

bead buzz)))

SPY WITH MY BEADY EYE...

HARD-TO-RESIST HYBRIDS

Japanese seed beads meet pressed-glass and fire-polished beads in the new line of TOHO Hybrids, featuring 90+ combinations of styles and finishes, from metallic copper penny to mottled. Check your local bead shop or WWW.ARTBEADS.COM.



ON THE WEB

beadingdaily



Free project!

Looking for something special to wear to a New Year's Eve party? Try the Midnight Garden Cuff

by Lynn Davy. This peyote-stitched band, embellished with sparkling crystal margaritas, is sure to catch the light—and everyone's attention! Visit BEADINGDAILY.COM.

Gift ideas

If you need last-minute gift ideas, check out the 100+ free projects on BEADINGDAILY.COM. You'll find holiday projects, such as the bead-embroidered Little Star ornament by Amy Clarke Moore, plus lots of earrings, bracelets, and necklaces for family and friends to enjoy all year-round.

What kind of bead-related gifts would you like to receive?

Your top 5 responses: gift certificates for bead-related goodies, beads (of course!), books on beading/jewelry making, beading classes, and organizers/storage.

SOUL OF SOMANYA

"Requesting you to come and teach us," was the plea frequent *Beadwork* contributor Melody MacDuffee received the summer of 2007 from a group of some fifty artisans in the Krobo district of Ghana. After seeing a jewelry design of Melody's in a magazine, the group—well-known for their beautiful, brightly colored, recycled-glass beads—reached out to Melody for help in teaching them Western beading techniques and business practices. For many years, the group had lived in devastating poverty as their bead-sale profits were greatly compromised by middlemen and the high cost of materials.

Melody flew to Ghana the following winter to acquaint the Krobo artisans with Western jewelry-making techniques and to help them find inexpensive, locally available materials, all while establishing retail markets to reach directly. What emerged was the Soul of Somanya project, a group of eight coming-of-age orphans who buy most of their jewelry-making supplies from local vendors (cutting the cost of materials) and sell their jewelry overseas. The project provides the eight artisans a living wage and sustained employment, which equates to food, shelter, and education.

Melody is now also working with the beadmakers who supply Soul of Somanya with many of its beads, receiving market value or better (rather than wholesale prices) for their products. This increased income, in turn, creates a circle of economic growth for the whole community.



For more information or to purchase jewelry or beads made by Ghanaian artisans, visit www.soulofsomanya.net.