



BEADWORK

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TODD MAKASHIMA

In this issue of *Beadwork* and those to come, you'll be getting to know one of my most talented colleagues better and better. Melinda Barta, who has served as our managing editor, is stepping into the editorship of *Beadwork*. I'll still be here as the magazine's editorial director. But as we move deep into 2009, Melinda's vision, passion, and amazing bead projects will be guiding you happily into a bead-rich future. I'm in awe of the way Melinda has grown as both an editor and a bead artist in such a relatively brief time. (Check out her beautiful necklace in this issue's The Challenge to see what I mean—page 14.) Thank you, dear Readers, for the privilege of serving up four years' worth of *Beadwork*. I look forward to Melinda's creative signature in this beloved magazine!



ANN SWANSON

I am truly in bead heaven! I joyfully welcome my post as *Beadwork's* new editor and look forward to continuing this magazine's long-standing tradition of excellence. Of all the experiences I've had working for Interweave over the past six years—including a start with *PieceWork* magazine, authoring books on embroidery and jewelry, and filming how-to techniques for television and video—this is truly the icing on the cake. Like you, I feel there is nothing more fulfilling, relaxing, and vital than creating with your hands. I am very fortunate to share this addiction with others.

But I'm not the only new addition to this issue. I am pleased to announce the debut of a new concept in *Beadwork*: Our Designers of the Year program (pages 34–48) in which four of the bead world's most skilled and artistic designers bring you fresh, original projects each issue—Jean Campbell, Marcia DeCoster, Jamie Hogsett, and Lisa Kan. Also, the ever-talented Katie Hacker will visit you in her new column, Katie's Beading Secrets (page 23), where she'll discuss some of the hottest new bead products and offer inventive ways to use them.

I look forward to bringing you more of what you expect from *Beadwork*, connecting with you at bead shows and beadingdaily.com, and cooking up more exciting projects and features.

Let the fun begin!

Marlene Blessing, Editorial Director

Melinda Barta, Editor

HAPPENINGS

\$1,000 TUCSON SHOPPING SPREE!

Yes, it's true. You can overindulge yourself at the Tucson bead shows (January 24–February 16) guilt-free this year. Sign up at tucsonspree.com before 9:59 p.m. (EST) on March 2, for your chance to win reimbursement for up to \$1,000 of Tucson show merchandise.

Don't miss Bead Fest Santa Fe (March 12–15).

Shop to your heart's content, take a great beading class, bid on five fabulous designs from *Bead Star* magazine (see page 96 for more information), view winning entries from our juried competition *Beadwork VI: The Beaded Book*, and join us for an evening social with chocolate, wine, poetry, and beads. Visit beadfest.com for details.

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