

CAREERS WITH STYLE

by Anne Fullem

photography: Amy Jones

[www.amyjphoto.com](http://www.amyjphoto.com)



# Gypsy Vintage

**makeup**

*Gina Bateman*

*MAC cosmetics*

*Facebook.com:*

*Gina Bateman*

*Make Up Artist*

**hair**

*Lisa Jones -Butz*

*Subtle Rebellion Salon*

**styling**

*Amy Jones*

**photography**

**Amy Jones**

*amyjphoto.com*



# Friends Anne Kawecki & Melissa Williams started their shop over coffee in the kitchen... and turned their love of vintage treasures into a vibrant business.

Anne & Melissa became fast friends a dozen years ago when they met at one of Annes shops. They discovered that they had much in common and teamed up on a multitude of projects over the years. Anne had been working in the design and home decor industry for 15+ years, specializing in vintage home furnishings. She is a hands-on designer, wielding power tools, upholstering furniture, sewing, sanding, painting... she can do it all!

Her business partner Melissa is an expert shopper with an eye for color and detail and a knack for finding the right thing at the right price. Melissa spent the earlier part of her career working for a large builder and developer. She honed her skills decorating model homes and real estate offices. With a like-minded passion for design, their friendship flourished, and their partnership was born.

The two friends, both Virgos and born in 1970 (hence the "est. 1970" on their sign) decided that the best answer to opening a shop together was "Why not?" Gypsy Vintage Ltd. was born in Melissa's kitchen one Spring morning over coffee almost a year and a half ago. The idea was not a new one. Anne had done this sort of thing before. Melissa was quick to get onboard and welcomed the challenge. They found a great farmhouse in Southern Anne Arundel County and set out to make it their own, filling it to the rafters with vintage finds.

The idea is simple, they travel here, there and everywhere looking, hunting and picking great vintage finds for the home. They travel around in "Betsy" the big yellow box truck and hit up salvage yards, auctions, yard sales, estate sales and the occasional dumpster if something calls out to them. "One mans trash," they say.







**DESIGNER  
TAG SALE**  
the First  
Saturday & Sunday  
of every month.  
Sat. 8-5 • Sun. 10-3



Because sometimes great vintage pieces need love, the crew at Gypsy Vintage Ltd. love to sand and paint and breathe new life into these beauties for years of future use. The upcycling of these great old things makes the friends happy. They love seeing the younger generations getting into vintage and appreciating the past. It takes a lot of time to get the pieces ready for the floor each month and they are lucky to have two awesome ladies that help out, Patty Geiger and Marilyn DiMarco.

There are always projects and repairs, sanding and painting etc. Anne has made some killer salvaged wood top tables and lamps from salvaged columns and old piano legs. They love to re-purpose things and give them a whole new use and life. Old doors become wall decor, old frames become chalkboards and burlap covered pin boards, salvaged doors become works of art lit with wall sconces and candelabras. It is a labor of love.

Between the farm house and a 1500 square foot permanent tent structure, it takes about 6 "Betsy loads" to fill the space each month. They have a sale once per month, the first Saturday and Sunday of each month, year round. Saturday hours are 8-10 and Sunday 10-3. The sale is a designer tag sale, fast and furious at 8:00 a.m. as soon as the doors open. If you want a large item you yank the tag and bring it to the counter. No tag means the item is spoken for. Small items go quick and they estimate that 60% of their inventory is gone within the first two hours of opening on Saturday. The early bird gets the worm, but the girls like to socialize and consider their customers friends and enjoy the slower times on Sunday when there is still great stuff and time to chat! The business has grown quickly and they hope to get their website going and to be able to offer some items online in the future. And for two women who set their sights high, a reality TV show is what they would like to do next!

Gypsy Vintage Ltd.  
5911 Southern Maryland Boulevard • Lothian, MD 20711

photos: Amy Jones • [www.amyjonesphoto.com](http://www.amyjonesphoto.com)