



Newsletter May 2010

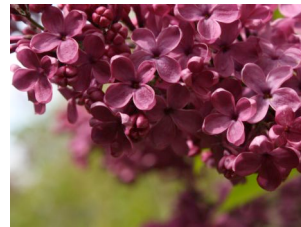
Issue #4. This spring has been a whirlwind of color – read on for the rollout of our newest Eye For Color color wheels and new bead soup colorways! Also news of upcoming shows and classes and the details of my 2010 **Autumn Festival**. And for those of you who want to wander along with me... I have a new photography exercise guaranteed to get you looking at light and shadow!

The Color of Spring

Spring is the goddess of change. Fluffy white clouds and streams of warm sunshine one minute, a downpour and cold biting wind the next. But she tempers her moods with rainbows and the sweet smell of green. Her light is magical and I can't help myself... every new blossom, shaft of light and sparkling rain drop beckons me - my camera is always within reach.



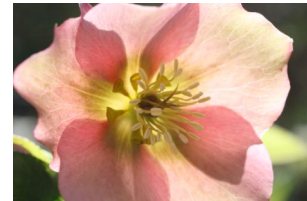
Spring is in her full party dress here in the Pacific Northwest. Green is her favorite color of course, but she has flung a big purple clematis in her hair, sprays of red rhododendron and yellow buttercup across her apron and carries delicate peach roses in one hand while picking the last of the lilacs with her other. She wears every color and lots of it,



yet somehow makes the combination look perfect – every time. She keeps whispering: 'All colors do go together', but

sometimes we don't listen, or perhaps we are too self-conscious to follow her lead. Her answer is to just keep playing with color!

Nature hands us gorgeous color combinations everywhere we choose to look and sometimes I see her better through the lens of my camera. Is that because through the lens, I am forced to narrow my sight to a small area, a single flowerbed, a single plant, a single petal?



Probably, but also because the more I look at the way the colors play or flow in the center of a Hellebore, the more I see color flowing. The more I look at rays of sunlight streaming through the



branches, the more I see how much more spectacular it is to include shadows and sprays of sunlight in a palette. At the bottom of this letter is a photo challenge to help enhance how you see light and shadow – so if you are game, grab your camera and read on!

Looking, and really seeing, color helps me create color palettes in my beadwork with more depth and movement. Bead soups are alluring because of the ability to mix so many colors, and nuances of a color, together – inspiration coming from everywhere I look.

And as much as I am inspired by nature, I also draw inspiration from the creativity of people and art around me. In fact, during a Wander with Color class in Poughkeepsie NY (I Dream of Beading), a student mixed two of my bead soups together (Golden Raspberry and Cardamom) and created a lovely Split Complementary in deep Earthtone hues. Thank you, Kathy! – a new colorway was born!



Speaking of complementary...

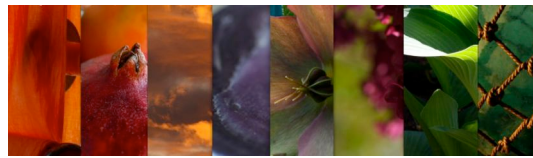
Color Wheels A-rollin

Color is never very far from my heart, and I've been literally swirling in it over the last couple of months! Joie Moring (jojodesigner.blogspot) and I



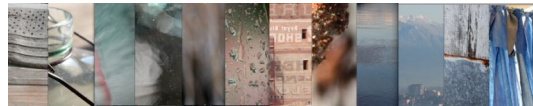
are getting ready to launch our latest addition to the EYE FOR COLOR family of colorwheels – our deep, rich Earthtone palettes. We've been mixing colors on screen, taking hundreds (or is it

thousands?) of photos; comparing the warm, exotic hues of paprika with the cool sun drenched blush of a sea shell. How do you distinguish 'warm' from 'cool'?

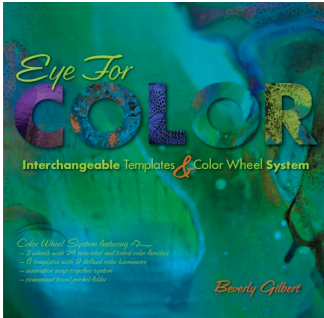


Our aim was to evoke brown undertones in our warm palette and grey undertones in the cool wheels. As you can imagine it took many hours, numerous full photo cards and too many pounds of chocolate to count!

