



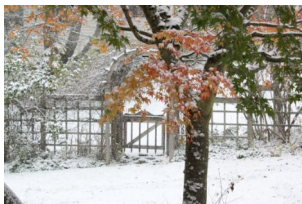
## Newsletter December 2010

Issue #8. A full year has gone by since I started my newsletters – time really does fly! Here's what's new: A Color e-course is in the works and I've included a sneak peak into a colorful exercise. Read on for my spring schedule of jewelry classes and Save the Date for the 2011 Autumn Retreat on Whidbey Island. I've also included 2 recipes perfect for spontaneous holiday entertaining!

### Inner Child

Snow swirled outside our window the Monday before Thanksgiving while my 10 year old danced around the kitchen singing Christmas songs and clutching his sled. We watched the on-line lists of schools being canceled and kept our fingers crossed that ours too would close.

You see, the vast inner waters of Puget Sound moderate temperatures so it doesn't snow often, but when it does, there is almost always a coating of ice on our hilly roads, causing

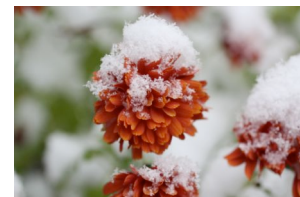


numerous accidents and snarling traffic. So snow usually means 'time to stay home'. In 2008, a monstrous

snow storm hit and shut down Seattle and the surrounding towns. As it turned out, even the *threat* of the 'Big Snow Storm' caused school boards across the region to cancel school prematurely that year. Many parents were outraged as they scrambled to find care for their children on a day that remained dry. However in defence of the forecasters, it dumped a foot of

snow the following night, kept on snowing up until Christmas, and Seattle ground to a halt.

I empathize with those families whom both parents work outside the home and whose schedules cannot be as flexible... however, snow days happen so rarely (not one snowflake last year) that I find myself wondering if we have lost our giddy, excitable,

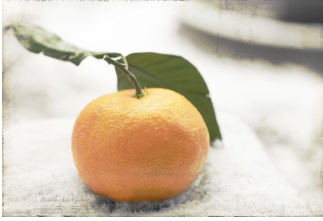


spontaneous inner child. Have we become too serious? Too regimented? Too wrapped up in our work that we have lost sight of the basic joys of life... like sledding and snow angles and hot chocolate and curling up in front of the fireplace amongst drying pants, coats, hats and gloves?

What has happened to us that we begrudge a spontaneous day off of school, work, or life?

Turns out snow removal teams were out in full force this year, so school wasn't canceled on that Monday morning... but by afternoon the storm hit, Seattle was gridlocked, and we did have two 'snow days' leading up to Thanksgiving.

I had a lot on my to-do list, including work, packing for Thanksgiving at the beach house, and shopping and baking for the on-slaughter of



family. Instead, while the kids sledged, I walked downtown with a girlfriend, took photos of the snow and

snatched some time in my studio to work on a new project to be included in next year's Autumn Retreat. I also played with my new toy... Photoshop (thanks to a great e-course by Kim Klassen that I soooo recommend!). While doing

so, I ended up with a very fun exercise I'm going to include in my up-coming Color e-course (more on that later).



And so, letting go of the structure and my to-do list for those 2 days, I was able to spend time with family and friends, tap

into my playful inner child and create!

And really, isn't that what life is all about?

## Autumn Retreat 2011

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### Save the Date!

### Autumn Retreat Jewelry Workshop Retreat on Whidbey Island



*A creative week filled with beads, color, wine and food*

October 16 - 23, 2011  
Whidbey Island, WA

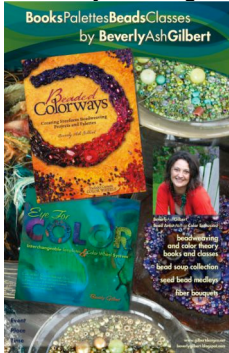
**I have lots of ideas for new classes, as well as a guest instructor, for next year's retreat –  
Can't wait to see you there!**

# Upcoming Events - Spring, 2011

## March:

**North Virginia Bead Society**  
**Vienna, VA**  
**March 10-13, 2011**

Color Seminar  
Thursday Evening, March 10:



Beads on Metal  
Friday, March 11:



Wander with Color  
Saturday - Sunday, March 12-13:



