

Amy

Serrano



awards including best short film, best cinematography, and more.

Her visual body of work includes shooting, writing and directing the feature-length and critically acclaimed documentary, *The Sugar Babies: The Plight of the Children of Agricultural Workers in the Sugar Industry of the Dominican Republic*. Narrated by renowned author Edwidge Danticat and composed of field recordings coupled with outside testimony, the film explores the lives of the descendants of the first Africans delivered to the island of Hispaniola for the bittersweet commodity that once ruled the world.

About Amy

Amy is an award-winning filmmaker. She is also an author, poet and multimedia artist, as well as a human, social, civil, and political rights advocate. Presently, she is working on a film, a book, poems, and various global social impact projects and multimedia initiatives.

AIRMAN: The Extraordinary Legacy of Calvin G. Moret is a transmedia documentary film project about American and World War II history, aviation, and civil rights. Through the use of archival material and footage obtained documenting the last 3 years of the life of **Louisiana's last Tuskegee Airman, Calvin G. Moret** – *on land and up in the air*—it's the very timely story of one man's love of country and humanity, even during unconscionable times.

Currently, one of Amy's films, a short titled **Like Fire**, is on the international film festival circuit and has already won 7

Previously unbeknownst, these very same people were trafficked from Haiti to the Dominican Republic to work on sugar plantations under circumstances that may only be considered modern day slavery. Besides the awareness created on issues leading to nearly eliminating human trafficking and child labor for some time, the screenings and advocacy surrounding this film, contributed to the **U.S. Department of Labor** finally placing sugar imported from the Dominican Republic on the list of products believed to be made with forced or child labor. On a personal level, as a result of making this film, Amy was persecuted by the sugar industry, received multiple death threats, and was declared a *persona non grata* by the government of the Dominican Republic.



Amy has directed and contributed to the production of several other films in the U.S.A. and Europe.

Her latest book ***Saudades: Anthological Contemplations on Persons, Places, Identity and Time*** was released in October of 2024 and was inspired by Amy's love of words and study of 7 languages. ***Saudades*** -- a global collaboration -- features the work of 28 multimedia artists representing 12 countries, with chapter essays and poems written by Amy. The book features some of her fine art photography.

Highlights from other written works include a book of poems, ***Of Fiery Places and Sacred Spaces***; a poetic tome based on the geography and cartography of people and places. She has edited, published and released ***Into the Woods***, an anthology featuring the works of writers from Louisiana's Northshore. And because of time spent with the Garifuna people of Honduras, Amy wrote a photographic 20-page essay, ***From Punta to Chumba: Garifuna Music and Dance in New Orleans*** which traveled the state museum system in Louisiana until 2018. This work was commissioned and published by **Folklife in Louisiana** of the **State of Louisiana Division of the Arts**.

At present, she is writing the book, ***Mr. Moret and I: The Story and Legacy of My Unexpected Friendship with Louisiana's Last Tuskegee Airman***. It is based on the special friendship that developed between Mr. Moret and Amy behind-the-scenes while making the film **AIRMAN**.

In addition to her primal love for writing, Amy enjoys bringing a community of writers together under the auspices of writers' groups. She has founded three.

Her first was in 2002 and was called **The Naked Beach**. In her hometown Miami, the name of the group emerged from the realization that when writers come together to share their works, it is as if each is "emotionally disrobing" through their words. This group was composed of poets, novelists, and song lyricists.



Based on the writers' group model that Amy created, the **Naked Beach** experience resulted in a time of prolific output for each of the writers. When she moved to New Orleans in 2007, she founded her second group, **The Peauxdunque Writers' Alliance**. At its inception, the only published writer in the group was Amy but following the same model she developed in Miami, the acclaimed group now includes many published writers including some in the New York Times bestsellers list.

Her third writers group was formed in Louisiana's Northshore community and was known as the **Into the Woods Writers Circle** following the same model. Four of the writers in the group collaborated on her book, ***Saudades***.

For her contributions to her hometown, Amy was honored by the **City of Miami** with a proclamation making **October 27, Amy Serrano Day**. Other honors include twice being named a **Woman of Today** in **Glamour Magazine** [Spanish Editions], as well as **Woman of the Year**.



During **Women's History Month** in Miami, she was presented a **Mentor Award** by the **Public School System** and named a **Distinguished Female Role Model** by the **Public Library System**. She was 1 of 8 women selected, photographed, and profiled within a women's empowerment photographic installation produced by **Clinique** titled ***Evolution of Women***. This cross-country exhibit was first unveiled at New York City's Metropolitan Pavilion and shot by award-winning fine art photographer, Sandi Fellman.

Amy was awarded a prestigious Fellowship with the **National Hispana Leadership Institute** in D.C. which involved time spent in D.C. with distinguished leaders in social, civic, and political change. She was named a **Latina of Excellence** in **Hispanic Magazine**. She was selected as 1 of 15 top Hispanic Leaders in the United States by the **Spanish Embassy** in Washington D.C. and participated in an exchange in Spain with their social, political, economic, and cultural leaders. Amy was profiled in a book on Hispanic-American leaders in the United States published by the **Spain-U.S. Council**, and was once named **"one of the most influential and recognized Hispanics in the United States"** by **MEGA TV**. She was later selected to be profiled in the **Florida Hispanic Yearbook**, and then named a

Mujer Vanidades in **Vanidades Magazine**. Amy is a recipient of the **Tesoros Award in Art and Culture** presented by **Ponds**. Amy earned a dual Bachelor's degree in **Anthropology and Sociology** with a minor in **International Relations** from **Florida International University**. She also holds a number of certificates in **Leadership Studies** from **Harvard University** in **Cambridge**, the **Center for Creative Leadership** in North Carolina, **Gallup University** in D.C., the **National Hispana Leadership Institute** in D.C., and the **Universidad Menendez Pelayo** in Santander, Spain.

Amy makes time for other endeavors. She has served as a past **Senior Fellow** of the **Human Rights Foundation** in New York; was an appointed **Founding Member** of **Ambassador Armando Valladares' N.G.O.**, **Human Rights for All**. She was an **Advisory Council Member** of the **Faulkner Literary Society** in New Orleans, and **Chaired** its **Pan-American Authors' Committee**. Presently, she is a **Member** of the **Spanish Embassy's Hispanic Leader's Association** in Washington D.C.; a **Member** of the **International Documentary Association**; and a **Member** of **FilmGate Miami**.

Annually, she volunteers with **Guys Achieving Goals** on their **Aviation Awareness Day** in memory of her sweet friend, **Tuskegee Airman, Calvin G. Moret**. Founded by one of **AIRMAN's** Associate Producers **Paul Green**, the mission of **Aviation Awareness Day** is to teach young people about aviation and provide them with valuable STEM skills for the future.



Aside from leading the **Siren Creative Agency**, her own media, publishing, and production company, Amy is also the founder of the **One Better World Project** [1BWP], a non-governmental organization [NGO] whose mission is to inspire a better world through the production and diffusion of transformative multimedia art and social impact initiatives.

Amy enjoys being a featured guest lecturer or keynote speaker at colleges, universities, and cultural centers giving talks on the intersection of arts and activism; women and children’s rights; human, social, civil and political rights; hope during times of injustice; the ability to impact public policy through the communication arts; and many other inspiring and necessary themes.

Her most awaited goal is to finish writing her manuscript for **Somewhere in the World**; a fictional novel based on the adventures of Catalina ‘Cat’ de Lara; a globetrotting, documentary filmmaker and champion of seemingly lost causes.



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