

Dana Frostick Bio

For Richmond artist, Dana Frostick, making art is her life's mission. Dana studied sculpture at VCU in the mid-eighties and became a full time artist after retiring from the Times-Dispatch in 1999. Since then, she has presented her work in over two dozen solo exhibitions in local galleries including Artspace, Artemis Gallery, Anne's Visual Art Studio, Art Works, and the Richmond Public Library Downtown, and also regionally at the Petersburg Regional Arts Center, Rawls Museum Arts in Courtland, VA and the Hillyer Artspace (IAA) in Washington DC. Dana has participated in numerous joint, group, and invitational shows, and her work has been selected in an uncountable number of juried exhibits, receiving multiple awards for her artwork.

In addition to her own painting, Dana devoted 25 years to non-profit arts in central Virginia through her volunteer work with Artspace Richmond including gallery management, publicity, fundraising, hanging and curating shows, and website design and maintenance. Dana is an avid bicyclist and a self-proclaimed "kittiot" (one who loves cats beyond reason). During a bonfire where a giant effigy of Bast (Bastet) was burned, she was marked by the fire with the shape of a cat and has acted as a servant of the goddess since then. Her obsession with cats has recently infiltrated her abstract paintings with narratives of her kitty friends' interactions.

Artist's Statement

My art flows back and forth between representational and abstract imagery. For the past two decades, I've focused on abstract painting, coaxing order out of chaos to create unique pieces of artwork. I use Sharpie pen with acrylics because with a permanent marker I can not erase the lines I create, but must only add to what is there. Like life itself, we cannot remove our past, we can only build on it and move forward.

I've recently transitioned back to representational art again. Not wanting to abandon my abstract process, I have been melding recognizable imagery with my "elaborate doodles." I decided to use cats as the imagery for these melded pieces, presenting a narrative of interactions between the kitties in my family. Upon viewing the initial completed works exhibited together and hearing the responses that audience members shared with me, I discovered that these paintings are more than just the story of these two cats. What my work hits on is how closely the emotions and behaviors of cats relate to those of humans – the paintings acting as illustrations of the interconnectedness of all Earthlings. I hope my work serves as a reminder of these connections and the importance of preserving all forms of life on our planet.