## June:

**2011 Bead & Button Show**  
**Milwaukee, WI**  
**June 4 - 12, 2011**

Wander with Color  
Sunday - Monday, June 4-5



A Day at the Beach  
Tuesday, June 6



Beads on Metal  
Wednesday, June 7 and Saturday, June 10



Wander with Flair  
Thursday, June 8



La Duet  
Friday, June 9



Spiral Into Color  
Friday evening, June 9



## On-line Shop - New at GilbertDesigns.net

### More Jewelry Instructions:



#### BezelMania!

*Bezel instructions for all levels, plus a variety of projects to get your creativity flowing!*

*Plus, my gift to you...*

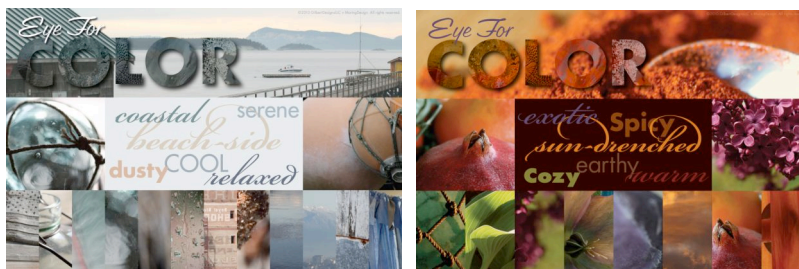
Basic Wire Clasps and Closures

Basic Netting

Basic Peyote

*Basic instructions - FREE downloads to help you on your creative journey*

### New Screen Savers (only \$1 each!):



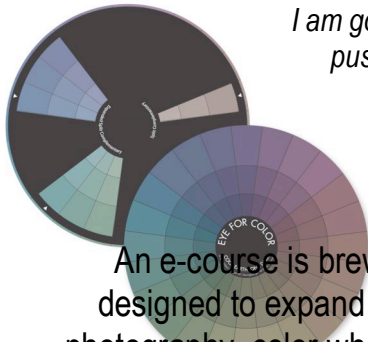
### Coming Soon:

- Photography (you can see more on my blog: [beverlygilbert.blogspot.com](http://beverlygilbert.blogspot.com), in my facebook albums and Flickr). I hope to offer:
  - Prints
  - Greeting cards
  - More Screen savers
- Brewing bead soup – WOW you have really worked through my stock and I need to catch up! Look for more after the holidays.

Please note: My on-line store will be closed for the Holidays from December 17<sup>th</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
The last shipment to insure a Christmas delivery will be Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## E-course on Color!

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*I am going to devote myself to wandering down new paths,  
pushing my creative boundaries, growing, changing.  
and so I am creating...*

## Dive Into COLOR

An e-course is brewing – full of colorful inspiration and multi-media exercises designed to expand your eye for color. We will explore color with paint, collage, photography, color wheels and so much more in discussions and videos. I will share tips that have enhanced my photography, show you how to use your photography for inspiration and will walk you from color inspiration to application in your own artwork.

I hope you join me!



Stay tuned for more information in coming months!

### Sneak Peek

The following exercise is just 1 tool that we will use in class to enhance our eye for color detail. BONUS - in doing so you will create really fun, printable color cards!

(p.s. The following are written instructions. However, in the e-course, there will also be videos to guide you on creating the photo collages. And don't worry about buying new equipment or software – all you need is a digital camera and computer. I'll show you how to pull them together no matter what software you have – from a screen shot in Preview to Word, PowerPoint or Photoshop)

## Colorful Photo Collages

Last February [take a peek back at Newsletter #3], I talked a bit about Photography and challenged you to some exercises designed to get you looking at individual elements of design. The following is an exercise that really focuses on color. I will go into more detail, more color combinations, and the specific how-to's for creating these printable photo cards in my upcoming e-course (see my note on the previous page), but wanted to get your creative juices flowing with a brief example using a monochromatic palette. I hope you have some fun with this, create photo collages that provide you with fabulous color inspiration, and decide to share your work on my Flickr group!



Grab your camera and create a photo collage!

### A Brief Discussion:

You have probably heard me say over and over that a successful monochromatic palette contains lots of variation – the more the better! That by including deep dark shadows and light, bright highlights you will provide movement and interest for the eye. Also, by expanding the color family to a larger wedge on the color wheel, you can create a monochromatic palette that glows!

