

## Emerging Artist: Annie Anderson

*Annie Anderson, another of our five 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival Emerging Artists, sat down with us to discuss her work, her festival prep, and some of her favorite things. Annie works on paper with ink, watercolor, and gouache, and will be traveling to Denver from Portland, Maine, for this year's festival.*

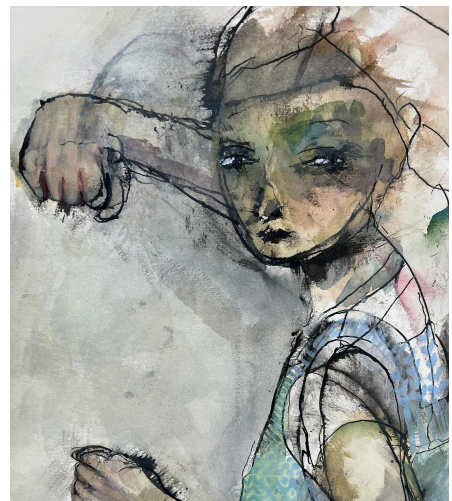
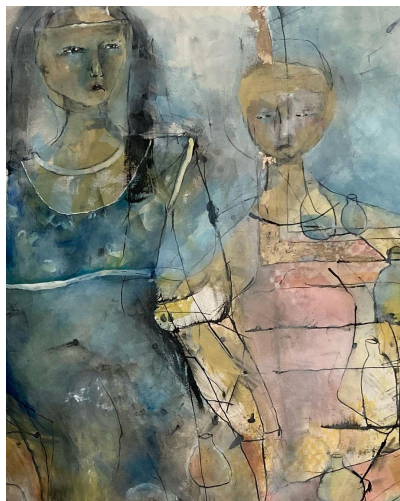
**CherryArts:** Hey, Annie! Thanks for chatting with us today. Let's start with an easy question: Where do you live?

**Annie:** Well, I grew up in a small town, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, but I've called Portland, Maine, home for the last two decades. I did go to Colorado College, though!



**CherryArts:** We're thrilled to welcome you back to Colorado! What kind of art do you create?

**Annie:** Mostly large format works on paper with ink, watercolor, and gouache.



**CherryArts:** We can't wait to showcase your art. Have you always loved art?

**Annie:** I've loved making art for as long as I have memories. When I was three or four in preschool, I remember being absolutely mesmerized by the effect of dipping a specifically folded sheet of absorbent paper into liquid watercolors multiple times, layering the colors and then finally at the end unfolding it. It was so vibrant, surprising, and seemingly magical.

**CherryArts:** That's such a beautiful memory. Speaking of school, did you have any teachers who encouraged you to explore art, or to appreciate art?

**Annie:** My first grade teacher drove a drawing I made from the town where

I grew up in West Central Minnesota 180 miles down to Minneapolis so it could make the deadline to be entered into the statewide Christmas Seal competition. I didn't know anything about it until I learned I was a finalist. That was really exciting and special to six-year-old me.

**CherryArts:** Wow, what an amazing teacher! Switching gears a bit, let's talk about some of your influences. What's one source of artistic inspiration for you?

**Annie:** Fashion! Sometimes it's a pattern on a vintage dress, other times it's a model's pose.

**CherryArts:** We can definitely see that in your work. What about other artists? Who's a living artist you admire?

**Annie:** I can't pick just one! Aubrey Levinthal, Rita Ackerman, and Grace Weaver.



**CherryArts:** What about an artist who's no longer with us? If you could visit the studio of one artist from history, who would you pick, and why?

**Annie:** This is almost an impossible question for me to answer! So many! But for the longest time I've admired Paul Klee. I'd love to see his work space and learn about his innovative printing techniques. I love the quality of his line.

And I'd love to learn how he keeps the freshness, the mystery, alive in his work time and time again.

**CherryArts:** If only we could find a time machine! Do you have a favorite museum?

**Annie:** Right now, today, probably the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. But it changes. Architecturally for me nothing compares to the Solomon R Guggenheim.

**CherryArts:** Great picks! OK, how about a lighter question - what's your favorite breakfast?

**Annie:** Eating at Becky's Diner down by the water in Portland with my three grown boys. They all order "The Hobson's Wharf," and the plates barely fit on the table. But it's only my favorite if I'm with them. Otherwise my favorite is a fresh croissant from The Standard Baking Company, also in downtown Portland.

**CherryArts:** It's hard to beat a fresh croissant, or breakfast with your kids. Let's talk about your process. If you're ever feeling stuck creatively, what's something that helps you get un-stuck?

**Annie:** I wish I knew a trick. For me, I just have to slog through it. Continuing to move forward even if I'm making things I want to tear up. And take some breaks, look at art I admire, even if it's on the computer, go for a run. But in the end I really just have to just "make" my way through it.



**CherryArts:** That makes sense to us! What about music? Do you listen when you work?  
Any recent favorites?

**Annie:** I usually do. I listen to a wide variety. A recent favorite would be Adrienne Lenker's new album Bright Future, Fred Again, and Lana del Ray. I also went to a Harry Styles concert at Madison Square Garden recently and the feeling was just pure joy.

**CherryArts:** Love it. If you had to switch artistic mediums today, and begin practicing a kind of art you don't currently practice, what would you pick and why?

**Annie:** I might choose to blow glass. I've never tried it. But I love the idea of creating delicate pastel colored glass and etching patterns into it. I also love that it could be utilitarian as well as beautiful to look at. Or maybe I'd make glass bunnies. I love that idea too!

**CherryArts:** We would love to see that! What's the last great book you read?

**Annie:** Well, I measure everything against Donna Tartt's The Goldfinch. I haven't read a better novel since. For several months, I've been carrying around Sandra Lim's book of poetry called The Curious Thing, so I guess that would be my most recent favorite.

**CherryArts:** Do you get inspiration from books or movies?

**Annie:** I loved the movie The Quiet Girl. I just wanted to paint so many stills from it.



**CherryArts:** We'd love to see those too!

Looking ahead to the 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival, what are you most nervous about?

**Annie:** Deciding which pieces to frame and bring, driving with my work and my dog Hank from Maine to Denver, figuring out how to set up and display my work, sharing my work with the public, ha! I guess all of it.

**CherryArts:** We have no doubt our festival attendees will love your work! What are you most excited about?

**Annie:** I'm excited about meeting new people and hearing from them what they see in my work and meeting other artists, too.



**CherryArts:** It's going to be a great festival! Ok, one last question. What is your favorite fruit? (It's okay if you don't say cherries!)

**Annie:** Any kind of berry. The most special are wild strawberries. They are just so tiny and a prize to discover. I don't find them very often although I'm always looking.

**CherryArts:** Those sound both magical and delicious. Thank you so much for chatting with us today, Annie. We're excited for our fans and followers to get to know you better. Good luck on your road trip west and we'll see you in July!

To learn more about Annie and her work, follow her [here](#) or visit her website at <https://annieandersonart.com>.