

AMEEELLIS PHOTOGRAPHY

AMEEELLIS.COM ~ Des Moines, Iowa
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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Places*, Gallery 4815, Des Moines, IA
- 2024 *This Place in My Hands*, Mainframe Studios, 4th Floor Gallery, Des Moines, IA
- 2023 *SQUARED*, Midl Gallery, Newton, IA
- 2022 *New Observations*, Grandview University, Prairie Meadows Gallery, Des Moines, IA
- 2022 *The Sea Beneath Our Feet*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA (catalogue)
- 2022 *The Sea Beneath Our Feet*, Blank Performing Arts Center, Indianola, IA
- 2020 *Photographs*, Sanford Museum, Cherokee, IA
- 2019 *In Our Nature*, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, North Gallery, Des Moines, IA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *The Open Exhibition*, Southeast Center for Photography, <https://www.sec4p.com/open26-online-exhibition> (Juror: Alexa Dilworth, editor, writer, & curator, Durham, NC)
- 2025 *Botanical Reveries*, Evergreen Gallery, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Des Moines, IA, October 7, 2025-January 4, 2026
- 2025 *Peaceful Movement*, Pop-up exhibition, 2701 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, IA, (curated by Laird Archer and Jean-Marie Salem, artists, Des Moines, IA), June 28, 2025
- 2025 *Iowa Exhibited 2025*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA, Merit Award, (Juror: Catherine Reinhart, artist, Ames, IA)
- 2025 *The Environment*, Mainframe Studios, Des Moines, IA (curated by Diane Kunzler, artist and co-founder, Kunzler Studios, Des Moines, IA)
- 2025 *LENS 2025*, Perspective Gallery, Evanston, IL (Juror: Hamidah Glasgow, curator and Executive Director, Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO)
- 2024 *Elsewhere*, M/A/S/S Gallery, Des Moines, IA (curated by Patricia Levin, curator, Critical Theory Art Projects, Amsterdam, NL)
- 2024 *PhotoMidwest 13th Biennial*, Arts + Literature Laboratory, Madison, WI (Juror: Kris Graves, artist and publisher, KGP Books, New York, NY)
- 2024 *Iowa Exhibited 2024*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA (Juror: Ben Millett, artist, Des Moines, IA)
- 2024 *Land/Scapes: Climate, the Environment, and Beyond*, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids, IA (curated by Julia Jessen, curator, CRMA)
- 2024 *Distant Dialogues*, Float Magazine, <https://www.floatmagazine.us/online-exhibitions/exhibitions/distant-dialogues> (curated by Lisa Beard, Micah McCoy, and Vann Powell)
- 2023 *The Analog Forever Exhibit*, LightBox Photographic Gallery, Astoria, OR (Juror: Michael Kirchoff, Editor in Chief, Analog Forever Magazine, Los Angeles, CA)
- 2023 *The Curated Fridge*, CultureLab LIC at Plaxall Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Orestes Gonzalez, curator, CultureLab LIC, New York, NY)
- 2022 *From the Altar: Art on the Beauty in Death & the Magic of Life*, Teachout Building, Des Moines, IA (curated by Amy Putney Koenig, artist, Des Moines, IA)
- 2022 *TREES: A Community Art Project*, Center for Creative Photography with the Laboratory for Tree-Ring Research, Bryant Bannister Tree-Ring Building, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

