

Donna Cedar-Southworth

**Artist's Statement**

Being a professional writer for over 40 years, my life was on “deadline.” After publishing my last piece of writing in 2019, I simply discovered I had nothing left to say. I had run out of the words that I had loved for so many years. But really, I was looking for a new “language.” I wanted to share my thoughts in a different artform.

Twenty years of my forty-year-career had been spent interviewing artists for *Home and Design Magazine*, *Chesapeake Home Magazine*, and *elan Magazine*—all of which were dedicated to art and design. In those twenty years, I discovered visual artists and writers operate from the same personal space. What we create is our way of understanding what we're thinking. And so, I began taking art classes with the Alexandria Art League and the Great Falls Art School. It's been five years now, and I am ready to look at my work differently.

My inspiration has been drawn from Richard Diebenkorn, Henri Matisse, Mark Rothko, and Alex Jawlensky. Most all of my works are in acrylic. Some of my paintings have been “problem children” at one point in their life or another, while others just created themselves—but I think they all turned out the way they were supposed to. Each piece has been an adventure. It's all the same really—pen and paper, or paintbrush and canvas—these are ways we strive to communicate with the world around us.