a new and peaceful matriarchy is borne of the End of Days:

"And ye, the women did rise and create a society anew, and lo! peace, love, and compassion did rule the earth."(Revelations 2020)

Through seemingly endless pandemic zoom meetings and hurricane Ida evacuation, work that once was borne in a separate studio space was scaled down and brought to the kitchen counter for Google Meet multitasking. Internet chatter, detritus captured alongside the transfer of imagery, has long been a nod to human distractibility and disconnect from nature. In 10 plagues, it is taken a step further, as each plague is paired with a zodiac horoscope to provide internet-ready, easily accessible alternative facts in context.

“Revelations 6:1-8 King James Version (Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse):

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.’

When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.”

Revelations 4:8 (The four Seraphim: Eagle, Ox, Man, Lion)

“And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within”

Revelation 8:10-11 (Wormwood)

The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.