But we made it, just in time. Wheels are rolling off the press (and oh so gorgeous!), being coated and die cut as I write and are due to arrive on my door step any day now - we will then package them up (calling all girlfriends!) and take them with us to the Bead & Button Show! More details below and on my website.



And as we march through May, I will continue to look all around me for color inspiration and follow Spring in her playful approach to mixing color!



New in EYE FOR COLOR

Earthtone Color Wheels

Available June 2010!

Pre-order on my website by June 5th to receive discounts and free screen savers!

Expand your eye for color

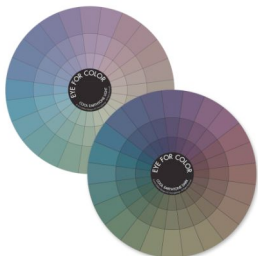
Journey beyond our original EFC palettes of pure color into a world of exotic and timeless hues that add nuance and richness to everything around you. From a sierra ochre to a spicy paprika, or a cool muslin to a dusky denim, a spin around each wheel evokes the warm or cool colors you live with...stone and wood, flora and fauna, fibers and spice, water and sky.

Simply snap the new Earthtone wheels into your EYE FOR COLOR system and open your eyes to more color possibilities!



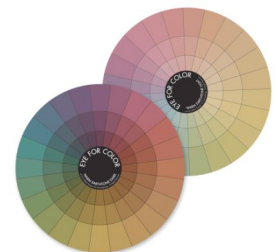
Cool Earthtone palette

Capture how a northern exposure throws cool blue light into a room, and see how a heathered sage table plays against cool buff colored walls. You'll see it in our **Cool Earthtone** Color Wheel Set.



Warm Earthtone palette

Transition from a deep, cozy mustard in your entry, to a soft, sun-drenched terracotta in the kitchen. And see how deep eggplant brings depth to your rich palette. You'll see it in our **Warm Earthtone** Color Wheel Set.



More on Color

So many color possibilities, so little time! Here are the newest bead soup colorways - I'll have them with me at the Bead & Button Show:

Bead Soup Collection



Atlantis

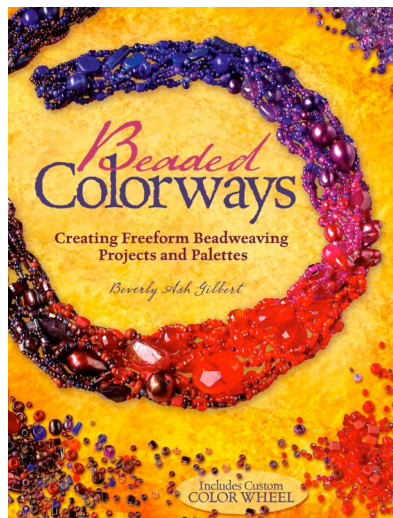


Monet's Garden



Grandma's Roses

Beaded Colorways



Thank you wonderful readers
– you make my heart sing!

5* rating on Amazon
#1 best seller in Weaving
Top 10 best seller in Beadwork

Your words fill my cup:

"I have perused, and bought, many bead books and yours is definitely in the top five. Sometimes I get the sense that some books are published for the sake of publishing a book. Not yours. I can't even imagine how much time and thought you put into the making of it but it certainly shows. The attention to detail is remarkable - your words, pictures, step-by-step instructions, hints, etc. - your generosity in sharing your knowledge, experience, techniques and creativity. Your caring about your art and fellow beaders shines through. I love freeform beading but as "free" as it may be, it has not always come easy for this inhibited beader! Your book has served to give me fresh ideas and inspire me. You are truly a gifted teacher and, I suspect, a giving person who is passionate about her work. Thank you so much for enriching my beading life." – Olga (*Olga – you made me cry!*)

"I am a lampworker and a metal clay artist in India who'd had stints with doing beadwork off and on...always looking for that elusive tip that can help me go beyond where I am right now....and this is just where your gift steps in." - Shruti

Classes

June 6-11 in Milwaukee, WI

Bead & Button Show -

www.beadandbuttonshow.com



Wander Through Photos

Still spaces left in Wander Through Photos (hard to find in the class catalog – the photos were left out by mistake!).

