

## Fall Colors Abound

by Margie Deeb

October 2006

Fall, my favorite season, is a flamboyant time of year. Rich and brilliant colors drift down as if from the sky and blanket the ground. Pumpkins and squash cover the dinner table. Fall spawns flaming reds, amber yellows, and the deep tawny forest hues reminiscent of cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves.

Its time to pull out the autumn colored gemstones and beads: jaspers

& agates, citrine, African brown rhyolite, hematite, obsidian, black onyx, aventurine, malachite, olivine, tourmaline, serpentine, jasper, unakite

And of course, the must-have metals of: copper, bronze, silver, gold.

Autumn's tones are burnished or darkened, and slightly lowered in intensity. With the excep-

tion of warm reds, they are never pure colors. The key is tone: mellow, rich, and warm. Greens come in shades of olive, forest, cypress or fir—always toned down. Blues are limited to a slightly green-blue such as deep teal or peacock blue.

To reflect autumn's syle, design with line and form that is well delineated, with focus and a sense of drama. Autumn flair is robustly sensual, giving the impression that you can smell, taste and hear the colors and textures. Jewelry jangles and clanks because of such unusual artifacts as dZi beads, carved fetishes, scarabs, and coins. Texture and pattern is bountiful. Planned textures of basketweaves,

checkerboards, or distinct geometrics capture the eye. Organic, mottled or grainy textures of bark, leather, and pottery give an earthy substance.

Autumn resonates with natural patterns and motifs: animal prints of leopard or snakeskin, and leaves (especially with points, such as maple and pine needles). Achieve flamboyance with luxurious, exotic motifs inspired by Persian and Moorish geometrics, or Arabian and Byzantine ornamentation. And don't forget the Orient, especially China.

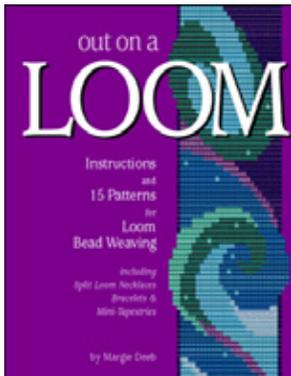
Metals are essential to this earth-based season. Autumn-inspired beadwork should give off a burnished glow, so weave radiant gold and/or warm bronze into every palette. The sheen of copper beautifully augments autumnal greens and blues.

The autumn palette is the perfect setting for stones because, like metals, they are of the earth. Many stones embody autumn's essence. Most notable are tiger eye, jasper, and agate, all of which feature requisite texture. Consider dramatic carnelian, the glowing yellows of amber and citrine; peridot's yellow-tinged green, and the low-intensity greens of aventurine and jade. Don't overlook smokey quartz and nuggets of turquoise in its dark, matrix-filled versions. (Avoid the clear, light and bright versions.) Autumn invites branched coral. It's not a stone, but oh, what texture!

Metallics, gilt-lined, and gold lusters afford a palette the burnished autumn look. Avoid demure finishes such as pearlescent. Mix several surface finishes for a textural effect.



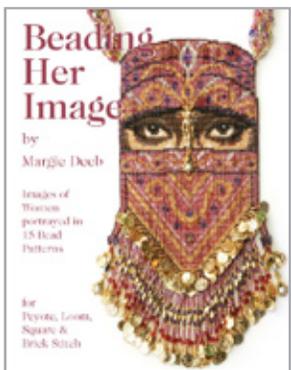
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*Out On A Loom* is a creative journey through color, design, and form for the beginning to intermediate level seed bead artist.

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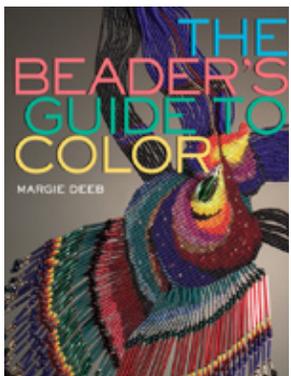
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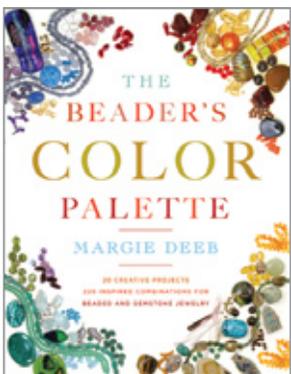
Includes loom building instructions, finishing split loom necklace instructions, and peyote, brick, and looming instructions. (Paperback, 44 pages)

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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](http://www.MargieDeeb.com)

Also available at [MargieDeeb.com](http://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
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