

passing through **Never Stop Learning**



I've been interested in metalworking for years but have been hesitant to try it. It's not the torches and hammers that intimidated me. I feared falling in love with yet another new craft and the temptation to buy more tools—as it is, I can hardly find a place to sit in my overflowing studio. But having always said I'll try anything twice, I took Tracy Stanley's Riveted Rings class at Bead Fest Portland. Sure enough, I've already ordered more tools. But what I enjoyed most was the satisfaction of pushing myself to try something new. In this issue, we give you ample opportunities to do the same and reveal how others keep their work fresh by continuously learning new skills.

Though we best know David Chatt for his intricate work in seed beads, he's exploring different and exciting materials—learn what other medium David's using in my interview with him on page 64. Cynthia Rutledge, author of our very first Master Class, returns this issue to tell us about her adventures with new materials. You'll find Cynthia's discovery of gem-setting techniques has taken her beadwork to the next level. Plus, she'll teach you her methods so you, too, can give gem setting a go. Whether you're working a stitch for the first time (perhaps you're new to Russian spiral; if so, see Mary M. Pfeiler's Southwest Shimmer) or trying a variation on an old standby (like Scarlett Lanson's embellished spiral herringbone stitch), this issue is bound to mix up your beading repertoire.

My sincere thanks go to our amazing 2009 Designers of the Year: Jean Campbell, Marcia DeCoster, Jamie Hogsett, and Lisa Kan. In their final issue of the year, they gift you with a great holiday-season collection of projects—from sweet and sparkly to bold and dramatic. I'm proud to announce our stellar lineup of 2010 Designers of the Year: Nancy Cain, Laura McCabe, Carole Ohl, and Melanie Potter. Each of next year's issues will feature projects from these technically skilled and wonderfully artistic designers, beginning with our February/March issue.

Try something different this winter—even if you fear filling your beading space to the brim with new tools as I did. Though new challenges are daunting at first, there is always something to learn from the process of trying.

Happy beading!

Melinda

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Thank you to The Bead Cache of Fort Collins, Colorado, for lending us many of the crystals that were used at this issue's photo shoot.

HAPPENINGS

Welcome, Allison! We are pleased to announce a new addition to the *Beadwork* team: Allison Mackin. Allison is our talented new assistant editor and a budding jewelry designer. We're so happy to have her!

BEAD STAR IS BACK. On newsstands on December 8, *Bead Star* is a contest-based magazine filled with winning projects readers voted for on beadingdaily.com. The grand-prize winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Bead Fest Santa Fe 2010, plus a shopping spree valued at up to \$1,000!

Bead Fest returns to Santa Fe

Take a class, make new friends, shop till you drop, and more at Bead Fest Santa Fe, March 18–21, 2010. Classes for this event fill fast, so be sure to sign up now at beadfest.com.

BEADWORK

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