

# Chris Cozen

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Color is my motivator. I am forever looking at the nuances I encounter as I visually search the world about me. The challenge then is to try to “capture” the essence of the colors I see in my work, to make them speak in their intended voices.

I grew up in a time and place where the outdoors and its “accessories” were my play props. From my earliest memories of my childhood, inventiveness and creativity were my partners. I enjoyed an incredible freedom and only limited boundaries which I call upon today when I stand in front of my easel or sit down to create a collage or an assemblage.

I love experimentation and the unpredictability of the unknown and often think of myself as more of a “mad” scientist than an artist, when I am mixing up different acrylic combinations in my studio. I try not to “label” my work or limit myself to a specific genre when I work. Although I work primarily with Acrylic products, every piece I do is “assembled” from bits and pieces I have collected over time. I guess they are an expression of my life. I want people to linger and look. If my work resonates with someone then that person will have heard its voice. If someone has heard its voice, then I am satisfied.



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**C**hris Cozen has always had a creative streak, dabbling throughout her youth without any formal training, taking a few design courses over the years. Trained as an educator, Chris spent 30 years as teacher, administrator, college instructor, and seminar leader, doing art when the time and space allowed. When she retired from Education in 2000, she built a studio and focused her efforts full-time on her art.



**C**hris is essentially a self-taught artist with an innate understanding of color and design. Many of her pieces are “stories” of people and experiences, enriched with pieces of family history. She especially enjoys collage and assemblage as they allow her to incorporate into her work “treasures” she collects that help her tell a story. Both her mixed media canvases and her assemblages are colorful, whimsical, and intricate, building layer upon layer of meaning along with the color and collage elements. It is important to Chris that people engage with the story being told, even if they end up telling a different story than was in her mind when she began the piece.

**S**ince 2000, Chris has exhibited her work in Memphis, Nashville, the A.E.Backus Gallery in Florida, and the Chapelle des Penitents in Callian, France. Her work is held in private collections in California, Maryland, Tennessee, Florida, Canada, Germany, France, Israel, and Norway.

**C**hris is married and lives in California with her husband Darrell, where she enjoys a wonderful garden, plentiful sunshine, a few cats, and the company of friends. She has two married daughters.



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