

## About Amy Rusch

Amy Rusch (b. 1990) is a Cape Town-based multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans diverse mediums. Her work explores a vibrational expression of mark-making through stitched threads on layers of found plastic bags. The layering of plastic, shaped by the motion and soundscape of the stitching process, reflects both the aural and material aspects of contemporary culture. The threads serve as an attempt to connect and comprehend the vastness of stratigraphic time, stretching across millions of years.

Rusch's current body of work is informed by ocean crossings, archaeological excavations, and microscopic studies of the living world. Her practice acts as tracings, translations, or mappings of sensory, lived experiences, forming multisensory fusions of sound, vibration, line, and color. As she describes:

"Cutting, stitching, heating, pulling, binding, gathering, layering—these practices demand their own rhythm, alternating between slow, meticulous processes and quick, intuitive interventions. The motions enacted in making provide a retrospective link to embodied experiences, transmuted in the process. The machine stitching into plastic is not about replicating an experience or object, but about sitting with the remnants of man-made materials—human time contrasted with elemental and deep time."

Rusch has exhibited widely, including as a finalist in the Norval Sovereign African Art Prize 2023 at the Norval Foundation. Her work has been showcased at the Pretoria Art Museum, Iziko South African National Gallery, and Zeitz MOCAA. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions, and notable solo exhibitions include 'Seeing with a Listening Ear' (2022) at SMAC Gallery, the culmination of three years of work.

Rusch holds a qualification in Motion Picture Production Design from CityVarsity, School of Media and Creative Arts (2009–2011). Her training in sculpting, moulding, casting, prosthetics, and special effects has equipped her to work not only in film and theater, but further in freelance projects across disciplines. Notable projects include creating museum display replicas of artifacts from archaeological sites Blombos Cave, Klipdrift Shelter, and Klasies River Mouth, which were featured in the 'Origins of Early Southern Sapiens Behaviour' exhibition at Spier, the Iziko South African Museum, the Wits Origins Centre in Johannesburg, and the University of Bergen in Norway.

She has contributed to arts education, lecturing in the Art Department at City Varsity (2018–2019) and working as an extra-mural art teacher at the Peter Clarke Art Centre in 2021.

Amy maintains a full-time studio practice while actively participating in ongoing archaeological and film projects in the Northern Cape, the Kalahari, and the Southern Cape coast.



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

## CV

### Solo Exhibitions

2022

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

2016

'Plasticity, 196 Victoria Road', Cape Town

### Group Exhibitions

2025

Collective Memory, THK Gallery, Cape Town

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 Thing's, SOLO Studios Art Encounters, Riebeek 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 @ Glen Carlou, Paarl

'Farewell to Good Good Friends', 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, Cape Town

2012

The Handmade Collection (CDI), Design Indaba, Cape Town

2011

The Handmade Collection (CDI), Design Indaba, Cape Town

#### Residencies

2023

RASA, Art Connects Residency, Uitzicht, Kasteelberg, Riebeek 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