

CherryArts

Cherry Creek Arts Festival

Presented by  TOYOTA JULY 4-6, 2025



CherryArts Emerging Artist grant recipient Tricia Waddell is a textile artist who lives in Denver's Park Hill neighborhood. She focuses primarily on soft sculptures that incorporate dyeing, embroidery, and other mixed-media elements.

CherryArts: Tricia! Thanks so much for speaking with us today. Let's dive right in. How old were you when you first imagined yourself becoming an artist?

Tricia: Ten years old. I always knew I wanted to do something creative.

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

Tricia: I took a black and white photography class in high school and learned how to develop my own photos. I had been collecting my favorite fashion and dance photography images in binders for years, plus wallpapering my room with my favorite images as a kid, so learning how to create my own images was very powerful. And I still have the binders!

CherryArts: We want to see them! Did you have any teachers who encouraged you to explore art?

Tricia: Not specifically, but I went to a performing arts high school so I grew up in a creative environment. My mother was the person most directly instrumental in encouraging me to appreciate art, and she regularly took me to our local museum to see art in person. That was in Dayton, Ohio.

CherryArts: That's great. What's your favorite museum today?

Tricia: Tate Modern in London.



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CherryArts: And who's a living artist you admire?

Tricia: So many! Jenny Holzer and Lorna Simpson are two artists I really admire. They make work that tells the truth.

CherryArts: We love that description. What's one source of artistic inspiration for you?

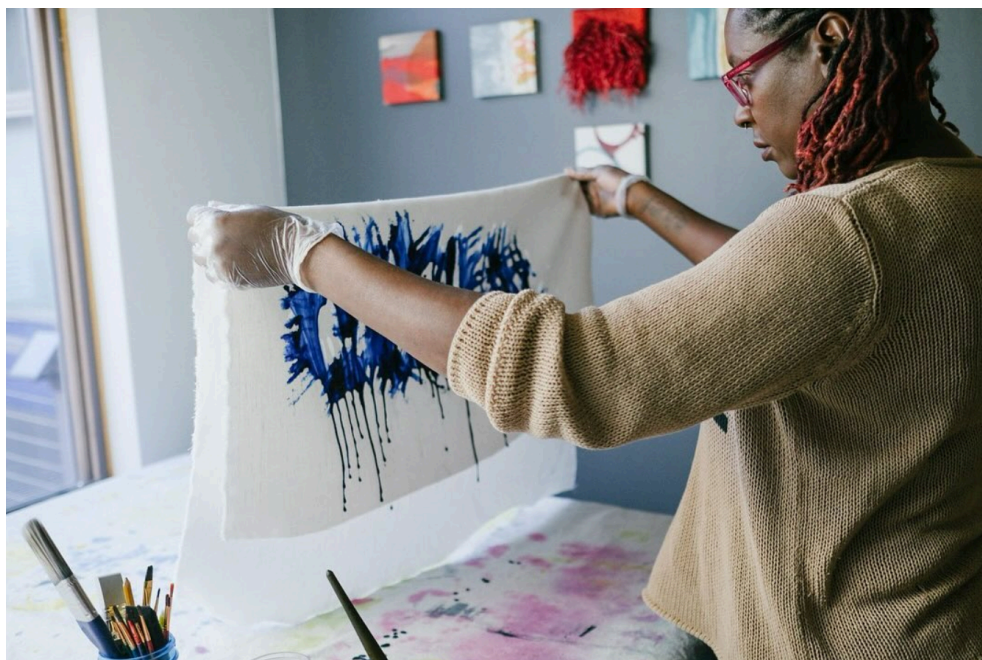
Tricia: Dance has always been a source of inspiration. All of my pieces have a sense of implied movement, and I get many of my ideas for forms from dance photography.

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

Tricia: Music is huge for me when I'm working! It helps me get in the zone. Recent faves on rotation in the studio are Radiohead, Erykah Badu, Sault, and Sarah McLachlan, plus anything amapiano.

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

Tricia: Getting inspired by an art form completely different from my medium. Helps me see things differently and approach my work from a different angle. Also, writing in my journal. My work is about what's happening in my emotional life, so when I truly tap into that, I know what to make next.



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CherryArts: If you had to switch artistic mediums today and begin practicing in a different medium, what would you pick and why?

Tricia: Fine art photography. It was my first love. It's a very cool way to show people how you see the world.

CherryArts: Just a couple more questions, for fun. Do you have any pets?

Tricia: Yes! A dachshund-chihuahua mix (aka "chiweenie") named Brooklyn. Small dog, big attitude!

CherryArts: We'd love to meet Brooklyn! What's your favorite breakfast?

Tricia: Cornbread pancakes.

CherryArts: Yum! Last but not least, where may people follow your work?

Tricia: www.studioblkbird.com and on Instagram at [@studioblkbird](https://www.instagram.com/studioblkbird).

Thank you, Tricia! We're excited to see you and your work, and your fellow 2025 emerging artists, in person at the 2025 Cherry Creek Arts Festival!

