



## Emerging Artist: Adam Anglin

*Today we chatted with Adam Anglin, another of this year's five emerging artists who will present their work at the 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival. Adam is a painter based in Denver who specializes in acrylic and oil abstracts and landscapes, mostly on wood panels. We're so excited for you to meet him and see his work this July 5 to 7.*

**CherryArts:** Hey Adam! Let's start with one of our favorite questions: How old were you when you first imagined yourself becoming an artist?

**Adam:** Oh, all my life! At least since I can remember. My mom and my aunt are both artists, so I've grown up watching them be creative in so many different ways, so I think it's always been there. I was always fascinated by art. Drawing and painting were always my favorite.



**CherryArts:** That is very cool. What's one of your earliest memories of experiencing art, or of making art?

**Adam:** I wanna say I can remember making hand impressions in clay at the age of three. I have a terrible memory, so this is hard to verify. My mom hung them in our laundry room. Perfect location!

**CherryArts:** Ha! We bet they're lovely. Did you have any teachers who encouraged you to explore art, or to appreciate art?

**Adam:** Yes! Mrs. Novell was a dear art teacher of mine in high school. She helped me see the beauty of abstract art and I am forever grateful. She passed during my senior year of high school. Really sad, but I am so grateful for her care and investment in me. It changed me in so many ways.



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

**Adam:** I grew up playing sports and watching Michael Jordan, so I guess eight-year-old me would say being a pro basketball player. I'm almost 40 now, but some delusional part of me thinks that could still work out. My shot is coming along!

**CherryArts:** We wish you all the best in that endeavor! What did you want to be when you were 18 years old?

**Adam:** I knew I wanted to do something artistic, so I was playing a lot of music at that time and going to school for graphic design. I think I've always seen myself doing something in the arts. Music was front and center for me at that age, and I definitely had dreams of touring and playing rock music.

**CherryArts:** Switching gears a bit, what's your favorite museum?

**Adam:** The DeYoung in San Francisco is definitely up there. My favorite Denver museum is the Denver Art Museum, but I love the Clyfford Still. I always feel like I can take a breath and slow down there. Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas, is truly world class. It feels like a hidden gem in the museum world.

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

**Adam:** Jackson Pollock. I'm not sure how long I'd last in that kind of space, but I'd love to see the process and experience him. Plus the art scene in New York at that time would have been wild. All of it feels like an adventure.

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

**Adam:** I really admire my friend and local artist Eric Ronshaugen. His work is incredible. He's endlessly creative, never cynical, and generous with his time and thoughts. I think that's the kind of person I want to be.



**CherryArts:** That's such a nice tribute! Do you listen to music when you're working?

**Adam:** I don't. Most often, it's silence. My thoughts have a lot to say. Sometimes I'll have a podcast on. For some reason I've had *Seinfeld* on in the background. I like to glance over and see George and Jerry having some silly interactions. I don't know why I'm sharing this with you. It sounds a little embarrassing to admit this.

**CherryArts:** Ha! We never judge an artist's process. Just a couple 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?

**Adam:** I think ceramics are so impressive. It also feels like, where do you even begin? Buy a wheel and a kiln? Who are these incredible humans?! So involved. The idea of using something practically everyday that is also a piece of art really strikes me. My wife and I bought some handmade mugs from a Mexican artist who was deported. It feels corny, but in some small way, I feel like I'm holding a piece of this person every time I use the mug. It makes me emotional just thinking about it.



**CherryArts:** That makes so much sense to us! You are going to see some incredible ceramics at our festival this July! One more process question. If you're ever feeling stuck creatively, what's something that helps you get unstuck?

**Adam:** Getting off my phone. I think starting slow in the morning, drinking coffee, and a good walk. All of these help me reset a little bit. I'll throw in cleaning the kitchen or organizing my little studio space. I also think time with friends is important. Other than that, it's just showing up. Not letting the insecurities or frustrations keep me from moving forward in my work.

**CherryArts:** Showing up is essential! Anything you're nervous about for the 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

**Adam:** Not selling anything! But, more than that, not seeing my work connect with anyone in a real way. Real artist insecurity stuff. "Will anyone care?" is a question that lingers constantly.

**CherryArts:** That's something maybe every artist or creator can relate to. We've seen your work, though, so we're not worried for you at all. What are you most excited about for the 2024 Cherry Creek Arts Festival?

**Adam:** Meeting the other artists, gallery owners, and everyone that has a place in the arts community. Including CherryArts peeps. Honestly, that excites me. I love meeting people who care about artists and their work. People who feel this call to make and create and put beauty into the world. It fills me with so much joy.

**CherryArts:** Oh, man, we are so right there with you! Thanks for speaking with us today, Adam. We are thrilled you'll be at the festival this summer, and we're so excited for our community to meet you and enjoy your work!

*To get a glimpse of Adam's work before this year's festival, follow him [here](#) or visit his website at [www.adamanglin.com](http://www.adamanglin.com)!*

