

KEN KNAFOU

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Artist with over 20 years of experience in live caricature and illustration for theme parks, special events, personal commissions, professional illustration, and merchandise.

Key Skills

- Proficiency in a variety of traditional media, including airbrush and watercolor, and digital media, including Clip Studio Paint, Sketchbook and Procreate.
- Managerial expertise in problem-solving, mediation, training, mentoring, strategic thinking, and organization
- Extensive experience drawing in fast-paced environments, such as theme parks, trade shows and events.

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Illustration - University of Central Florida

1996 to 2001

Professional & Relevant Experience

Artist, Fazen Ent. - Universal Studios, FL

2011 to Present

Create quality artwork specific to each guest's individual taste in a timely and efficient manner with strong customer service skills. Work within a team of artists to make art used for marketing the caricature stands.

Supervisor and Artist, Fazen Ent. - Universal Studios, FL

2016 to 2022

Oversee the onsite operations of multiple caricature locations within the Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure parks. Ensure that all locations meet park standards and are efficiently operable, including repair and maintenance of all equipment. Supervise and train 25-30 artists on their technique, customer service, and other areas relevant to daily operations for drawing caricatures in a live setting. Work highlights include collaborating with the owner and park management for establishing a new digital art location with appropriate logistical considerations concerning hardware, software, and digital art assets for sales in 2021-2022; negotiating for pricing adjustments, which led to an increase in sales by 20% in 2019; developing team-building activities to promote artist morale; and redesigning signage and marketing materials to increase visibility.

Owner and Artist - AutoTooned

2018 to Present

Create custom artwork and prints; manage marketing and social media presence; and oversee business operations for live drawing at events, online commissions, and merchandise.

Volunteer Artist - Superhero Project

2018 to Present

Design and illustrate characters, collaborate with a team of artists and coordinators for artist outreach, and co-host live drawing events to teach art to children with special needs.

Sales and console repair, Play 'n Trade - Orlando, FL

2009 to 2011

Sales associate and video game console repair at retail store.

Artist, Kamans Art - Sea World, FL

2002 to 2009

Serve park guests in a retail setting drawing live caricatures.