

emily thornton calvo

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Emily Thornton Calvo is a poet, visual artist, author and creative director. As a poet, she has been active in Chicago's poetry community since 1994. In 2014, she released her long overdue collection of poems and art, *Lending Color to the Otherwise Absurd*, with support from a grant provided by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Her poems have been published in Roosevelt University's *Oyez Review*, *Coleré*, *After Hours* and other publications—both online and in print. She has also featured at numerous libraries, radio programs, galleries and festivals including Art Chicago, Loyola University, Women & Children First, the Uptown Poetry Slam at the Green Mill as well as the Fontenay le Comte Civic Center in France. Calvo has been an active organizer in the poetry slam movement and is a co-founder of Chicago Slam Works. She was a poet-in-residence at a Chicago public school through The Poetry Center of Chicago's Hands on Stanzas program. In her work as a Chicago freelance writer, she has also authored several books.

Raised by a Chicago artist, she gravitated to painting as well, but decided to apply her creative talents to writing. This led to a career in advertising as an associate creative director with Frankel (now Arc) on their Target account, copywriter at SPM Communications (a leading healthcare ad agency, and Bell + Howell—all in the Chicago area. In 1999, she became a freelance creative director serving clients in the Chicago area.

Meanwhile, when her father passed away in 2000, she traveled to France and reconnected with visual art. Since then, she has studied at the Oak Park Art Center, Palette & Chisel, and Ed Hinkley Studios. Her work has been exhibited at August House Studio, the Harold Washington Library, the Civic Center in Fontenay Le Comte, France and many other venues.

When she's not indulging her creative nature, she takes pleasure in pondering universal questions with her grandchildren, overseas travel, a good ghost story and chocolate. She has a BA in Industrial Psychology from Loyola University and lives in Chicago.

