

The Zen of Beading

is. You'd think that working as the editor of a beading magazine would guarantee that work equals play. Not necessarily. Just like you, I have fierce, heel-nipping deadlines, countless distractions, and not enough energy by the time I get home to pull out that unfinished beadwork that's been whining at me for months.

Here's where the bead stops, however! I know in my heart of hearts that all I really need to do is thread that needle and follow it through some chosen beads in whatever path calls out to me. It's a meditation, after all. A zenlike experience at best in which, bead by bead, a project evolves. So back to that getaway and my high expectations for two days of beady seclusion. I've added ingredients we don't usually list with our projects: music and snacks. I'm not so sure about wine, though—at least not until after I'm well on my way with the beading.

The days are longer right now, and I'm optimistic that I'll astonish myself by completing something on my weekend. But that's the short-term goal. What I really want to do is jump-start my creativity—and have something freshly made that reminds me it's just a matter of making time to allow beads to take over. When they do, they quiet me. All the babbling voices in my head are stilled. I'm in the world of color, shape, texture, and I couldn't be happier. It's hand–heart–head time—in that order.

This issue features some tantalizing projects as well as a gallery of our thirty-five winners from the *Beadwork V: The Beaded Bag* competition. As you look through these, I hope you'll feel the spirit move you!

Happy beading,



PHOTO BY TODD MAKASHIMA

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For sales information, call (800) 272-2193, e-mail sales@interweave.com. Visit the Interweave Press website at interweave.com.

For editorial inquiries, call (970) 669-7672, e-mail beadwork@interweave.com.

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What's Cookin' in the *Beadwork* Office?

- **Summer *Stringing*:** Another jewel box of stringing projects awaits you in the Summer 2007 issue of *Stringing*, on sale at newsstands June 5. More than one hundred designs for earrings, bracelets, and necklaces! Even better, subscribe to this beading favorite at stringingmagazine.com.
- **Get Beady with Dustin:** Dustin "Bead Boy" Wedekind's new book, *Getting Started with Seed Beads*, has just been published and is available for his many fans to purchase. (We featured a preview of one of his projects in our April/May 2007 issue, page 68.) Ask for it at your local bead shop or bookstore or buy it online at interweave.com.
- **The Shows Must Go On!:** Buy beads, learn new techniques, and commune with your fellow beaders at several of our forthcoming shows—Wire Jewelry Fest (July 20–22, 2007, Wilmington, Delaware), Bead Fest Atlanta (August 10–12, 2007), Bead Fest Philadelphia (August 23–26, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania), and Bead Fest Memphis (November 16–18, 2007). For details and to register, visit beadfest.com.