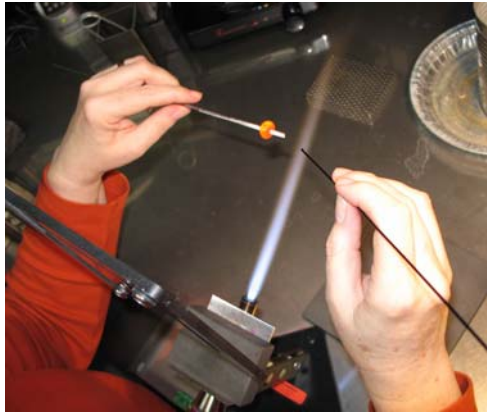


Handmade Lampwork Beads and Jewelry by Susan Matych-Hager

HAGER STUDIOS



THE BEADS. Each lampwork glass bead used in my jewelry is individually created. A 3/32 inch stainless steel rod (mandrel) is first precoated with a bead release product (a proprietary mixture similar to kiln wash). The bead release is then dried in the flame of an oxygen/fuel torch. A rod of colored glass (Italian Moretti-type or American-made Bulls-eye) is heated until molten and then wound onto the mandrel. The bead is shaped on the mandrel using the pull of gravity and the heat of the torch. Each bead is then decorated using a variety of lampworking techniques. Because only one bead at a time can be formed, no two beads are exactly alike. When finished, the bead is placed in a 960 degree fahrenheit kiln where it is an-

nealed for approximately 8-10 hours. Each lampwork (glass) bead is cleaned thoroughly of all bead release residue and then made into jewelry.

THE JEWELRY. The jewelry is created with original lampwork beads and other quality materials including Swarovski crystals and precious metal beads. Jewelry findings, including all chain and wire, are sterling silver or gold-filled. 18k-24k gold findings are available for an additional price. Most of the necklaces and bracelets are strung on Softflex stainless steel, silver, or gold wire. Earrings are made for pierced ears and use sterling silver or gold-filled wires. Non-pierced earrings in silver or gold-filled are available upon request.

THE ARTIST. Susan Matych-Hager is a professor of music at Siena Heights University where she has chaired the department, taught music classes and voice lessons, and directed choirs since 1973. An art minor in college, she has always been interested in the visual arts. A glass bead course taken from Don Miller at the Toledo Museum of Art was the beginning of her adventure with glass bead making (lampworking). Creating lampwork jewelry was a natural progression in her development as a glass bead artist. Matych-Hager is fascinated with color and the myriad of textures created in her miniature glass sculptures. The artist states, "I love the richness that can occur when one uses color to unify the diversity of decoration. I am fascinated by the rhythm and movement that can be created in an otherwise static form through the interplay of light striking the glass, crystals, metal, and pearls."

Her beads are currently available exclusively from Bonita Bead Boutique in Maumee, Ohio, The Middle Bead in Chelsea, Michigan, River Raisin Beads in Dundee, Michigan, and Stony Creek Bead and Gallery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Her jewelry is available from Flatlanders Gallery in Blissfield, Michigan and Stony Creek Bead and Gallery. Susan also sells beads and jewelry by appointment only from her home studio.

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Hours by Appointment Only