



Annie Grimes Williams

Artist Bio

Annie Grimes Williams holds a BFA in Metal Design from East Carolina University. She owns and operates her jewelry business CopperTide, is an exhibiting member of the Piedmont Craftsmen Guild, and is an adjunct instructor in the Metal/Jewelry department at Sawtooth School for Visual Art. Her work focuses on traditional metalsmithing techniques such as shell forming and enameling and is largely inspired by her affinity for the natural world. Annie lives and works in Winston-Salem, NC.

Artist Statement

My work is primarily influenced by my fascination with forms and their interior spaces, by color, and by my affinity for the sea. The ocean is in my blood, and I always find myself drawn back to it. I am particularly drawn to the tiny creatures found in tide pools: urchins, anemones, weird little brightly colored pod forms that seem to be somewhere between plant and animal. It's these little forms that have inspired my recent work, a collection I call "SeaPods." These pieces also appeal to my need for drawing focus to the interior of a form. In nature, these forms often have dark or even dull exteriors, but on the occasion that they open up, there is a burst of unexpected color and beauty.

I've been making art in some form and playing with interesting color combinations all my life. But it wasn't until I studied metal design at East Carolina University that I really found a medium that spoke to me. I use traditional metalsmithing techniques, such as shell forming, piercing, and enameling to create wearable pieces of art. I most often work in copper because of its inherent qualities, such as its malleability and its rich color. I often work in series because this allows me to explore the uniqueness of each piece. No two pieces are exactly alike because each piece has been individually drawn, cut, formed, textured, and enameled by hand.

There is so much beauty in the little things that surround us every day, and I feel privileged to be able to capture just a little bit of that in my work.

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