

Amy Wilderson is a Minneapolis-based visual artist who employs jewelry as her primary platform. Using metalsmithing, wire-working, and knotting techniques, her work taps into memory, culture, and heritage by reviving forgotten treasures (orphan earrings, broken dishes, souvenirs, etc.) along with surplus or discarded items (computer elements, bra underwires, vintage glass Mardi Gras beads) and reclaimed metals, connecting them to gemstones that are associated with myth, power, and healing to create wearable, living stories.

She is the recipient of several grants, residencies, and fellowships, most recently from the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Midway Contemporary Art through the Andy Warhol Foundation, the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind & the Kennedy Center Access/VSA, the Sanneh Foundation, Minnesota Humanities Center at the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery, Minnesota State Arts Board, and Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Her jewelry has been featured in exhibitions at Fresh Eye Gallery, Viewpoint Gallery, Friedli Gallery & Studio, Northside Artspace Lofts Gallery, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Amy is on the COMPAS teaching artist roster and specializes in Artful Aging. She is a member of the SistaSmiths jewelry artist collective, the Black In Jewelry Coalition, the Metalsmith Society, and the Northside Artspace Lofts community. Amy earned a BA in communication from Tulane University.

Experience

Jewelry Artist

Amy A Jewelry (formerly Amy Cousin Jewelry) - Minneapolis, MN
February 2012 - present

Teaching Artist

Artful Aging, Adults, Access Arts, Arts In Healthcare, High School, Middle School, Upper Elementary
COMPAS - St. Paul, MN
January 2022 - present

Speaker, Panelist, Artist Talk Moderator

Speaker and Panelist, Tulane University Black Alumni Weekend, February 2024 - New Orleans, LA
Judge and Speaker, White Bear Center for the Arts Northern Lights competition, February 2024 - White Bear Lake, MN
Featured Artist Talk, Arts Roseville, January 2024 - Roseville, MN
Artist Talk, White Bear Center for the Arts, January 2024 - White Bear Lake, MN
Artist Talk Moderator for *An Artist Talk with seangarrison*, October 2023 - Northrup King Building, Minneapolis, MN
Speaker, Book Release Reading, *Our Personal Stories in Resilience*, June 2023 - Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
Artist Talk, *Visual Arts Fund Recipients*, June 2023 - Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis, MN
Artist Talk Moderator for *Beverly Tipton Hammond: Femme Noir a Paris*, April 2023 - Tipton Hammond Arts, Minneapolis, MN
Artist Talk: *Revolutionary: The Feminine Perspective, 50 and Beyond*, March 2023 - Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
Artist Talk Moderator for *Loretta Day: Black History 365*, February 2023 - Northside Artspace Lofts, Minneapolis, MN
Featured Speaker, Tulane University Alumni Career Development Series, February 2023 - New Orleans, LA

Teaching Artist in Residence

Minneapolis Institute of Art - Minneapolis, MN
January 2024 - present

Teaching Artist in Residence

The Sanneh Foundation - St. Paul, MN

August 2023 - October 2023

Lead Artist

Headscarf Story Circle: The Promise

Minnesota Humanities Center - St. Paul, MN

August 2023

Contributing Artist

Unpacking Our Histories: Embracing Hope and Resilience

Saori Weaving project and exhibition with Kimberly Laudert - Minneapolis, MN

July 2023 - November 2023

Arts Organizer, Lead Artist

Jewelry Making from the Magnolia Grove: Arts Impact Project

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council - St. Paul and Minneapolis, MN

April 2023 - present

Lead Artist Organizer

Visual Arts Fund: *Revived Treasures, Living Memories*

Midway Contemporary Arts - Minneapolis, MN, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts - New York, NY

December 2022 - present

Collaborator, Teaching Artist

Wise, Gifted, and Black: resin jewelry-making workshops for a project led by Nicole M. Smith and funded by

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council - St. Paul, MN

August 2023

Teaching Artist In Residence

Thanks, I Made It! An Intro To Wire Work Jewelry Making, Minnesota State Academy for the Blind - Faribault, MN,

funded by The Kennedy Center VSA Program, Washington, DC

July 2023

Contributor, Lead Artist

Woven: A Film by the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery

Minneapolis, MN

March 2023

Lead Artist Organizer, Curator

Works In Progress: 30 Creatives of Northside Artspace Lofts

Northside Artspace Lofts Gallery - Minneapolis, MN

February 2023 - May 2023

Juror, Workshop Teaching Artist

Emerging Young Artist Juried Art Exhibition 2023

COMPAS in collaboration with St. Paul School Districts - St. Paul, MN

December 2022 - March 2023

Teaching Artist, Project Organizer

Cultural Heritage and Community Identity Residency at the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery

through a teaching artist grant award from the Minnesota Humanities Center & COMPAS - St. Paul, MN

