

1ST STYLE & Salon

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ELEMENTAL DESIRES

Bead and design show brings SoCal artisans to Santa Barbara



COURTESY PHOTOS

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Watch any group of kids as they string together a thread of beads and the resulting sense of wonder will have them captivated for hours. Ask any bead artist about the inspiration behind their work and they're very likely to tell you it is that very same sense of wonder that motivates them too.

"The wonder of beads never disappears — other things in life just get in the way," says Studio City-based bead trader and artist Allene Rose. "Just watch a group of kindergarten kids sitting in the corner with a tray of beads. They'll be there for hours swapping out different colors and grabbing different shapes. It's the same wonder that inspires bead artists."

The wondrous world of beads will be on full display next month when the Bead Elements & Design

Show comes to Santa Barbara. Taking place at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort May 6-8, the show will feature 250 artisan galleries exhibiting handmade beads, jewelry, accessories, artisan supplies, clothes and textiles.

The artists and designers exhibiting their work at Bead Elements utilize a wide range of skills and employ diverse techniques to create their works of art. There will be pieces that comes out of beadwork, clay and glass art, enameling, soldering, wirework, metalwork, leatherwork, bronze, weaving and embroidery.

Kathleen Caid of Antique Artistry in Glendale exemplifies

the diversity that will be on display. Known for her imaginative lampshades that feature fabrics and fringes, Ms. Caid's style ranges from whimsical fancy to Gothic elegance.

Her work has been collected by the likes of Steve Martin, Cher, Antonio Banderas and Kenny Loggins.

Ms. Caid has been making lamps since the early 1980s. She couples vintage textiles with found antique

objects and beaded fringes to produce opulent pieces that grab the attention. She sources her materials from far and wide, including European flea markets, local swap meets and desert gem and mineral

IF YOU GO

The Bead Elements & Design Show will be held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 6-8 at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Admission is \$10 for all three days and includes parking. For more information, go to www.beadelements.com.

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Above right, Allene Rose uses beads she imports from Venice, Italy, in her ornate necklaces. At top, in addition to crafting her own jewelry, Ms. Rose sells beads she sources from around the world.

Her inspiration is classically attuned

■ BEADS

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shows.

While there is certainly nothing understated about her work, the inspiration that drives her styling is more classically attuned.

"I learned long ago that it's not what you buy, it's how you perceive the materials in front of you," Ms. Caid, 64, said. "My inspiration comes from the beauty of the antiques and fabrics that I work with. By using vintage materials and designs, I give them new life. I love the quality of period craftsmanship and I try to remain faithful to the spirit of the piece. But the final result is a totally unique and rejuvenated article."

While Ms. Caid's work encompasses textiles as well as beads, for Mrs. Rose, it's all about the beads.

Her introduction to them came during a visit to Venice, Italy, about eight years ago when she discovered a shop selling handmade glass beads. After importing a selection of Italian-made beads, she started seeking out the American-made equivalents and now travels to shows and fairs selling finely crafted pieces.

"I'm always looking for specialized bead artists who are making something unique and cool," Mrs. Rose, 66, said. "I love finding beads of different colors and shapes, and I really love how they can inspire people to create something really beautiful."

Mrs. Rose said one of the real joys of trading at events like Bead Elements is the relationships she builds with her customers.

"I love it when customers come back and show me what they have made with the beads I have sold them," she said. "They come back wearing their creations ... it's so great to see what they've made and how excited they are about it."

Along with sourcing and selling beads, Mrs. Rose also uses her products to make jewelry that she sells at her stall. She crafts necklaces using ornate and colorful beads with the end product reflecting her own preference in style.

"I like to be a little dressed up," Mrs. Rose said. "I like a sophisticated style and that's what I want my necklaces to have. I use the beads I source from Italy, and it's really the color and shape of the beads that inspire the pieces. With all the different colors and different shapes, there's so much you can do with them."

Along with perusing the numerous exhibiting



COURTESY PHOTO

Katherine Caid's classic styling extends to her handcrafted jewelry.

artists and suppliers, Bead Elements attendees will have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and take part in a variety of workshops by the artists and designers. The workshops, held during the show hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., offer instruction for various skill levels and most include tools and materials. There will be training in wirework, enameling, jewelry design, polymer clay, crystal setting, bead making, art clay, hand-knotting, mixed media and chainmaille.

"Shows like these are so much fun," Mrs. Rose said.

"It's fun for the artists and sellers and it's fun for the customers."

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