



## Newsletter November 2011

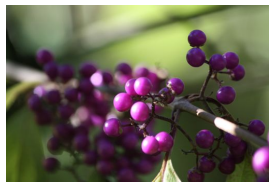
Issue #14. Introducing Beverly's Bag's of Color and other new items in my on-line shop! A glimpse into a very colorful 2011 Autumn Retreat; Got Unfinished Projects? Will show you what 2 amazing students did with theirs and walk you through the steps to create your own; A luscious autumn palette...

### Following Color



Isn't it wonderful how colors change from season to season, day to day, even hour to hour? The earth and very air seem to sense that we crave change, that a single palette grows weary on us. And so they dance and swirl with color trying out different palettes as if they were outfits once worn, then tossed aside.

If earth throws on too many accessories (dew drops, turning leaves, bright berries) then the air bathes her with a wash of light, pulling all of the colors together and leaving us awestruck and running for cameras.



Inspired, we pull open drawers of beads, bags of fiber, tubes of paint, trying to capture the essence of what we have witnessed – in our own dance with color.



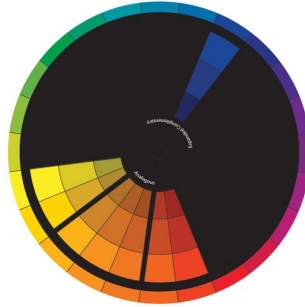
After many years of travelling and teaching (plus all the countless hours of preparing to do so) I am now staying home and finding time to play with color again. To create, to explore, to try new things, to grow.

Who knows where color will lead, but I am yearning to follow!

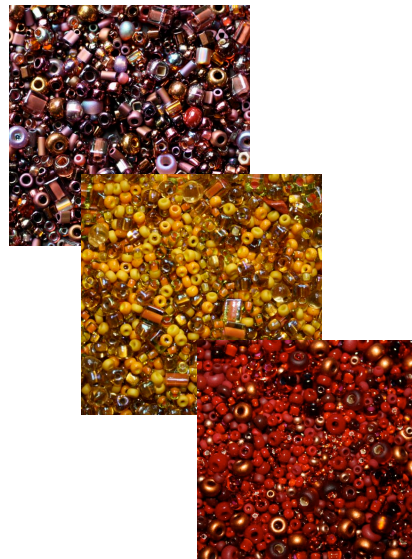
p.s. In compressing this newsletter to a pdf, all hyperlinks were disabled. So... I have included the full web address for any links you may care to peruse (simply highlight, copy, then paste into your browser).

## An Autumn Palette

This gorgeous coneflower glowed in the early morning light during my Autumn Retreat so of course I had to grab my camera...



Notice how mixing the rich, colors of yellow, orange and red with a bit of dark wine helps set off the hot colors and provide depth and shadow.



This nuno felt scarf was inspired by the flowers on my deck, and Arlene Watson's lovely felting classes. Maybe I'll throw some beads on too... (Cabernet, Pumpkin Spice and Paprika Seed Bead Soup Collection)

**I would love to see what you do with this palette!** Share inspiration and add your Autumn photos – of nature, beadwork, artwork etc. to my FLICKR Group - Autumn Palette:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1772729@N25/>

## Reminiscing

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### Autumn Retreat

Wearable Art Workshop Retreat on Whidbey Island  
Classes by Beverly Ash Gilbert and Arlene Watson!

October 12 - 24, 2011  
Whidbey Island, WA



The Autumn Retreat has come and gone – a whirlwind of creativity, color and inspiration. Lots of laughs shared as well as food and wine (38 bottles worth!!) and what a treat to have Arlene Watson join us with her fabulous, colorful felt work.