Take green for example:



Look at the two photos above, then cover one with your hand as you ask yourself the following questions:

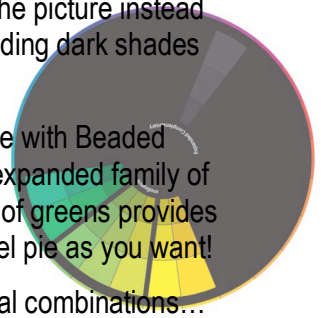
- Do you like it?
- When you look at it quickly, where does your eye go first?
- After looking for a bit, where does your eye move next?
- How many colors of green do you see?

Cover the other one and ask the same questions.

You will probably agree that the plain green photo on the left is rather boring – my eye started in the middle of the solid rectangle then moved right off the photo to the edge. That is because our eyes immediately travel to the area of highest contrast and in this case that is off the page!

The leaves on the right are much more stimulating and guide your eye around the picture instead of off the picture. This is because there are many different colors of green, including dark shades and bright highlights and your eye travels from one area of contrast to another.

Here is a slice from the saturated wheel in my EYE FOR COLOR system (those with Beaded Colorways have a mini-version of the EYE FOR COLOR system) showing an expanded family of greens from yellow through green into blue shades. Using colors from a variety of greens provides more interest. In fact, your color family can be as large a piece of the color wheel pie as you want!



The following exercise is a fun way to both train your eye and try out inspirational combinations... before you spend money on beads, fabric, décor or clothing.

### Creating Your Photo Collage:

Items you will need:

- Any digital camera will do
- Computer to download photos
- Photo manipulation program:
  - Can be as basic as cropping and sizing in Preview, then taking a screen pic
  - Word or Powerpoint will work, but will create huge file sizes, so you will need to compress
  - Photoshop CS or Elements is ideal, but not necessary

The exercise:

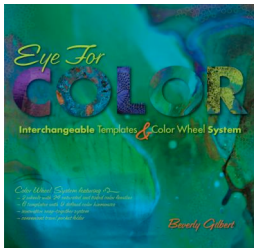
1. Choose a color family
2. Take photos of objects in your color family (make sure to include lots of variation in lightness and darkness as well as expand the color family to nuances on either side of your color)
3. Your goal is 4 to 6 good photos, so you need to take lots more (I take at least 3 times the number I want to end up with!)
4. After downloading onto your computer, pick out your favorites (good focus and lighting)
5. Using whatever photo-manipulation program you have, crop a *copy* of each photo so that you can zero in on an interesting area within your color family (you may end up with a couple of good crops from the same photo!). Try to crop out other colors and make sure you leave your original photo un-touched so you can reuse the photo for other purposes.
6. Once you have all of the photos cropped to your liking, resize and arrange inside a 5"x7" frame using the examples above for ideas. I used 2"x2" squares, 2"x3" and 1"x3" rectangles – you can choose any size combinations you want!
7. Save as a jpg (2 MB or less) and print out for inspiration!
8. Member of Flickr? Share your piece in my group: [BeverlyAshGilbert Dive Into Color](#) (just let me know you want to join and I'll invite you – or walk you through the fast and easy how to's for those of you new to Flickr).

## EYE FOR COLOR, Earthtone Color Wheels, Beaded Colorways - a bit of history...

As you probably know by now... color is my passion! The subject of color usually finds its way into my jewelry and beadweaving classes, my books, my blog, classes I teach in the schools, and actually all aspects of my life! As more and more of my classes focus on color, I seem to have found resonance with many of you. Beads are just one medium for working with color and many of us are drawn to: quilting, fiber art, gardening, painting, floral arranging, photography, home décor, etc... all in our quest to play and experiment with color and texture. It's natural then, that color wheels spin through my books and my classes. Many of you have asked how and why my color wheel system was created and which ones fit into which book. Here is a little bit of history to answer your questions:

### **EYE FOR COLOR is born:**

A few years ago, while preparing to teach my first class which focused primarily on color rather than beads, I looked around for various tools to help students pull together successful color combinations. I knew a color wheel was vital, but I wasn't able to find one that isolated color families and color combinations in a way that I felt was helpful for the classes. So I approached my dear friend (and talented graphic designer) Joie Moring, and created **EYE FOR COLOR (EFC)** with big, saturated and pastel color wheels and the snap together templates that allow easy transportation to a bead store, yarn shop, florist, paint store... The team we drew together to create **EFC** consisted of a photographer, floral designer, stylist, pencil artist, graphic artist and bead artist (yours truly). They convinced me that **EFC** was really helpful in all art disciplines – and I realized the new system should expand beyond beads!