October 2022 - August 2023

Contributor, Writer

Our Personal Stories in Resilience: Poetry + Art

collaboration with Kimberly Laudert - Minneapolis, MN

October 2022 - June 2023

Artist in Residence
Stay Home Gallery & Residency, Paris, TN
2022 October

Model
Award-winning Multicultural ad campaign (billboards and posters) for MN non-profit healthcare plan UCare
UNO Branding cross-cultural design agency - Minneapolis, MN
September 2022 - present

Contributing Artist
Womenfolk Healing Through Creative Objects workshop series with artist Susan Armington - St. Paul, MN
September 2022 - present

Teaching Artist in Residence
The Golden Agers of Rondo, memory jewelry-making workshops for a project led by Nicole M. Smith and funded by Metropolitan Regional Arts Council - St. Paul, MN
July 2022 - September 2022

Lead Artist
Community Quilt Project, Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery - Minneapolis, MN
May 2022 - January 2023

Teaching Artist
Revived Treasures Memory Jewelry; Intro to WireWork; Upcycled Jewelry
White Bear Center for the Arts - White Bear Lake, MN
April 2022 - present

Teaching Artist
Make Something Beautiful; Memory Jewelry; Intro to WireWork; Upcycled Jewelry
PrimeLife Arts Learning - Minneapolis, MN
April 2021 - June 2023

Teaching Artist
Making and Sharing Memory Through Original Jewelry
Twin Cities Public Television/Next Avenue - St. Paul, MN
May 2021 - Jan 2022

Exhibitions and Events (partial list)

2023 November: Featured Artist, Star Studios at Children's Hospital, Minneapolis, MN
2023 October - January 2024: *Yulemart Exhibition*, Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
2023 October: Contributing Artist, *Unpacking Our Histories: Embracing Hope and Resilience Through Weaving*, Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
2023 October: Featured Artist, *Woven: A Film By The Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery*, Twin Cities Film Fest, Minneapolis, MN
2023 August: Contributing Artist, *A Peace of My Mind - Photography of John Noltner* exhibition, Northside Artspace Lofts Gallery2, Minneapolis, MN
2023 June: Book Release and Reading, *Our Personal Stories in Resilience*, Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
2023 June: Featured Artist, *Midway Contemporary Art Benefit Art event*, Minneapolis, MN
2023 February - May 2023: *Works In Progress: Creatives Of Northside Artspace Lofts*, Northside Artspace Lofts Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
2023 February - 2023 March: *REVOLUTIONARY: The Feminine Perspective, 50 and Beyond*, Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

2023 January - 2023 February: *Amy A Jewelry Exhibit*, Friedli Gallery and Studio, St. Paul, MN
 2023 January - 2023 June: *Community Quilt Exhibition*, Minnesota African American Heritage Museum & Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
 2022 November - 2023 January: *20 Artists 2 Galleries Exhibition*, a collaboration between Viewpoint Gallery and Friedli Gallery & Studio, St. Paul, MN
 2022 November - 2023 January: *Yulemart Exhibition*, Fresh Eye Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
 2022 November: *Holiday Crafts Event*, Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
 2022 November: *Featured Artist*, Crafty Hands Club Magazine, Chicago, IL
 2022 October: *Exhibitor with the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery*, American Craft Council Craft Made event, St. Paul, MN
 2022 September: *Jewelry exhibit and Artist Talk, The Golden Agers of Rondo*, Springboard for the Arts, St. Paul, MN
 2022 August: *Artist Residents Exhibition and Market*, Northside Artspace Lofts, Minneapolis, MN
 2022 July: *Open Streets Franklin Avenue*, Springboard For The Arts, Saint Paul, MN
 2022 June - September: Lead Artist, *Site Activation*, Springboard For The Arts, Saint Paul, MN
 2022 May- October: Lead Artist, *Community Quilt Project*, Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
 2022 May - June: *Root Restore Reimagine Women's Retreat 2022 Virtual Marketplace*, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel Productions, Saint Paul, Mn
 2022 May - *Artist Talk and Exhibit*, White Bear Center For The Arts, White Bear Lake, MN
 2022 March: *Community Artists' Exhibit*, Northside Artspace Lofts, Minneapolis, MN
 2021- present: *Ready Made* virtual exhibit, Springboard For The Arts, Saint Paul, MN
 2020-21: *Foot In The Door 5: The Virtual Exhibition*, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