You can see some highlights of the retreat and the lovely women who came together to play with color on my Flickr album:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/35022082@N04/sets/72157628020396923/>

Your kind words warm my heart:

*“All we can say is, thank you, thank you, thank you! It was an amazing week of wonderful instruction, fabulous food, perfect location, lots of laughs ... what more could anyone have possibly wished for? I pity all those who could not attend; they missed a wonderful time with you.” - Leigh Steiner & Jan Scully*

*“I just wanted to thank you for being such a gracious host and fabulous teacher. Your beach home is lovely, the food was yummy, and the classes inspiring. I so enjoyed being there!” - Marlene Brannen*

*“I just want to drop you a line and tell you how much I enjoyed your Autumn Retreat, such a special time to be around so many creative people. I have your classroom photo up on my screen saver, so I get to relive this fun time a number of times during the day and have told my girlfriends all about each project and the wonderful healthy menu that you served each day.*

*The time that you gave me is entered in my Journal of Life Time Memories.” – Barbara Jo*

Thank you - I had a lovely time too!

## A Project for You

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### Got Unfinished Projects?

Look what Nancy and Leone did with theirs...



In **Queen of Unfinished Projects**, we pulled together bits and pieces of unrelated Unfinished Projects into gorgeous pieces of jewelry. For those of you have my book, *Beaded Colorways*:

<http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/publications/beadedcolorways.html>, you can adapt *Freeform Color Flow* (starting on page 98) and by following these 4 easy steps, turn your bits and pieces into art!

#### **Step 1: Organize by color**

Make piles of Unfinished Project (UFP) elements that have similar colors, specifically looking for common undertones.

*Hint: Refer to your EYE FOR COLOR:* <http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/publications/eyeforcolor.html> *color wheels and sort by Saturated, Pastel, Warm Earthtone or Cool Earthtone.*

*More information: To develop a better understanding of color families and undertones, refer to DIP INTO COLOR (eBook):* <http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/publications/dipintocolor.html>

#### **Step 2: Lay out Color Flow**

Lay out the UFP elements in a Color Flow (moving from one color to another seamlessly) leaving spaces for any gaps in color.



Here is the beginning of one of Nancy's pieces – all within the saturated colorwheel and already with blue and purple undertones which tie the elements together.

Notice how she designed an attractive necklace shape at the same time she placed her UFP elements according to color.

*Hint: Take a quick photo once you get everything in a pleasing design, so that you can refer to it when UFP elements are removed from the table to stitch together.*

#### **Step 3: Weave in all loose threads**

Tidy up all of the UFP elements by weaving in loose threads and clipping them before you stitch everything together. Otherwise it will be a mess, believe me!

#### Step 4: Choose Bead Soups

Create bead soups (see Beaded Colorways pages 19 – 23 for guidance) or find the right color from my **Seed Bead Soup Collection**: <http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/seedbeadsoupcollection.html>, for each section of your piece so that they closely match the colors between UFP elements.

Then lay out your bead soups and transition soups along side the bits and pieces following steps 1 – 8 on pages 100 – 102 of Beaded Colorways.

*Note: If all of the colors in your necklace are similar, you may be able to match colors with 2 or 3 bead soups. If you are traversing across multiple colors, you may need to use more.*

#### Step 5: Color Flow

Pull UFP elements together by stitching between them with the coordinating soups. There are many different techniques to use depending on the nature of each element:

- In some places the UFP elements are touching and may be 'zipped' together (simply stitch back and forth without adding beads)
- Some UFP elements are not touching, but are complete enough to make up the entire width of a segment in your design. In this case, you can simply pick up beads from your soup to stitch them together, at an angle that is aesthetically pleasing.
- If the UFP elements are smaller than the width of your design, eg. they need to be imbedded inside a fabric of new beads, then start a strand of bead soup following the color flow techniques in steps 10 – 13 (on pages 103 – 105) treating the UFP elements like the 'gems' in step 105.



Nancy



Leone

Who would have guessed that the elements in these necklaces started out as totally unrelated projects?!

## On-line Shop

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My shop is open and beads are back on the shelf!

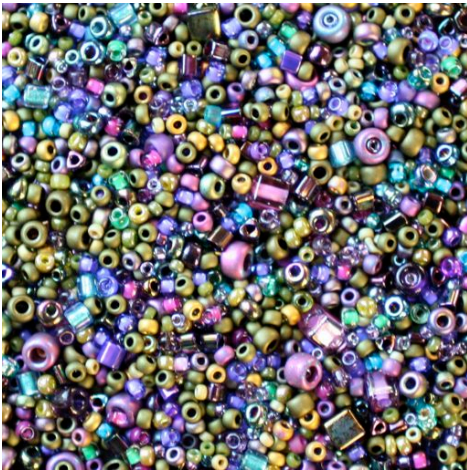
Some new things, some changes...

