



**For Immediate Release**

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**CherryArts Announces 250 Artists Selected  
for 35th Annual Cherry Creek Arts Festival This July 3-5**

*The artists in thirteen disciplines were chosen from a field of 1,983 applicants*

**DENVER (February 3, 2026)** — When the streets of Cherry Creek North are transformed into one of the country’s leading fine arts festivals this summer, 250 artists from across America (and two other countries) will exhibit their work. Today CherryArts reveals those artists.

A jury of five art professionals selected this year’s artists during a blind jury process in January. CherryArts—who produces the annual festival to raise funds for their year-round work bringing art experiences to Coloradans—received 1,983 applications this year, in 13 different disciplines of art. The festival—which won the prestigious Gold Grand Pinnacle Award for best festival for the second year in a row in 2025—continues to be one of the most competitive and well-attended fine arts festivals in the United States.

Of this year’s artists:

- 36 are from Colorado
- 3 are from countries outside the U.S. (Argentina and Canada)
- 80 are first-time exhibitors at CCAF
- 39 are first-time applicants to CCAF
- 108 exhibited at the 2025 CCAF
- 17 are multimedia artists who will present in more than one medium
- 5 are new emerging artist grant recipients

“We are 35 years in, and this year’s line-up of artists will make our festival feel as fresh as ever,” said Tara Brickell, executive director of CherryArts. “One of the benefits of hiring an independent jury each year is that every Cherry Creek Arts Festival has its own personality, while maintaining the characteristics that people love: exceptional original art, access to so many creative voices, and free activities for the whole family.”

This year, 218 artists applied for the annual CherryArts Emerging Artist Grant, which provides \$5,000 in unrestricted funds, plus mentorship and support in preparing for the summer festival, to five different artists near the beginning of their career each year. Of this year's recipients, three are from Colorado, one's from Oklahoma, and one's from New York.

The jury for CCAF changes annually and selects artists blindly based on artistic excellence of quality, creativity, and overall impression of original handcrafted work. Twenty artists were admitted to the festival automatically this year: the 2025 poster artist, artists who serve on the festival's advisory committee, and award winners from the 2025 festival.

CCAF receives thousands of applications due to the festival's reputation, high level of artistic excellence, and potential for significant sales. In 2025, sales averaged \$17,470 per artist, with more than \$4.5 million in total sales. Another key to success is the festival's setting in the heart of Denver's beautiful and affluent Cherry Creek North neighborhood, with an educated, art-buying audience of around 150,000 visitors and a nearly \$1M marketing campaign.

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival features artists in 13 different media categories including ceramics, digital art, drawing, fiber, glass, printmaking, jewelry, metalworks, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, and wood. [The full list of 2026 artists is here.](#)

The 2026 festival jury included:

- Tanya Crane: artist and educator, Long Beach, CA
- Thomas Evans, Detour: artist, creative director, and author, Denver, CO
- Emily Grace King: art and exhibits curator for Special Collections and Archives of Denver Public Library, Denver, CO
- Justin Teilhet: mixed media artist, 2025 CCAF award winner, Yellow Springs, OH
- Thomas Tyers: wood artist, 2025 CCAF award winner, Omro, WI

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival is produced by CherryArts, a Denver-based nonprofit dedicated to the beliefs that access to art is for everyone and that artists are essential. CherryArts supports artists and arts education through interactive programming at their annual festival and year-round throughout Colorado. Last year, CherryArts directly served more than 40,000 students with mobile outreach programs designed to spark creativity and empower the next generation through arts education. These programs include a mobile art gallery, art kits, the Student Art Buying Program, and the Mobile Art Cart: Printmaking.

Photos are here: [bit.ly/CCAF2026](https://bit.ly/CCAF2026)

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