

Emerging Artist: Emilia B. Ealom

Today we had the pleasure of catching up with Emilia B. Ealom, another of this year's five emerging artists who will present their work at the 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival. A Denver native, Emilia is a ceramicist who focuses on wares that can be enjoyed in daily life and for generations to come.

CherryArts: Hey, Emilia! Thank you for talking with us today. You're a rare species - a Denver native! Have you always lived in Colorado?

Emilia: I mostly grew up in Denver, where I'm currently based, but I also lived in Argentina for about a quarter of my life, and London.



CherryArts: Well, we're glad you're here! What kind of art do you create?

Emilia: I create functional and decorative ceramics, like bowls, pots, and vases. There is something fascinating and exciting in creating an object out of a mound of earth that can be used and enjoyed for generations. I'm passionate about making wares that all can enjoy and how they can play a small role in someone's daily life.

CherryArts: We love that. Sometimes fine art can feel inaccessible, but your pieces are meant to be used. What's one of your earliest memories of creating or enjoying art?

Emilia: Elementary school art class! Art was always my favorite and best subject.



CherryArts: We're not surprised! Did you have any particular teachers or other influences that encouraged you to pursue art?

Emilia: My high school ceramics teacher was influential in my exploration of art. He advocated for me to do an independent study half-time my senior year of high school where I would spend half my week doing a pottery apprenticeship. That apprenticeship was a game changer for me.

CherryArts: The importance of good teachers cannot be understated. Is that when you first imagined yourself becoming an artist?

Emilia: Yes! I fell in love with clay when I was 13, but I began to picture myself becoming an artist when I was 17 and doing my pottery apprenticeship. By 18, I was in college studying studio art.

CherryArts: Ok, well let's go back even further. What about when you were eight years old? What did you want to be when you grew up then?

Emilia: I wanted to be a veterinarian. I have always loved animals. We have two dogs, Juno and Bobby, and two cats, Blue and Luna.

CherryArts: Those are great names! Do you have a favorite museum?

Emilia: Oh yes, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. I would spend hours exploring their ceramics collection when I lived in London.

CherryArts: It's such a gem! Who's a living artist you admire?

Emilia: It's hard to pick just one! Shelley Schreiber is a ceramicist who I respect and admire deeply. She is a master of her craft and a wealth of knowledge, and she is generous with her knowledge.

CherryArts: We love to hear about other successful artists sharing their knowledge and passion. What's one source of artistic inspiration for you?

Emilia: Everyday life inspires me most. Interacting with objects, colors, shapes, and the small mindful moments it creates. I also love music and am always listening when I'm in the studio.

CherryArts: Ooh, what's on your current rotation?

Emilia: I'm a lifelong Grateful Dead fan, so it's always on heavy rotation! I also love Latin music, blues, '80s pop, and reggae.

CherryArts: So we're definitely going to be following you on Spotify! What if you're ever feeling stuck creatively? Is there something that helps you get un-stuck?

Emilia: Good music and bowls! I always start with making bowls. It's my favorite shape to throw on the potter's wheel. It's a nice icebreaker for me after periods of not being at the wheel or when I'm feeling stuck.



CherryArts: It never hurts to go back to the basics. Ok, just a few more questions. 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?

Emilia: Jewelry. I love making things that contribute to people's daily lives. I'm also always envious of jewelers because they don't have to lug around heavy pots!

CherryArts: You will see some gorgeous jewelry at our festival! Speaking of the 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival, how are you feeling about being showcased?

Emilia: Well, I'm nervous to have to talk to hundreds of people! But I'm also so excited for the learning experience. I'm ready to learn and grow in this next phase of my career. And the Emerging Artist Program has been a wonderful opportunity for me to gain exposure to the art festival world.

CherryArts: We can't wait to see what you bring to the festival! One last question, what's your favorite fruit? (It's okay if you don't say "cherries!")

Emilia: Haha, actually, it is cherries! Nothing better than fresh, cold cherries.

CherryArts: Bonus points for you. Thanks for chatting with us today, Emilia. We're so excited to have you at the festival this summer and for our fans and followers to get to know you.

To learn more about Emilia and her work, follow her [here](#) or visit her website at www.ebepottery.com.

