

April Kelly Biography

April Kelly was working for PayPal before they were PayPal, laying the foundation and building the company from the ground up.

In her next role, as the senior director of customer operations at LinkedIn, she would be placed in the center of another dot com revolution: professional networking. She started, staffed, and unlocked the door to the customer service center for LinkedIn in Omaha in late 2006. Today, the office supports over 100 million LinkedIn users worldwide.

April is a firm believer in networking to build a personal brand. As with her first book, *Gratitude at Work: How to Say Thank You, Give Kudos, and Get the Best from Those You Lead* (also from WooHoo Press at www.WooHooPress.com), she practices what she preaches. Her professional life is supported and has advanced by quality networking. And her personal brand makes a strong statement about her and her contributions to the workplace and to the community at large.

Resources for April Kelly:

Follow April's latest muse at her blog site: <http://gratitudeatwork.wordpress.com/>.
Visit her website: www.woohoopress.com.

Her acrylic artwork can be seen at one of these galleries: Springfield Artworks (www.springfieldartworks.com) and the Seven Arrows Gallery (www.7arrowsgallery.com).

Her Professional Guide is available here: www.linkedin.com/in/aprilkelly.





Submitted Photo

April Kelly of Gretna created these two pieces of art and they, among nearly 25 pieces, will be on display at the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha from Feb. 16 to March 15.

Not afraid of bold colors

By Emily Fink

Breeze Editor

April Kelly knows about networking and she knows about managing employees. The Gretna resident and author of the book "Gratitude at Work: How to Say Thank You, Give Kudos and Get the Best From Those You Lead," printed in 2009, knows firsthand because of her career and motherhood.

She once worked as the program director for LinkedIn Live at LinkedIn and for PayPal.

But now Kelly is exploring a new area as an artist. She said she got into painting artwork by accident. It was a hobby and an outlet to express feelings.

"As I started painting, friends would come over and say, 'Wow, I really like this,'" Kelly said.

In the last 16 months Kelly has been painting and creating



artwork and later this month between 25 and 30 pieces will be on display at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha. "Art is Life" art exhibit will be up from Feb. 16 to March 15.

Kelly describes her artwork as full of life, energy and bright colors which rejuvenates the senses and elicits a smile. Kelly works with acrylic on canvas

and uses a special finish to give the work the illusion of a glass coating.

"The best compliment one of my paintings can bring is a smile," she wrote in an artist's statement.

Kelly said she has no formal painting training beyond high

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