

CherryArts

# Cherry Creek Arts Festival

Presented by  TOYOTA JULY 4-6, 2025

*Kristen St. Clair Palmer is a Denver-based mixed media artist.*

**CherryArts:** Thanks for speaking with us today! Tell us what kind of art you create.

**Kristen:** Thank you. I make narrative mixed media, often with found objects and ephemera. I love exploring the ways our past intersects or diverges from our current state.

**CherryArts:** Where did you grow up?

**Kristen:** Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**CherryArts:** When you were eight years old, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**Kristen:** A teacher! My dad was a teacher and I ended up in a form of teaching. Before pursuing art, my role was in training and development. I think my brain just works in a particular order that lends itself to explaining things a certain way. I love helping people understand something new. In an alternate universe I'm definitely an elementary art teacher.



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

**Kristen:** I really don't think I ever did. I like to think of myself as a good balance between right- and left-brained. It wasn't until I left my full time role that I even had space to think of a creative career. There was always a creative bone in my body, but I think I didn't fully have the space to flex it until recently.

**CherryArts:** We love learning about the journey. What's one of your earliest memories of experiencing art, or of making art?

**Kristen:** With my mom, one hundred percent. She's an amazing oil painter, and she used to drag my sister and me to museums against our will. When I was studying hospitality, my capstone class was an event for 150 people with a theme. Our theme was MTV through the years. My mom and I painted these large scale MTV logos for all of the tables. That was really fun to mix her skills and love of art with my degree and event planning focus at the time.

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**CherryArts:** Nice! What's your favorite museum?

**Kristen:** Denver Art Museum and the Kirkland Museum. In addition to their collections and rotating exhibits, the DAM runs such great programs for families. I love going there with my kids!

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

**Kristen:** Olivia Bonilla. Her colors and style really inspire me. She's fluid but also methodical in a way that creates such fun pieces. She also seems to be totally hard at work at all times.

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

**Kristen:** Interior design and antiques. I love to explore the way old items were made and decorated. Maximalism is in fashion right now,

and I hope it continues. Layering colors and textures is something I find to be such a fun process and one I love doing in my work. I often think of my pieces as having a similar process to interior design. I'm not necessarily creating everything from scratch but layering them until I reach the desired look.



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

**Kristen:** I'm usually more of a book on tape/Netflix/podcast person. It's usually some trash TV that I can tune in and out of while I work. Otherwise, current events podcasts or whatever book club is reading. Cleaning the studio? Early 2000s Top 40s, though.

**CherryArts:** What's your favorite color?

**Kristen:** How do you pick just one!? I love a combination of neutrals with pops of exciting elements like emerald green, cobalt blue, or bright fuchsia.

**CherryArts:** 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?

**Kristen:** Textiles, hands down. I'd love to make clothes, learn about pattern making, and practice embroidery. I love finding amazing fabrics at the thrift store and wish I could do more with them.





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**CherryArts:** If you're ever feeling stuck creatively, what helps you get unstuck?

**Kristen:** An antique store or an art museum. Seeing the amazing things other people have made reignites new ideas.

**CherryArts:** What are you most nervous about for the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

**Kristen:** The logistics! Being a first-time exhibitor comes with so many questions. The art in itself is a lot to prepare, but overnight you have to become a business owner, a gallerist, and so much more. I want to feel relieved and proud when it comes together.

**CherryArts:** That makes sense, and we're happy to help you figure out those things. What are you most excited about for the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

**Kristen:** Meeting other artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts. Just feeling the energy of the festival!

**CherryArts:** Wonderful. What's the best place online for people to follow your work?

**Kristen:** That's on Instagram at [@kristen.st.clair](https://www.instagram.com/kristen.st.clair).

*Thank you, Kristen! We're excited to see you and your work in person at the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival!*

