

Amy Wiggin

(LONDON BASED ARTIST)

Amy if you could meet your 8 year old self what would you tell her about Art?



I WOULD TELL HER THAT YOUR ARTISTIC PRACTICE IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING YOURSELF. TO FOLLOW IT AND TRUST IT EVEN THOUGH IT FEELS UNKNOWN AND SCARY. TO LEAN INTO THE FEAR AND DO IT ANYWAY.

Does feminism / womanhood play a key role in your practice?

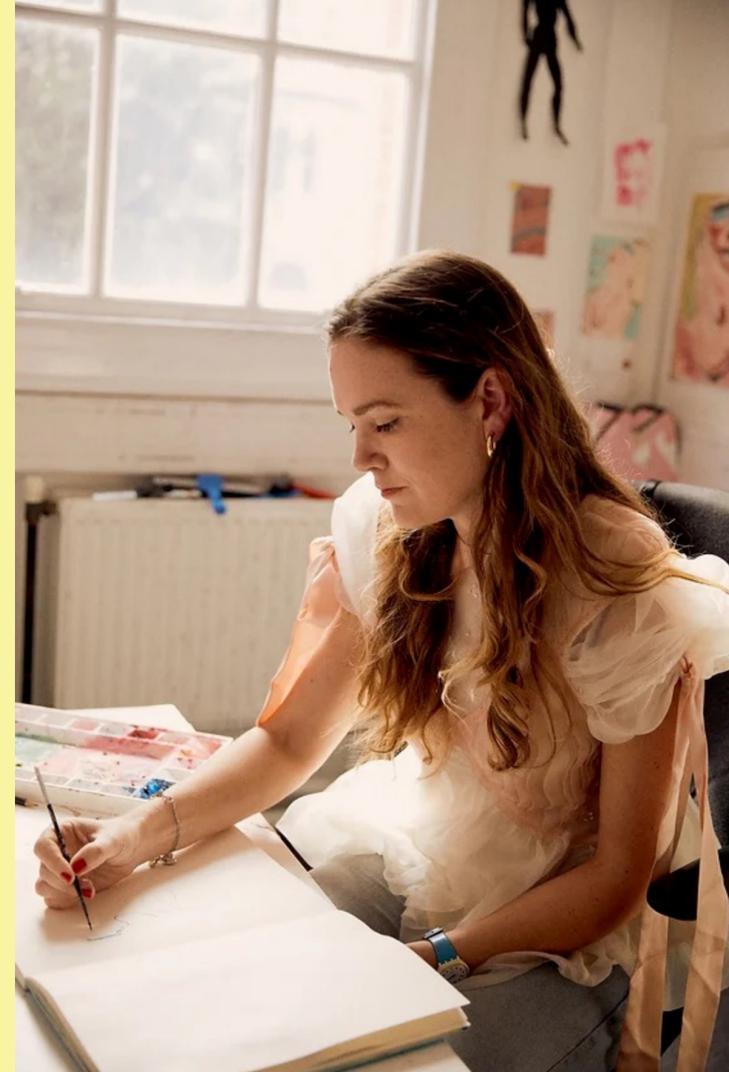
100% - MY PRACTICE IS ALL ABOUT MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF BEING IN A WOMAN IN THIS WORLD; ALL THE JOYS AS WELL AS THE STRUGGLES!

If you could change something in the artworld what would it be?

MORE FUNDING AND GRANTS FOR ARTISTS AND ARTS JOBS; IT'S HARD TO BE AN ARTIST / WORK IN THE ARTS IF YOU'RE NOT FROM FAMILY MONEY. I'VE ALWAYS WORKED MULTIPLE JOBS (EVEN THOUGH I MAKE RELATIVELY GOOD MONEY FROM MY ART) IN ORDER TO CONTINUE AND FUND MY PRACTICE, AS HAVE MOST ARTISTS I KNOW. CULTURE AND THE ARTS ARE ONE OF THE U.K'S AND LONDON'S GREATEST ASSETS- HOWEVER THIS IS NOT REFLECTED IN REAL TERMS TO ARTISTS THROUGH FUNDING IN THE WAY THAT IT IS ELSEWHERE. ARTS ROLES ARE CRIPPLINGLY LOW IN PAY FOR CURATORS AND ARTS PROFESSIONALS – MEANING THAT ONLY THE HIGHLY PRIVILEGED CAN CONSIDER ENTERING INTO THIS INDUSTRY, OR LIKE MANY OF US WORKING 2/3 JOBS TO CONTINUE DOING SO.

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Your piece 'Choose to be too much' I assume is about self acceptance? Amy how do you practice self acceptance?

IT IS ABOUT SELF ACCEPTANCE YES – IT IS INSPIRED BY CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH FEMALE FRIENDS WHEN THEY (OR I) HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT 'BEING TOO MUCH' OR BEING 'OVER EMOTIONAL'. AS I'VE GOT OLDER I'VE LEARNT THAT THESE FEELINGS ARE ACTUALLY OUR SUPER POWER – OUR INNATE INTUITION THAT GUIDES US TOWARDS WHAT IS TRUE, AND TO SPEAKING THAT TRUTH. THIS PIECE IS A CELEBRATION OF THAT INNATE INTUITION AND SELF LOVE. HOW DO I PRACTICE SELF ACCEPTANCE – BY PRACTICING ART. EVERY DAY IS A PRACTICE OF SELF LOVE – CARVING OUT TIME IN THE STUDIO NO MATTER WHAT IS GOING ON IN MY LIFE FOR MYSELF. THAT QUIET SPACE I CREATE ONLY FOR ME – THAT IS SELF LOVE AND SELF ACCEPTANCE FOR ME.

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What is your inspiration for the piece 'Take my eggs'?

AT AGE 38 I DECIDED I WANTED TO DONATE MY EGGS, BUT WAS TOLD THAT I WAS TOO OLD TO DO SO (THE MAXIMUM AGE CURRENTLY IN THE U.K BEING 36 YRS) I WAS ALSO INVESTIGATING EGG FREEZING AT THE TIME. THIS PIECE DEPICTS A CRAZED HALF CHICKEN/HALF WOMAN AT THE CENTRE – THIS PIECE REPRESENTS THE ARGUABLY ANIMALISTIC AND CONSUMERIST CULTURE WE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING WITHIN WHICH AT TIMES FEELS LIKE IT ONLY VALUES WOMEN UNTIL A CERTAIN AGE, AND THAT BEYOND THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED 'USEFUL' TO SOCIETY; YOUR EGGS AND YOUR FERTILE SELF HAVING EXPIRED. THE PRIVATE CLINICS PROMOTING EGG FREEZING ALSO PROFITING FROM WOMEN'S NEUROSIS AND ANXIETIES BY PROMISING THEM EXTENDED FERTILITY.

**Thank you Amy
Dzidzia Xxx**