

CherryArts

Cherry Creek Arts Festival

Presented by  TOYOTA JULY 4-6, 2025

Benjamin Stanford is a realist painter based in Denver who specializes in figures placed in voids and surrealist dreamscapes.

CherryArts: Thanks for speaking with us today, Benjamin. Let's start with this: how old were you when you first imagined yourself becoming an artist?

Benjamin: My first memory of really wanting to become an artist was in 6th grade English class when our teacher proposed the question to the class. It was the first time I stated out loud that art was something that I wanted to pursue.

CherryArts: What's one of your earliest memories of making art?

Benjamin: One of my earliest memories of making art was in 3rd grade art class, when I received a C for a drawing of an eye. I think I've been taking revenge ever since.

CherryArts: Ha! Well done, in that case. If you're ever feeling stuck creatively, what's something that helps you get unstuck?

Benjamin: I always go back to basics. Small master copies, simple drawings, abstract composition, things like that. If I find myself in the studio not wanting to paint, I just throw on a podcast and start mixing color. That always seems to help.

CherryArts: Anything you're nervous about for the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

Benjamin: Probably finishing all the work I set out for myself. However, I'm on track and thrilled to share everything.



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CherryArts: Super! What are you most excited about for the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

Benjamin: The festival will undoubtedly be exhausting, but I'm incredibly excited to meet so many people, share my work, and get a real taste of what being in a festival is like.

CherryArts: We're excited for you to have that experience, too! Just a few more questions. Where did you grow up?

Benjamin: I grew up in Colorado Springs, and eventually moved to Fort Collins to study painting.

CherryArts: What's your favorite museum?

Benjamin: The Met by far is my favorite. I've only had the chance to go a couple of times, but each time I visited it was life changing.

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

Benjamin: Caravaggio would be amazing. Seeing his work for the first time is what really inspired me to become a painter.

CherryArts: Very nice. Who's a living artist you admire?

Benjamin: There's so many I admire, but Justin Mortimer and Phil Hale have really impacted me greatly.

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CherryArts: What's one source of artistic inspiration for you?

Benjamin: Anything out of the Renaissance always gets the wheels turning.

CherryArts: Do you listen to music when you're working?

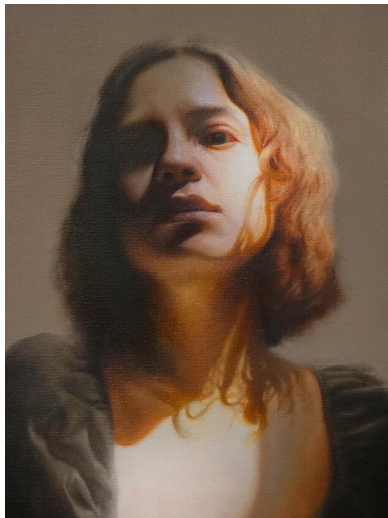
Benjamin: Most of the time I do, but sometimes just silence puts me in the right headspace. Lately it's been lots of Led Zeppelin and MF Doom.

CherryArts: Nice. Next, a few favorites. What's your favorite breakfast?

Benjamin: Eggs served with more eggs.

CherryArts: Ha! What's your favorite color?

Benjamin: Teal



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CherryArts: Favorite fruit? It's okay if you don't say "cherries!"

Benjamin: Raspberries all day.

CherryArts: Thank you for talking with us today, Benjamin! Where's the best place online for people to follow your work?

Benjamin: Thank you! Either my website, at www.benjaminstanford.com, or my Instagram, which is [@benjamin_stanford](https://www.instagram.com/benjamin_stanford).

