



## KELLY KIRKHAM WORKSHOP

**DATE:** Sunday, September 20th, 2009  
**TIME:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (half-hour lunch break)  
**LOCATION:** Open Door Designs, 1597 Dupont Street, Toronto ON M6P 3S8  
**AGE GROUP:** Adults  
**COST:** \$120 (this includes all materials and pre-prepared puppet head)  
**INFORMATION:** • **email:** info@opendoordesigns.ca • **Tel:** (416) 531-1290

### Workshop Description

Through the use of common materials, participants will learn how to create their very own papier mâché animal hand puppet. Participants will first learn how to design and construct a puppet's head from papier mâché for comfort and durability. Then, choosing from a selection of premade animal puppet heads/arms supplied by artist Kelly Kirkham, you will learn how to paint and embellish your chosen puppet in a beautiful and expressive way. Fabric and trims will then be used to create your puppet's body. You will now be ready to create your own cast of characters for storytelling, plays and puppet shows. Papier mâché puppets can be made as simply or as detailed as you wish, with materials that are readily at hand.

### About Kelly Kirkham Puppets

Kirkham Puppets first began during the winter of 2001. Kelly Kirkham, a visual artist with a background in drawing, painting and sculpture, was on the hunt for a particular sort of hand puppet, one she remembered from earlier years, with a hard papier-mache painted head and soft cloth body. Unable to find any, she decided to make some herself, and Kirkham Puppets was begun. Kelly has been creating her puppets ever since, expanding into finger puppets, marionettes and rod puppets. Her puppets tend to be animals, particular favourites being rabbits, foxes and gazelles.

Kelly has found that her travels to Florence, Italy, though the Ontario College of Art and Designs Florence program, were particularly influential in her later foray into puppetry. She has also found much inspiration and support here in Toronto's growing puppet community. Kelly has shown her puppets throughout Southern Ontario, most recently at the One of a Kind Show in Toronto. You can find Kelly's puppets through shows or commissions, as well as at Open Door Designs and C1 Artspace in Toronto.

Kelly currently lives and works in Toronto with her partner, visual artist Brynley Longman.

**For more information about Kelly visit her Blog:** <http://kirkhampuppets.blogspot.com/>