

CherryArts

# Cherry Creek Arts Festival

Presented by  TOYOTA JULY 4-6, 2025

*Eunjoo Kang, also known as EJ, is a ceramicist and sculptor who lives in Mead, Colorado. She's a recipient of a 2025 Emerging Artist Grant from CherryArts, and will exhibit her work at the Cherry Creek Arts Festival in Denver from July 4 to 6.*

**CherryArts:** Thank you for speaking with us today! First, what kind of art do you create?

**EJ:** I work as a ceramic artist and sculptor. I use clay to create my world, producing both sculptural and functional pieces.

**CherryArts:** Wonderful. How old were you when you first imagined becoming an artist?

**EJ:** I've always had a strong passion for art since I was very young, and I can say that I first envisioned myself becoming an artist when I was around six years old.

**CherryArts:** We love that. What is one of your earliest memories of experiencing or making art?

**EJ:** I remember being around six years old and enjoying the process of touching mud and sand, making things like fairy houses and mud pies. I had an innate desire to create from these natural materials. I also spent a lot of time with my cousin, who was four years older and very skilled at drawing. We used to draw Barbie dolls, and her ability to create delicate, soft lines amazed me. That experience sparked my deep admiration for art and inspired me to pursue it.



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**CherryArts:** That's beautiful. Where did you grow up? And did any of your teachers encourage you to explore art?

**EJ:** I grew up in Seoul, South Korea. While I didn't have one specific teacher who encouraged me, I was deeply influenced by the people around me and the art I encountered. During my university years, at Sookmyung Women's University in South Korea, I had professors who closely observed my work and offered valuable guidance.



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

**EJ:** Korean traditional painting is a major source of inspiration for me. I want to bring the origin of where my life started into my work and share what I know best. I also create many faces in my work, each one unique. This happens naturally as I don't use molds. I love seeing how people's characters are reflected in their faces, and how slight differences create unique expressions.



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**CherryArts:** That's great. If you had to switch artistic mediums today and start practicing a form of art you don't currently practice, what would you pick and why?

**EJ:** I would choose woodwork. I love the texture that wood offers. Just like with clay, the natural texture of wood is something I deeply appreciate. I've always enjoyed working with the natural qualities of materials, and I think the freedom and organic flow of wood would be a great challenge. One day, I would love to try my hand at it.

**CherryArts:** We'd love to see that! Do you listen to music when you're working?

**EJ:** I listen to John Denver's music, country folk songs that my parents loved. These songs have a simple, unadorned sound that helps me maintain a steady pace while I work. The combination of his soothing voice and acoustic guitar provides the perfect backdrop for my creative process.



**CherryArts:** Great answer! If you're ever feeling stuck creatively, what's something that helps you get unstuck?

**EJ:** I find that going to the mountains really helps clear my mind. The blue sky, the green trees, and the scent of pine combined with the sound of a stream help me reconnect with myself and regain focus. Being in nature always brings me back to my true self.

**CherryArts:** That makes so much sense to us. Tell us about an art museum you love.

**EJ:** My favorite museum is the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. It's not a large museum, but it's set in a beautiful environment with natural rock structures, and every piece of art there came to life in a unique way.



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

**EJ:** I would choose to visit the studio of Auguste Rodin. His sculptures have a remarkable flow and freedom, but they are also structurally sound. In sculpting, I believe every hand movement is like a brushstroke in painting, and each stroke from Rodin is something special.

I would love to observe how he shapes each sculpture as if he's dancing with his creation.

**CherryArts:** Who's a living artist you admire?

**EJ:** I deeply admire the sculptures of Margaret Wozniak. The serenity in the facial expressions of her works resonates with me. This reflects my own intention in my sculptures: I want people to feel peace and calmness when they see my work.

**CherryArts:** What's the last great book you read or movie you watched?

**EJ:** I love *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. I first saw it in 2004, and it's a movie I return to often. I loved everything about it: the music, the acting, and the story. It's a quietly profound film, and I appreciate its message about the inescapable nature of love, human connection, and the triumph of the natural over the artificial.

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

**EJ:** Although I enjoy speaking with people, I do get a little nervous about communication due to English being my second language. However, I've always found comfort in connecting with others through my work, so I hope my pieces will help overcome any language barriers and speak for themselves.



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**CherryArts:** You know what? We really think they will. What are you most excited about for the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

**EJ:** I'm most excited about showcasing my work and sharing it with the community. As an emerging artist, this is a significant opportunity for me to introduce myself and my art to the public, and it means so much to me. I still can't fully believe it, but I'm eagerly anticipating the event this July. I'm truly looking forward to it!

**CherryArts:** We're just as excited as you are! Last question: Have any pets?

**EJ:** Yes, I have a rescue bird named Chip. He's been with me for about two years. Though he's still a bit shy, he sometimes sits on my finger. He loves the sound of water, and he sings whenever I wash the dishes.

**CherryArts:** Ah, Chip sounds like a delight. Please share with us the best place online for people to follow your work.

**EJ:** Thank you! I'm on Instagram at @ejstudio and my website is [www.ejpottery.com](http://www.ejpottery.com).

*We are excited to see EJ and her work in person at the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival!*