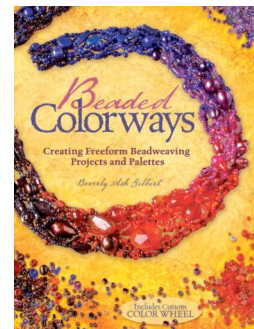


### **Earthtone Color Wheels are developed:**

Upon debuting **EFC** at various shows in 2008, a fiber artist/teacher approached me with the idea of expanding the color wheels into the muted earthtones she used for hand dyeing her natural fibers. In 2010 Joie and I launched the Cool and Warm Earthtone wheels. So... **EYE FOR COLOR**, along with the current family of 6 wheels (more are in the works!) is designed to help artists in all mediums work with color.

### **Where Beaded Colorways comes into the picture:**

Just after **EFC** was published, my editor for *Beaded Colorways* (just a concept at the time) approached me with the idea of including a mini-color wheel system in *Beaded Colorways*. I jumped at the prospect of being able to merge color and beadweaving into a single publication and love that we were able to insert the saturated and pastel colorwheels as well as all 6 templates into the back of the new book.



### **How they fit together:**

My original color wheel system: **EYE FOR COLOR** includes 6 templates, 2 original color wheels, and now 4 Earthtone color wheels, (potentially expanding to more wheels depending on the need – white on white for home décor, sun bleached tones for the tropics?... hmmm so many yummy ideas!). *Beaded Colorways* includes a mini version of the original wheels in the **EFC** system as a bonus tool for beaders and as a supplement to the color discussions and step-by-step projects in the new book.

Many of you have asked whether new color wheels (Earthtones and beyond) will be created to fit the mini-system in *Beaded Colorways*. Though it would be wonderful, the answer is unfortunately no – *Beaded Colorways* was published by F+W, so I have no control over its current or future publication (would love it if they decided to print the new wheels and doesn't hurt to ask!). However, I self published **EYE FOR COLOR**, along with the new color wheels. Since **EFC** has a much broader audience with needs for color wheels in a variety of different undertones, I will continue to print new wheels as long as you ask for them! Also, since it is self-published, the colors are hand picked, and closely monitored (by me!) on the printing press allowing me to delve into specific color nuances that would be difficult in offshore, mass production.

I hope this little history helps answer some of your questions and gives more insight into how and why the color wheel system, and all of the color wheels, were created. I find **EYE FOR COLOR** extremely useful and hope you do too! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail.

## More Recipes from the Autumn Retreat 2010

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We munched on these ginger cookies and cheese crispies during the Autumn Retreat – both lend themselves for holiday entertaining. They can be made and shaped into balls ahead, then frozen and pulled out to bake when you have a house full of guests!

### Ginger Cookies

-from my Mother's kitchen

1 egg  
¾ cup butter (or 9 T coconut oil)  
1 cup brown sugar  
¼ cup molasses

Beat egg, then add butter (or oil), sugar and molasses.  
Blend together until smooth.

2 ¼ cup flour  
2 tsp baking soda  
¼ tsp salt  
½ tsp cloves  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp ginger

Mix all dry ingredients together in separate bowl. Then blend together with wet ingredients.

Roll into 1" balls (can freeze at this time if desired)  
Dip into white sugar  
Place 3" apart on greased cookie sheet  
Bake 375F for 10-12 minutes

### Cheese Crispies

-fast, easy and popular with all ages  
(sorry, I haven't figured out a non-dairy version!)

½ pound butter  
8-16 ounces sharp cheddar cheese  
2 cups flour  
2 cups Rice Crispies

Grate cheese. Set butter and grated cheese out to warm up to room temperature. Then blend together until creamy.

Blend flour into to cheese mixture, then fold in Rice Crispies.

Roll into 1" balls (can freeze at this time if desired).  
Place on greased cookie sheet and press flat with fork.  
Bake 350F for 15minutes.

Variations: Can add chilies for an added zing, or press a green olive on top before baking.

Great as hors d'oeuvres with green olives, salted almonds and wine!

## 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 and beads!*

Beverly Ash Gilbert

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