All of my other classes are full, but I do have a wait list in the event of last minute cancellations. If you are interested in being on my wait list and are very spontaneous, please e-mail me your name and cell phone number so you can be reached at the show:

- Wander with Color (wait list)
- Beads on Metal (wait list)
- Eye For Color (wait list)
- Wander with Flair (wait list)
- Wanderlust Bracelet (wait list)

I hope to see you at **Meet the Teacher**
on Wednesday, June 9

June 21 – September 21

I'm taking time

A whirlwind of writing books, teaching classes, traveling, book signings and trunk shows over the last 2 years has left my family only glimpsing bits of me as I race through their lives.



So I have decided to take time off and spend the summer with my family on Whidbey Island. We'll be

walking the beach, gazing at sunrises and sunsets and doing projects around our little cottage. Unfortunately, or fortunately, there is no internet and limited phone service. So please bear with me while I drop into Island time – I won't be conducting classes or book signings between the end of June through the end of September, e-mails will be answered and orders will be processed on the rare days we pop back onto the mainland.

I'll see you again in October just in time for the Autumn Festival – I hope you can join me!

Autumn Festival Jewelry Workshop Retreat held in my Island Cottage

October 4 – 9, 2010
Whidbey Island, WA

Get your creative juices flowing and join us for a week, or a day,
filled with beads, color, wine and food!

Festival syllabus, class details, registration information and accommodation suggestions on-line
(www.gilbertdesigns.net, under Autumn Festival 2010)

Monday, October 4 and Tuesday, October 5



Wander with Color

Friday, October 8



Wander through Photos/La Duet

Wednesday, October 6



Tour Whidbey Island

Saturday, October 9



Beads on Metal and Beyond

This year, we've scheduled a day in the middle for you
to explore Whidbey Island with us or even hop the
ferry to Port Townsend. Bring your camera!

Thursday, October 7



Wander with Flair

The 2010 Autumn Festival is a small, intimate
retreat held in my island cottage with class size
between 6 and 10 students per day.

Registration is now open for those who would like
to join us for the entire week.

Open enrollment for individual classes will begin
on June 21st (after June 20th, full retreat spaces
cannot be guaranteed). In the event that more
than 10 students register on June 21st,
preference will be given to those signing up for
more than one day.

Workshop and registration details on line:
www.gilbertdesigns.net

The 'Value' of Texture – Light and Shadow

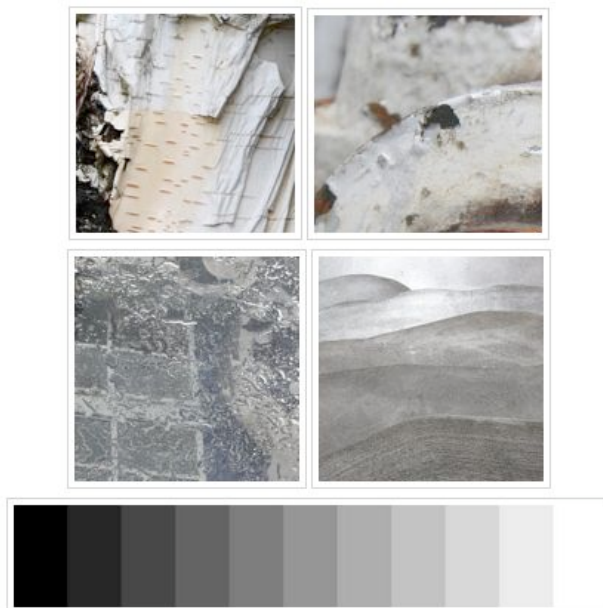


Photo from EYE FOR COLOR: Staging by Karen Meyers, Photo by Diane Ahern (figure in background Joie Moring) – all in all a very colorful team!

Of all of the components in a color palette, I believe light and shadow are what give it life... and yet in our bead work and home décor we often forget to include the shadows – the calm restful spaces that help make the other colors pop. Read on for a discussion of *Value* (lightness or darkness) and a photo exercise to get your creative juices flowing.

Nature is rarely content with solid blocks of color, which is why she is so beautiful. Even within a single color, there are always dark shadows and bright highlights. Including different *values* in your own art-work is one way to provide texture and movement and interest.

What better way to study *value* and *texture* than by taking 'color' out of the equation? A plain sheet of white paper is rather boring. But it isn't that the 'white' is boring, it is the fact that a uniform color is stagnant, there is no movement on the page.



