

## Biographical Sketch

Kjellgren Alkire was born and baptized in Phoenix, AZ during the summer of 1976.

Raised in Phoenix' suburban East Valley, he studied for the ministry in Portland, Oregon and Saint Paul, Minnesota. Ten years after leaving the desert, he returned to his hometown to complete an MFA in printmaking at Arizona State University.

Currently, Kjel teaches drawing at Phoenix College and screen printing and gallery-related courses at Arizona State. Intentionally maintaining professional membership in both College Art Association and International Cowboy Ministers Network, he always enjoys chatting about art, risk and God.

He lives in a suburban condominium with two pug dogs, the redheaded daughter of organic dairy farmers and a toddler.

Blending printmaking, installation and performance art into a fictional cowboy preacher, Kjellgren Alkire explores contemporary religious rhetoric and the mythology of the American West. Through a series of ephemeral PR campaigns and interactive events, this fine art representation of an itinerant preacher's countrified revival ministry becomes The Jesus Rodeo.

His work questions traditional gallery structures by involving viewers as complicit participants in cowboy carnival games and as a congregation at performance art sermons. The work is humorous, sincere, sacred and profane, honestly attempting to embody the paradoxical structures of religion and rodeo.