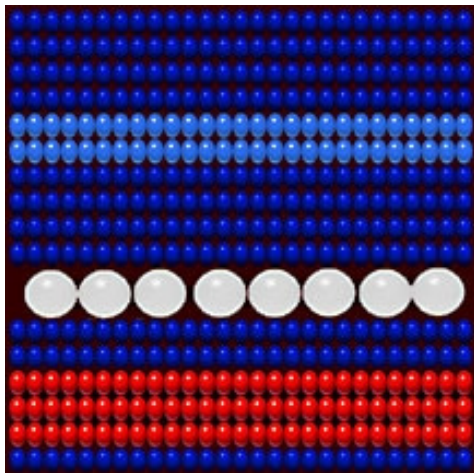
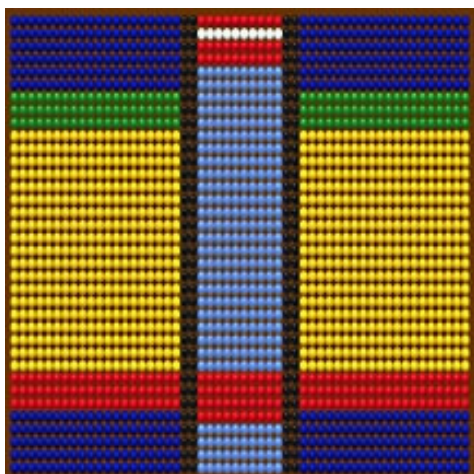


Maasai beaded collar colors



Turkana necklace colors



Dinka beaded corset colors

The Colors of Tribal Africa

by Margie Deeb

February 2005

In this month celebrating Black History let's be inspired by the brilliant colors of tribal African cultures. These palettes begin with black or white, and consist of intense reds, radiant yellows, rich blues, and an array of greens. Cultures of warm climates across the globe share a love of high contrast, all-out saturated hues that sing exuberant vitality.

There's a fresh directness in African cultures' predominant use of black, white, and what we call primary and secondary colors. No subtle modulations, but rather a bold simplicity that I find exuberant and exciting. Combinations are zealous, with attention paid more to symbolic significance than aesthetic proportions.

The pastoralist tribes of East African, with their nomadic lifestyles, have cultivated the art of adorning themselves with jewelry, painting, scarification, and headdresses. Their jewelry creates a bright spot which visually leaps off the surrounding neutrals of earth, skin, and fabric. I think of elaborate Maasai collars, those concentric rings of red, white, yellow, black, and blue that encircle tall slender necks. Or bold patterns of white chalk painted across deep chocolate brown bodies, accentuated by brilliant red beaded waistbands and bracelets.

Turkana women are very dark, and wear piles of solid colored strands of large beads of red, yellow, blue or black. The men adorn their arms with bracelets of iron, copper, or brass, indicating their status or age, or role in warfare.

Dark Dinka men of Sudan wear bright beaded corsets or belts whose colors indicate their age. Young Dinka women wear beaded bodices, adorned with cowrie shells, to indicate their availability for marriage. They show their wealth or status by wearing thick, flat, ivory bracelets.

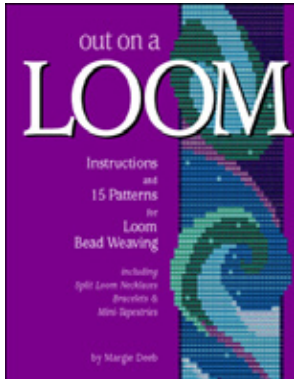
In the "Pure Hues" chapter of *The Beader's Guide to Color*, I write "Pure colors excite and energize. These are the sit-up-and-pay-attention palettes. Viewers react strongly to a pure color palette, often near the extremes of love or hate." I'm inspired by these styles and colors which are so often less inhibited than what we Westerners find palatable.

I highly recommend *Africa Adorned*, by Angela Fisher, one of my favorite books to lose myself in. Its pages are covered with exquisite photos of people, jewelry, and customs that are becoming extinct. May you be inspired by the raw beauty in the palettes of these forgotten cultures.