## Seed Bead Soup Collection

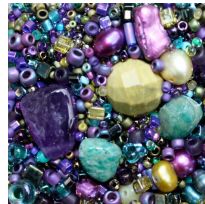
Introducing a new name for the same gorgeous soups – (formally called Seed Bead Medley).

I realize it was a bit confusing to call my gem-filled soups **Bead Soup Collection** and their non-gem sisters something entirely different. Because the seed bead base, the heart of the luscious color, is the same, I am now calling them what they really are – **Bead Soups**!!

Visit my new shop page: <http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/shop.html> and you will see that for each Seed Bead Soup colorway, I have included photos of some gems that you may wish to put into the soups from your own stash to create a gem-filled bead soup. Here is an example for *Monet's Garden*:



Add some gems and beads of your own...

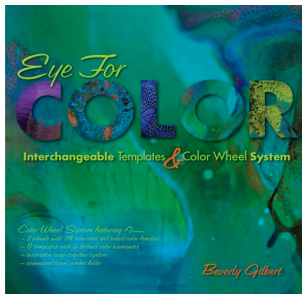


...to get this look

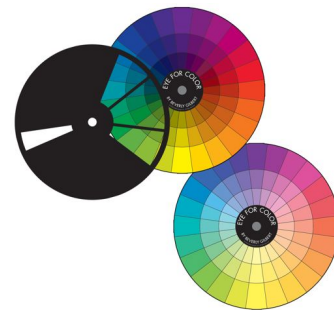
At the bottom of my Seed Bead Soup Collection page: <http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/seedbeadsoupcollection.html> is a list of sources to buy accent gems and beads – let me know if you find more great sources!



## Special Deals



This page will offer discounted prices on slightly worn books and color wheels. At times, I will also offer discontinued bead soups or kits to clear out my inventory.



# Beverly's Bag of Color

I have lots of **inspirational bits of color** and **creativity** bouncing around in my studio... and though I am discontinuing my original **Bead Soup Collection**, I do have a few boxes left (but not enough to sell directly on-line). What's a girl to do with so many of you asking if I will **PLEASE, pretty please** just sell a couple more...

After lots of thought and staring at all the bits and pieces of bead soups, fibers, fabric, metal, kits and projects - I have hit upon a very **exciting idea: Beverly's Bag of Color**. So, here is how it will work... **Periodically** I will create a special package, perhaps a jewelry kit, or a mix of beads and fiber or bits of sea glass... along with jewelry instructions to complement the materials in your package. To make it **FUN** (and because my stock is low) every special Bag of Color will have a limited quantity.

Sound intriguing? If you want to know the **minute** I get it on-line, then subscribe to my **BLOG**, join my **MAILING LIST** (and make sure to allow my e-mail: [jewelry@gilbertdesigns.net](mailto:jewelry@gilbertdesigns.net)) or just keep checking my **website**: <http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/home.html>

Here is an example and will be offered as the first Beverly's Color Package:

<http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/shop/beverly'sbagofcolor.html>.



Includes:

- 1 box Cardamom Bead Soup Collection
- 2 tubes Iron Oxide Seed Bead Soup Collection
- 1 package Autumn Leaves Fiber Bouquet
- 1 package Copper Beads on Metal sheet and wire
- Instructions for: Wander with Flair
- Instructions for: Beads on Metal



Margie Deeb and Beverly Ash Gilbert  
have teamed together to bring you exciting  
color inspiration and new colorful palettes!

Immerse yourself with color in our first newsletter:

Lots of colorful inspiration, color harmony tips like the importance of proportions when combining colors.  
See similarities and differences of how Margie and I create color palettes from the same inspirational photo!

**Ask the Color Queens – Autumn 2011 (free newsletter)**

<http://www.gilbertdesigns.net/publications/askthecolorqueens.html>

**Join my mailing list to receive our Color Journal**  
(if you are already on my mailing list, you will receive them!)

## About my Newsletter

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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!*

Beverly Ash Gilbert

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