In the images above, our eyes are first drawn to the areas on each photo that present the greatest difference in *value* (lightness or darkness) such as the spot on the painted gear that has rusted through the

paint, or the dark bark in the crotch of the birch tree on the far left. Our senses are further stimulated by moving from one area of high contrast to the next. Once we have absorbed the darkest darks and brightest highlights, our eyes can then take in all of the other details. It is this mixture of light and dark *values* that provides us with visual texture.

If seen on it's own, the birch bark or the painted gear would be classed as 'white'. However when compared with the 'grey scale' underneath, you can see many different shades from white through grey and even black.



Color is introduced into these pictures, but the concept is the same. It is the *value* differences, the dark shadows and brighter highlights that give each photo interest. Notice too, that in my [Copper Penny](#) bead soup, I have included different shapes and sizes of beads as well as matte finishes and shiny surfaces - all of these components contribute to the texture and movement in the soup.

A Fun Exercise... Shadows and Reflections:

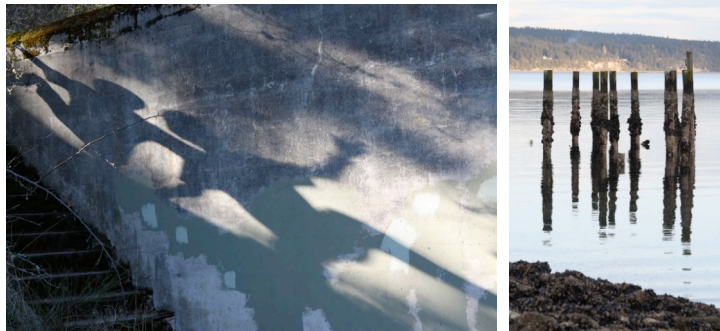
Grab your camera and take a deeper look into light and shadow. Any camera will do whether a high end multiple lens version, a point and shoot, or the camera on a cell phone. Grab your kids too – this is fun for all ages (both in taking the pictures and composing the shots)!



Look around you for shadows and reflections. Focus on interesting patterns, the play of light, and try to create images that pull your eye from one area to the next.

For added challenge:

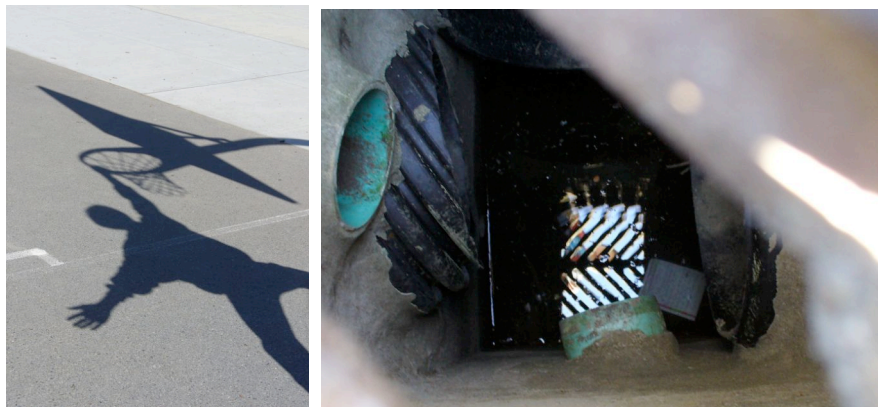
1. Make the shadows capture motion and the reflections stillness:



2. Turn your reflections into Black & White – are there still deep shadows and bright highlights? How much of the grey scale is present?



By the way, this is an art lesson that I did with 5th and 6th graders last week and plan to do with 3rd and 4th graders next week! Here are some photos my son took (can you see his watery reflection down the storm drain grate in the playground?)



About my Newsletter

Thank you so much for being a part of my mailing list! Because of you, I have decided to start a newsletter and this is it! You are receiving this newsletter either because you asked to be on my mailing list and/or you have placed orders through me in the past. Of course I would never pass on your name or e-mail to anyone else.

Don't worry – I won't bombard you with lots of e-mails. I expect to send out 6 to 10 a year and include news from my studio, upcoming events such as book signings and classes, color inspirations, special discounts for you special readers, perhaps even a recipe or two.

Go ahead and pass this on to friends you think would enjoy my musings. If there is anything you would like for me to discuss or share in future newsletters, let me know. And of course, if you decide you would rather opt out of receiving it, don't hesitate to shoot me an e-mail asking me to remove your name from my list – no hard feelings!

Here is to you, my dear readers! May your creative journeys be filled with color and beads!

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