

## Amy Zaremba's Mural: Finding Wonder in the Woods

Step into the quiet beauty of Amy Zaremba's mural and you may find yourself transported. With its glowing colors and layered forest imagery, her piece evokes the magic of a walk through the woods: a familiar moment that somehow feels enchanted. Amy's mural brings a sense of rooted calm to Sun Prairie's Mural Fest, reminding viewers that small, everyday experiences can hold deep meaning.

Inspired by the natural world and by Georgia O'Keeffe's philosophy of feeling over form, Amy's work invites you to look not just at the mural, but through it: to remember your own moments of awe in the outdoors.

### Trusting Instinct and Capturing Emotion

"This quote from Georgia O'Keeffe has been a big inspiration for me," Amy says. "I had to create an equivalent for what I felt about what I was looking at, not copy it."

She first encountered that idea years ago while studying O'Keeffe's work, and it continues to guide her process.

"Her words remind me to trust my instincts, follow what sparks my curiosity, and honor my own response to a scene or story rather than simply reproducing it."

In this mural, Amy chose to capture a feeling: the sense of wonder and quiet transformation that can come from something as simple as walking through the trees.

### From Northern Wisconsin to the Walls of Sun Prairie

Amy grew up in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, surrounded by lakes, forests, and a deep love of making art. She studied both art and literature at UW-Madison, eventually earning a law degree from DePaul in Chicago but her creative path kept calling her back.

Nearly a decade ago, she discovered the transformative potential of public art while volunteering with a community mural group in Madison. From that experience, she found a calling: to create work that connects people, places, and stories.

Her artistic style? Vibrant. Reflective. Rooted.

### Encouragement from the Community

Throughout Mural Fest, Amy was touched by the support and kindness of the Sun Prairie community.

"Everyone who helped make the festival happen was amazing," she said. "Lena, Barb, John the photographer... so many great people."

One of her favorite moments came from a local artist who stopped by each day, greeted the muralists by name, and offered encouragement.

"People like him who take the time to stop and watch and share kind words make events like this one so rewarding."

## Words to Young Artists

Amy believes in showing up, doing the work, and trusting the process.

“Talent takes practice if you want to learn to paint, you can,” she says. “Show up, keep going, and follow through. It isn’t always easy, but if you trust yourself and put in the work, others will see and believe in it too.”

## A Moment of Stillness for O’Keeffe

If Georgia O’Keeffe were to see her mural, Amy hopes she would simply stop for a moment.

“Long enough to feel the colors and the light through the trees,” Amy says.

It is not about recreating O’Keeffe’s style. It is about sharing in that same spirit of presence and wonder.

## Secrets in the Trees

When asked if her mural contains a hidden detail or Easter egg, Amy smiles. “It’s a secret.”

Viewers will just have to look closely and see what reveals itself.

## The Sound of a Story

Amy usually listens to audiobooks while she paints. Stories help her stay focused and keep self-doubt at bay. But for this mural, she kept the headphones off.

“Being surrounded by other artists and community members, I wanted to stay present and hear everything happening around me.”

That sense of presence radiates from the wall.

## Final Reflection

Amy Zaremba’s mural is a gentle reminder that beauty can be found in the quiet spaces between trees, in the shift of light, or in the calm that follows a deep breath. Her work doesn’t ask for attention, it earns it.

Take a moment to stand in front of her mural. Let the colors settle around you. You might just remember a time when a walk in the woods felt like magic.