



## WILLOWS

V. Skip Willits, Comanche, IA  
11TH & NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**W**ILLOWS is inspired by branches found along Midwestern rivers. Beavers often cut off long branches of willow then eat the tender bark, leaving the long smooth branches strewn along the shoreline. Willits collects this natural ready-made material and weaves it into welded steel armatures to lift them up into his mixed media sculptures.

Willits started learning welding from his dad at age 10. He says, "My dad taught me everything, from the characteristics of materials like steel, cast iron and aluminum to various welding techniques; arc, TIG, MIG, torch, etc. In 1983, I produced and installed my first major public sculpture. Since that time, I've continued making things and participating in numerous outdoor public sculpture shows yearly. I also produce commissioned works across the United States, Canada and Europe. I live and work, happily, on the banks of the Mississippi River. My work contains the strands of my identity and directly reflect my experiences so far."