

The Lowry Estate Should Be Your New Vintage Go-To

Meet Corliss Elizabeth Williams, the woman behind one of the coolest, coziest vintage stores in New York City.

By Chanel Parks. Photography by Michael Russo



Corliss Elizabeth Williams with a unique piece from The Lowry Estate collection.

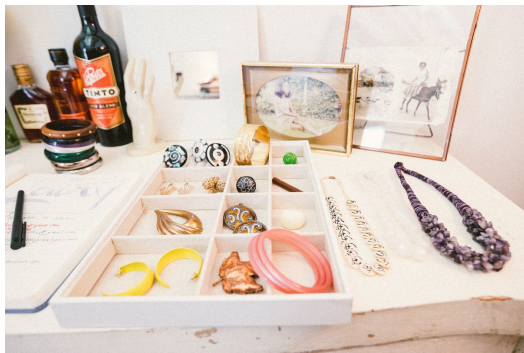
Standing outside the nondescript building at 448 Jefferson Street in Brooklyn, you might imagine that The Lowry Estate, a vintage shop inside, will at least be the size of a local bodega. Then, owner and founder, Corliss Elizabeth Williams buzzes you in. You ascend a couple of steps, you briskly round the left corner, and then you finally see it. Except, it's less a clothing store, and more a walk-in closet.

Williams opened shop in 2015 after years of selling single pieces via Etsy. She knew that the retail business was the next big step she had to take, and decided to leave the editorial art director job she held at the time. "I had my first pop-up in early summer 2015, on the Lower East Side, for three days one weekend," she says. "I pretty much sold out of my first round of clothes from the initial collection, and that was a strong indicator that I needed to follow my dreams and move forward with The Lowry Estate."



A collection of Williams's family photos and portraits.

Nestled in the northern part of Bushwick, Brooklyn, the shop's design makes you feel like you're walking into someone's bedroom—old photographs sprinkle the shelves, art pieces rest against the walls, and little knickknacks scattered about appear to be passed-down heirlooms. It's no surprise, then, that the shop's DNA is rooted in Williams's own personal family history.



A selection of jewelry and accessories arranged in a dresser drawer.

"Lowry was my grandmother's last name, she passed away a few years ago," Williams says. "She was the oldest of her seven siblings and was definitely the matriarch of our family. It only made sense that I named my company after what meant the most to me: family and friends. It's the force behind the inspiration behind my shop."



The view from the entrance of The Lowry Estate.

As a child in Detroit, Williams was immersed in fashion at home. “I grew up in a family of extremely stylish men and women,” she says. “I was raised to never leave the house without looking my best, whether you are going to the grocery store, meeting a friend for lunch, or a dinner dance.” Her parents and grandparents, she says, were always “leaving the house with extreme confidence and ‘looking *sharp*,’ as they love to say.”



A vintage family photo.

Today, Williams shares her heritage by proving that quality clothing and diversity aren’t mutually exclusive. “Unlike most vintage boutiques, The Lowry Estate is all about integration and inclusivity,” Williams says. “We make a point to make sure that we are not a vintage boutique that is stuck in the time of carrying only teeny waisted cocktail dresses, obsolete patterns, or costume-y accessories that don’t branch outside of the cat-eye-glasses-only aesthetic.” To achieve that, Williams offers a variety of sizes and price points (anywhere from \$30 skirts to \$200 handcrafted dresses), with pieces she’s found locally and abroad. Recently, Williams—along with her husband Amani Olu—introduced men’s offerings, too.



A matching skirt, jacket, and shirt from the Lowry Estate inventory.

Above all else, her aim is to broaden the vintage audience, which she says doesn't necessarily have to be made up of "stereotypical vintage connoisseurs."



The colorful racks offer a bit of everything, from '90s neon-striped pullovers to embroidered three-piece suits.

The Lowry Estate is open during the week by appointment, which you can make by emailing Williams herself at corliss@thelowryestate.com. On Saturdays, you can find Williams selling

pieces at the Brooklyn Flea in Fort Greene, and on most Sundays at the Dumbo location of the outdoor flea market. Follow the shop on Instagram at [@thelowryestate](#) for updates and style inspiration.



Williams browsing a corner of the shop.