- 2022 *42nd Rock Island Art Guild Fine Arts Exhibition*, Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA (Juror: Susan Watts, Owner, Olson-Larsen Galleries, Des Moines, IA)
- 2022 *Octagonal: The All-Media Show*, Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, IA (Juror: Akwi Nji, artist, Cedar Rapids, IA)
- 2022 *Double Exposure*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA, Merit Award (Juror: Lindley Warren Mickunas, Executive Assistant, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA)
- 2021 *Iowa Exhibited XXXVI*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA, Best In Show (Juror: Mary Jones, artist, Indianola, IA)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Merit Award, *Iowa Exhibited 2025*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA (Juror: Catherine Reinhart, artist, Ames, IA)
- 2025 Iowa Artist Career Accelerator Grant, Iowa Arts Council and NEA
- 2024 Art Project Grant, "This Place in My Hands," Iowa Arts Council and NEA
- 2023 Artist Catalyst Grant, "Portfolio Presentation Package," Iowa Arts Council and NEA
- 2022 Merit Award, *Double Exposure*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA (Juror: Lindley Warren Mickunas, Executive Assistant, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA)
- 2021 Best in Show, *Iowa Exhibited XXXVI*, Polk County Heritage Gallery, Des Moines, IA (Juror: Mary Jones, artist, Indianola, IA)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2026 *Iowa Field Guides* (edited by Amie Adams). Volume 1: Prairies (Winter 2026): 22, 77.
- 2024 *Stories of the Seasons: A WFAN Zine* (edited by Amie Adams and Piper Wood). Issue 1 (Fall 2024): 32, 78.
- 2024 *Fotofilmic JRNL* (guest-edited by Sarah Chaplin Espenon and Lewis Chaplin, founders of Loose Joints Publishing). Issue 21 (Summer 2024): 12-15.
- 2023 Featured artist, "Literature," *The New Territory*, Issue 13 (January 2023): 62-85.
- 2022 Cover artist, *The Annals of Iowa* 81, no. 1 (Winter 2022): Cover-1.
- 2022 *The Sea Beneath Our Feet: Photographs by Ameer Ellis*. Des Moines: Des Moines Metro Opera, 2022. An exhibition catalogue.
- 2021 Image credit, *The Annals of Iowa* 80, no. 4 (Fall 2021): Art insert.

SELECTED PRESS

- 2025 Hailey Evans, "Root Connections," *DSM Magazine*, March/April 2025. 92-97.
- 2022 Kristine McIntyre, "Stretches to the Horizon," Des Moines Metro Opera 50th Anniversary Season program, 2022. 80-83.
- 2021 Andrew Klumpp, "Editor's Perspective," *The Annals of Iowa* 81, no. 1 (Winter 2022).
- 2021 Christine Riccelli, "A New Horizon," *DSM Magazine*, May/June 2021. 88-96.
- 2020 Addie Bushnell, "Midwestern creators push for a more nuanced definition of Midwestern art and detail," *The Daily Iowan*, March 5, 2020. <https://dailyiowan.com/2020/03/05/midwestern-creators-push-for-a-more-nuanced-definition-of-midwestern-art-and-detail-its-unique-qualities/>
- 2018 Featured artist, Sam Fathallah Creative, *Soft Eyes (A Short Portrait of a Nature Photographer)*. <http://www.samfathallah.com/work>

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "Considering Landscape," with Kevin Lair, Associate Professor, Iowa State University, ARCH 301: Architectural Design III
- 2024 Artist Talk, *This Place in My Hands*, Mainframe Studios 4th Floor Gallery
- 2024 "Why I Make Photographs," Role model presentation for *The Butterfly Effect*, an after school program for Chrysalis Foundation, Holy Family School, Des Moines, IA
- 2023 "Process and Practice," Role model presentation for *The Butterfly Effect: Girl Power Mentorship Program*, Chrysalis Foundation, West Des Moines, IA
- 2023 "Creative Process," with Rachel Merrill-Schwaller, Associate Professor, Grand View University
- 2022 Artist Talk, *New Observations*, Grand View University, Prairie Meadows Gallery, Des Moines, IA
- 2022 Panelist, "The Land Beneath Us," with authors Beth Hoffman and Neil Hamilton, moderated by Pat Boddy, Artisan Gallery 218, West Des Moines, IA
- 2022 Artist Talk, *The Sea Beneath Our Feet*, Polk County Heritage Gallery
- 2019 Artist Talk, *In Our Nature*, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

COMMISSIONS

- 2020 *The Sea Beneath Our Feet* series for Des Moines Metro Opera. Creating a photographic interpretation of story through landscape for the 2022 world-premiere production of *A Thousand Acres*. 15 photographs in a limited edition of 3.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2025-Present Program Coordinator and Co-facilitator, "Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists," a 12-week professional development program presented by Mainframe Studios, Des Moines, IA
- 2025 *Works of Growth and Recovery*, Juror. Group exhibition hosted by Community Support Advocates / Momentum Arts. Featuring works by artists living with mental illness or disability. Olson-Larsen Galleries, Des Moines, IA
- 2022 Image projection in stage production of *A Thousand Acres* opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, 2022 Festival Season
- 2021 "Work of Art Intensive: Program Development, Curriculum, and Facilitation," online workshop, Springboard for the Arts, St. Paul, MN
- 2021 Fellow, Artist INC, Des Moines, IA, Professional development program for selected artists through Des Moines Arts Festival and Mid-America Arts Alliance

EDUCATION

Master of Occupational Therapy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
 Bachelor of Arts, Photography, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL