

# Deborah Anderson

Columbus, Ohio

Though she has a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Harvard, Deborah Anderson is virtually self taught in textile arts. She has probably given more workshops than she has taken—in appliqué, weaving and design—since beginning her career as a fiber artist in the late 1960s. Her work has been exhibited and has garnered many prizes. Though best known in the Midwest where she makes her home, some of Anderson's works have shown up as far away as Avery Fisher Hall in Manhattan and in Brisbane, Australia.



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*Torah Mantles, by Deborah Anderson. Applique, reverse applique, cotton, wool and silk, each 32" high. The mantle to the left, inscribed with the word "Holy," combines the image of a menorah and a Tree of Life done in bas relief applique and reverse applique in cotton and wool. The mantle on the right surrounds the words, "House of Hope," with pomegranates in applique and reverse applique done in cotton and silk. The inscription is the name of the synagogue, Congregation Beth Tikvah of Worthington, OH.*

"I always sewed," the artist recalls, "first for dolls, then clothes for myself and later, of course, things for the house." Her art sewing began when, at an antique show, she bought some patches that had already been made. She recalls thinking, "Oh, I can do that—I can copy those." After taking modern fabrics to create the antique quilt block pattern, she went on to improvise and kept on experimenting. In about 1980 she took a workshop with Nancy Crow, who is an internationally known fiber artist. Anderson recalls, "She told me to design my own blocks. So, that was it—I started in and have been designing with fabrics ever since. I keep trying new combinations of



*Beth Tikvah Torah Mantle (detail), by Deborah Anderson, showing applique work, the rich colors, and glistening stitchery.*