

Biography

Kimberly Oakley is a visual artist focusing on fine art portrait photography.

In 2018 her portrait creation *Girl with Sword* won Best of Show in the professional category of the SC State Fair, notably being the first and only photograph to ever take that prize in the 150+ years of the fair. In 2019, *The Laborer* won the Blue Ribbon in Professional Photography, while *Girl with Wheat* won a Merit award for Professional Photography. In 2021, *Airborne* won the Blue Ribbon for Professional Digital Photography,

Her first solo art exhibition was held at Ramco Framing and Design in the summer of 2019, and showcased over 70 fine art portraits and still life photographs. In the Fall of 2019, she was part of a multi-artist show "Collections" at Rob Shaw Gallery on State Street, Cayce, SC. In September 2021, she also was part of a two-artist show of figurative work at the Rob Shaw Gallery in Cayce, SC. In November 2021, she was part of the gallery's "Fall Back Fest" multi-artist show. Her solo exhibition was displayed March 2022 at State of the Art Gallery in W. Columbia, SC.

Works by Kimberly have been exhibited at the Spartanburg Fringe Festival (2019) and the 701 Center for Contemporary Art's "Columbia Open Studios City Hall Exhibition" (2020).

In September 2020, her two entries into the Advanced Fine Art category were selected as finalists in the Augusta Photo Festival: *A Pause Before Resuming* and *The Bell*. Honorable Mention was awarded for *The Bell*. In December 2020, her two entries were juried into the Crooked Creek Art League's "Still Hopes Exhibition": *Airborne* was awarded the People's Choice ribbon and *High Tea* was awarded First Place for Photography.

Also, in 2020, her 70+ series *In the Time of COVID* was selected for display at The Koger Center for the Arts, the winner of their "1593 Project" call for art, exhibited April 5-August 13, 2021.

In January 2021, her artwork *High Tea* was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Art of Tea exhibition hosted by the Art League of Baytown, TX.

In March 2021, two of her art pieces, *In the Time of COVID* and *Winding Down*, were selected to hang in the Tuolumne County Arts In Focus photography competition, Sonora, CA. *In the Time of COVID* won 2nd Place in the "COVID Times" category.

In March 2021, *The Laborer* won First Place Photography in the Annual Crooked Creek Art League Competition. In December 2021, *The Bell* won First Place in Photography in the 4th Annual Still Hopes Art Exhibition with the Crooked Creek Art League. In March 2022, *Ashes* won Third Place Photography in the 2022 Crooked Creek Art League Juried Show (three pieces were juried into the show.)

Her image Pearls was selected to hang in PhotoSC's group exhibition: *Something Blue* April 2022.

March 2022, her solo show was featured at State of the Art Gallery in Cayce, SC.

Her art piece *In the Time of COVID* was selected to be a part of ArtFields 2022 in Lake City, SC.

Recently, her artwork was featured in The Jasper Project's July 30th online magazine. Her image, *Lady with Grapes*, was selected second place for advanced color photography in the 2022 SC State Fair.

Kimberly's art pieces are in private collections across the Southeast. Her artwork has been published internationally many times.

Incorporating sometimes fantastical themes, wardrobe and props, her photographs are often mistaken at first for oil paintings, due to their tones and aura. Hallmarks of her work are richness and whimsy. "It is my joy to create reflections that allow the subjects to see themselves in a familiar, yet new, light. I seek to transport the viewer to a different place and time that is still somehow well-known. In my art, I portray themes of quiet strength. The images have a peaceful calmness to them."

Kimberly is lead photographer and co-owner at Studio 3P, LLC in Irmo, SC. www.studio-3p.com

#PortraitsbyKimberly SC Arts Commission Registry # 327