

## About Amy Rusch

Amy Rusch (b.1990) is an artist working across disciplines and mediums. She's been exploring a vibrational expression of mark-making, using stitched thread into layers of found plastic bags. The layers of plastic, connected by the motion and soundscape produced by the machine, communicate aural and material aspects of our modern culture. The threads are an attempt to link and comprehend millions of years of layered stratigraphic time. Her current body of work is informed by ocean crossings, archaeological excavations and microscopic studies of the living world. Her practice can be seen as tracings, translations or mappings of sensory lived – body experiences, becoming multisensory coalescences of sound, vibration, line and colour. "Cutting, stitching, heating, pulling, binding, gathering, layering – these practices demand their own rhythm by turns slow and meticulous then quick, fast interventions. The motions enacted in making provide a retrospective link to the embodied experiences, transmuted in the process. The machine stitching into plastic is not about replicating an experience, an object, or anything formally understood. The process is about sitting with the remnants of man-made materials; human time in contrast to the elemental and deep time."

Recent exhibitions include presentations at the Investec Cape Town Art Fair 2024 and FNB Art Joburg 2024 with Suburbia Contemporary. Amy presented a solo body of work with SMAC gallery in 2022 titled Seeing with a Listening Ear, a culmination of 3 years of making. She exhibited at the Norval Foundation as part of the Norval Sovereign African Art Prize 2023 finalists exhibition. She has shown work at the Pretoria Art Museum, Iziko South African National Gallery as well as the Zeitz MOCAA.

Amy studied Motion Picture Production Design at City Varsity, School of Media and Creative Arts (2009 – 2011). The process-based skills acquired, including sculpting, moulding, casting, prosthetic production and special effects make-up have equipped her to work in a number of fields including film, television and theatre as well as on freelance projects and commission-based work with industrial designers, architects, archaeologists, and boat builders.

Amy worked as a lecturer in the Art Department at City Varsity in 2018 and 2019, and part-time at Peter Clarke Art Centre as an extra-mural art teacher in 2021.



Amy Rusch, Blue book passages - Trails of tail light, 2024

She was part of the team who made museum display copies of artefacts from archaeological sites, Blombos Cave, Klipdrift Shelter and Klasies River Mouth. These have been exhibited in the 'Origins of Early Southern Sapiens Behaviour Exhibition' at Spier, Iziko South African Museum, at the Wits Origins Centre in Johannesburg, as well as in Norway, at the University of Bergen. Amy has a fulltime studio practice alongside participation in ongoing archaeological and film projects in the northern Cape, Kalahari and the southern Cape coast.

CV

Solo Exhibitions

2022

Seeing with a Listening Ear (ArtistRoom), SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch

2016

Plasticity, 196 Victoria Road, Cape Town

Group Exhibitions

2024

FNB Art Joburg, Suburbia Contemporary, Johannesburg

Sculpting Textual Bodies, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch

Time goes bye, The Ramp, Paarden Island, Cape Town

Approximations to a voice: ellipsis, Johannes Stegmann Gallery, Bloemfontein

RMB Latitudes Art Fair, Suburbia Contemporary, Johannesburg

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Suburbia Contemporary, Cape Town

RASA Breathe, Breeze and Winged Things, SOLO Studios Art Encounters, Riebeeck Kasteel

Things take time, time takes things, Pool Space, Greenpoint Park, Cape Town

Ifestile, Suburbia Contemporary, Bo-Kaap, Cape Town

2023

Liminal States, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Norval Sovereign African Art Prize, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

Room with a View, curated by Karen Elkington, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town

FNB Art Joburg, Suburbia Contemporary, Johannesburg

2022

Scratch, curated by Amy Ellenbogen at Lion Sands, Sabi Sands

Thresholds, (LINEATIONS and Times Pathway), SESSIONS Group Exhibition, Woodstock

Breakfast, curated by Amy Ellenbogen at Sister by Studio Ashby, London

Within the Fold II, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch

Peter Clarke Art Centre Group Exhibition, Cape Town

Within the Fold, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg

Art on the Walls, Artfor Action, Orms Cape Town School of Photography

2021

Sasol New Signatures Art Competition Finalist Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum

2020

Home Is Where The Art Is, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town

Matereality, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, SMITH, Cape Town

FNB Art Joburg, SMITH, Johannesburg

Stories, Gallery@GlenCarlou, Paarl

FarewelltoGoodGoodFriends, SMITH, Cape Town

Hard, but Soft, Gallery @ Glen Carlou, Paarl

2019

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, SMITH, Cape Town

Rendezvous II Summer Exhibition, SMITH, Cape Town

Imibala Gallery December Group Exhibition, Somerset West

Emphatic Whispers, SMITH, Cape Town

FNB Joburg Art. Fair, SMITH, Johannesburg

2017

AKAA—Also Known As Africa, Contemporary Art and Design Fair, Paris

Calibrating Wonder, SMITH, Cape Town

2015

Take Two: Second Life of Objects, Design Indaba, CapeTown

2012

TheHandmadeCollection(CDI),DesignIndaba,CapeTown

2011

TheHandmadeCollection(CDI),DesignIndaba,CapeTown

Residencies

2023

RASA, Art Connects Residency, Uitzicht, Kasteelberg, Riebeeck West, South Africa

2022

Lion Sands Artist Residency, (More Family Collection/ Amy Ellenbogen/ Saffca.eu),  
Sabi Sands, Kruger National Park, South Africa

Awards

2023

The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize (Finalist), Cape Town

2021

Sasol New Signatures (Finalists Exhibition), Pretoria Art Museum