Grants and Awards

2023 BIPOC Artist Fund Cohort, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
 2023 Arts Impact for Individuals grant, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, St. Paul, MN
 2023 Creative Support for Individual Artists Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN
 2023 Cultural Heritage and Community Identity Grant, MN Humanities + COMPAS, Saint Paul, MN
 2022 Visual Arts Fund grant, Midway Contemporary Art and Andy Warhol Foundation for Contemporary Art, Minneapolis, MN
 2022 - 23 Teaching Artist Residency, Hamline Hi-Rise, COMPAS, St. Paul, MN
 2022 Site Activation Award, Springboard For The Arts, Saint Paul, MN
 2022 Fellow, UBS x Luminary-NYC, New York, NY
 2022 Creative Support for Individuals Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, Saint Paul, MN
 2021 Get Ready Grant, CERF+ (Craft Emergency Relief Fund), Montpelier, VT
 2021 Creative Support for Individuals Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, Saint Paul, MN

Press

- "Meet Amy Wilderson - What if you hadn't pursued a creative path?"
Featured Artist Interview in CanvasRebel Magazine, October 26, 2023
<https://canvasrebel.com/meet-amy-wilderson/>
- "She's More Than An Artist - Amy Wilderson Is A Powerhouse And This Is Her Story".
Interview on the [Be Inspired Podcast](https://www.francescadurham.com/podcast/episode/19c7e3f2/shes-more-than-an-artist--amy-wilderson-is-a-powerhouse-and-this-is-her-story), May 8, 2023
<https://www.francescadurham.com/podcast/episode/19c7e3f2/shes-more-than-an-artist--amy-wilderson-is-a-powerhouse-and-this-is-her-story>
- "The Revolution Is Female: A glimpse into the exhibit celebrating the art of women over 50", DISPATCH MSP news, Issue #20, March 2023 <https://www.dispatchmsp.com/the-revolution-is-female/>
- "Professional Development Series: Navigating A Career Shift Successfully with Amy Wilderson (NC '85) Minneapolis-based Jewelry Artist". Tulane University Office of Alumni Relations, New Orleans, LA, February 1, 2023 <https://youtu.be/t05qBemv49k>
- "Check Out Amy Wilderson's Story", VoyageMinnesota Magazine, February 2023

<https://voyageminnesota.com/interview/check-out-amy-wildersons-story/>

- Amy Wilderson featured artist, Crafty Hands Club Magazine, November 16, 2022
https://www.instagram.com/p/CkPDhjyMy43/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- “It’s All In The Wrist”, by Amy Wilderson, PrimeLifeArtsLearning.org, May 25, 2022
<https://primelifeartslearning.org/2022/05/25/its-all-in-the-wrist/>
“A Guide to Giving New Life to Old Jewelry”, by Julie Pfitzinger, NextAvenue.org, August 31, 2021
<https://www.nextavenue.org/guide-make-jewelry/>
- “The Joy of Jewelry Making”, by Julie Pfitzinger, NextAvenue.org, July 1, 2021
<https://www.nextavenue.org/jewelry-making-amy-cousin/>

Education

2023 eCommerce Intensive, Springboard for the Arts, St. Paul, MN
2022 I.D.E.A. Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity for All training, Black In Jewelry Coalition & Ethical Metalsmiths
2021 Art-Train Individual Artist Training, Springboard for the Arts, St. Paul, MN
2021 Universal Design for Learning, PrimeLife Arts Learning, Minneapolis, MN
2021 Remote Teaching Artist Training for Creative Aging, Aroha Philanthropies (E.A. Michelson Philanthropy)/Lifetime Arts/Minnesota State Arts Board, Minneapolis, MN
2019 Teaching Artist Training in Creative Aging, Aroha Philanthropies(E.A. Michelson Philanthropy) Minnesota State Arts Board, Minneapolis, MN
1985 BA in Communication, Tulane University, Newcomb College, New Orleans, LA

Related Experience

2023 Minnesota State Arts Board Accessible Arts Grant Advisor
2023 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant Review Panelist
2023 Contributing Writer, *Our Personal Stories in Resilience* Project with Kimberly Laudert, Lead Artist
2022 Contributing Writer, Crafty Hands Club Magazine
2022 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant Review Panelist
2022 Minnesota State Arts Board Grant Review Panel member
2021 Minnesota State Arts Board Grant Review Panel member
2021 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant Review Panelist
2020 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant Review Panelist
2020 Minnesota State Arts Board Grant Review Panel member

Organizations & Affiliations

Black In Jewelry Coalition
Black Teaching Artist Lab
Metalsmith Society
Northside Artspace Lofts Community
SistaSmiths
Art Train through Springboard for the Arts