

If Beads Could Talk

By: Lauri Copeland

When I travel, I often experience a rush of fresh ideas. Beads begin to take shape during my sleep, as I remember my dreams in vivid detail. What I see is interpreted into glass. Over the years, a progression of styles had developed; each with a story to tell.

An early bead series, "Tranquility" came about while a family member was fighting a particularly aggressive terminal illness. In 2001 many days were spent at the hospital, juggling my emotions. I was able to find some peace while torching the night away. Floating murrini faces were symbolic of moving on to a better place. The process became my therapy.

Further down the road, I enjoyed some color play after snorkeling in Hawaii. I can still see and feel the coral reefs. When you are under water, up is down and down is around. I combined deeply encased soft glass beads using cool aquas and blues and boro sets in warm reds and coral hues.

Tucson has also been transformed through my glass obsessed eyes. While hiking in Chochise Stronghold National Park, I was overwhelmed by the subtle beauty of the desert. I began playing with sculptural boro cactus beads in soothing greens and browns, adding the occasional bright blossom. Later, while shopping at the Holodome, I was drawn into the tiny worlds found in the geodes and in the spectacular variety of gemstones. I attempted to capture these in a faceted series titled "Silkstone". I had no faceting experience, but this seemed to be the best technique to complete the beads that were rattling around my head.

Recently I have been layering latticino and cane from soft glass in an attempt to capture the hand painted hues found in Japanese Kimono. The beads simply titled "Kimono" are a current favorite. The "Twig" beads and "Amoeba" disks were inspired from the gardens and unusual trees I saw around the city of Hong Kong during a twelve day adventure. It was the trip of a lifetime.



The creative process isn't exactly tangible or something easily put into words. Melting glass satisfies my need to create and provides an avenue for self expression. There is story hidden within each bead and I can't wait to read the next chapter.