For more issues of Margie's Muse, visit MargieDeeb.com/muse

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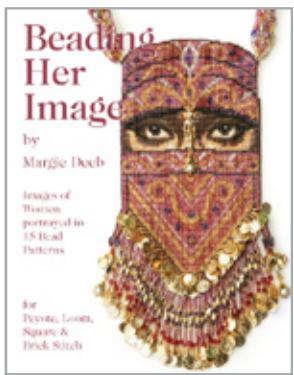
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Out On A Loom is a creative journey through color, design, and form for the beginning to intermediate level seed bead artist.

The softcover book features 32 full-color pages of detailed instructions, patterns, illustrations, and diagrams for creating loom woven bracelets, mini-tapestries and split loom necklaces. Professional and creative finishing techniques are provided so each finished project can be a work of art.

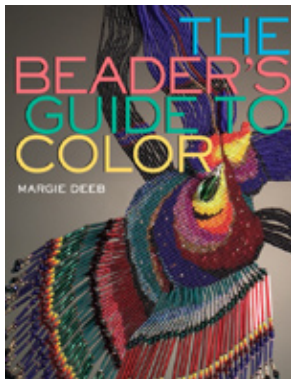
\$19.95 US Dollars



Beading Her Image illustrates the power and beauty of the feminine in 15 seed bead patterns for **peyote, brick, square stitch, and loomwork**. Women from a wide range of times and cultures are woven into tapestries, necklaces, and bracelets. The stunning and gorgeous color palettes that artist Margie Deeb is known for adorn each piece.

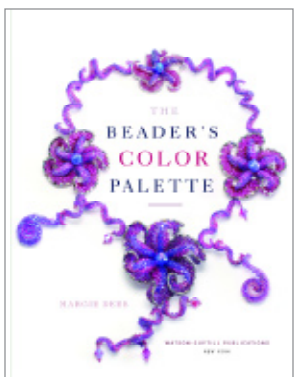
Includes loom building instructions, finishing split loom necklace instructions, and peyote, brick, and looming instructions. (Paperback, 44 pages)

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The only book of its kind written specifically for bead artists, *The Beader's Guide to Color* teaches bead artists of all levels everything they need to know about color to create unique and vibrant beadwork designs. Margie discusses psychological and symbolic color associations, and ways in which color can be used to create and accentuate pattern, rhythm, and movement. 21 color schemes are described and illustrated in detail with accompanying projects for all skill levels. (Paperback, 144 pages)

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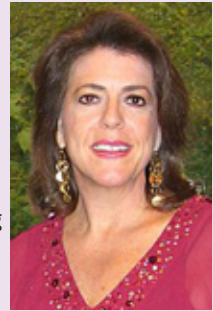


The Beader's Color Palette: 20 Creative Projects and 220 Inspired Combinations for Beaded and Gemstone Jewelry opens the door to worlds of color inspiration. Gather colors from around the planet to create stunning color schemes for beaded creations. Gorgeous beaded jewelry illustrating 220 specific palettes for glass and gemstone beads make *The Beader's Color Palette* a coffee table book of inspiration for color lovers working in every medium. Includes detailed instructions for stringing, finishing, looming, and off-loom stitches. (Paperback, 192 pages)

\$24.95 US Dollars

Artist, designer, musician, and color expert

Margie Deeb is the author of several beading books, including the popular *The Beader's Guide to Color* and *The Beader's Color Palette* (Watson-Guptill, 2008).



She teaches color courses for artists, interior designers, and bead artists and her free monthly color column, "Margie's Muse," is available on her website. She produces a free graphically enhanced podcast, "Margie Deeb's Color Celebration," available on iTunes.

Her articles have appeared in *Bead & Button* and *Beadwork* magazines, and she writes a regular color column in *Step-by-Step Beads*. Visit Margie's website for her books, patterns, jewelry, inspiration, and more:

www.MargieDeeb.com

Also available at MargieDeeb.com:

- Exquisite **seed bead patterns** in peyote, brick, square stitch, and loom available as downloadable PDFs or hardcopies
- **CMY Color Wheels** (the ones that Margie uses for herself and in her classes)
- **Accessories** for beading, such as tapestry rods, and unusual findings
- **Gallery of extraordinary bead art**
- Information about **classes/events**
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