

Lampwork and bracelet by Kristy Nijenkamp.

Color & Dominance

by Margie Deeb

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Harmony is created when there exists a balance of similarities and differences. Enough concordance and enough contrast must be at play to achieve dynamic tension.

Too many visual differences confuse the eye. What if every bead in the bead store were dumped into one huge bowl? Though enticing, the arrangement wouldn't be harmonious or well designed. Such a completely random mix offers delightful textures and colors, but provides no focused direction, and no place for the eye to rest.

mean little if your work lacks this wholeness. All the elements must be somehow unified. How? Elevate one or two elements above all others. Let this dominant force govern everything else in the piece.

Dominance is crucial to all art. Even the squirt, blob, and swash paintings of abstract expressionists employed dominance—that of texture or movement, or a prevailing color family—to unify their work.

Try using color as your unifying element. Color dominance assumes many faces, simple and complex. Establishing a dominant color is the simplest approach, as Kristy Nijenkamp has achieved in her lampworked bracelet (see left). Each bead contains many colors, but the dominant color of the whole bracelet is the transparent peach, which unifies all the palette members. Johannes Itten explains “emphasizing one color enhances expressive character.” This peach color gives an aura of radiance and innocence.

The tonal approach is a more complex use of color dominance. This method uses dominant tones (muted and darker, or intense and brighter) rather than specific hues. The fully saturated colors of Margie Deeb's “Spectral Tapestry” (see left) create a dominance through intensity. Though not one is used particularly more than others, the piece is unified by the intensity the colors share. And by black, which outlines and frames each color of the palette.

To unify your work and give a sense of wholeness and completeness, try color dominance.



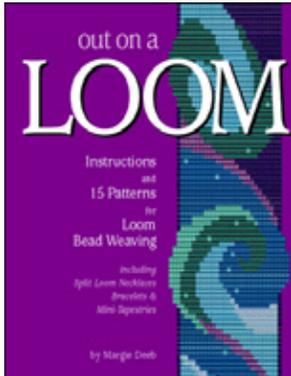
“Spectral Tapestry”

Design by Margie Deeb. Loomwork by Frieda Bates.

After feasting for a moment on that random mix, your eye will spot all the bright yellow beads and begin grouping the yellows. You are seeking order. And you are finding order through concordance—colors (or shapes or sizes) that are similar.

Dominance, whether in color, composition, or both, unifies a finished piece, giving it a sense of oneness. Design elements and concepts

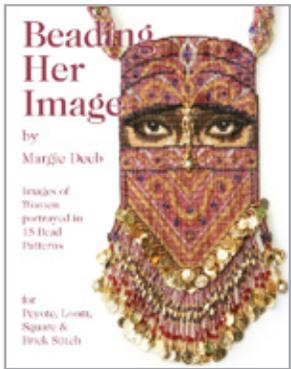
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Out On A Loom is a creative journey through color, design, and form for the beginning to intermediate level seed bead artist.

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.

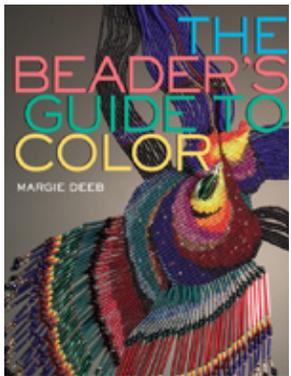
\$19.95 US Dollars



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.

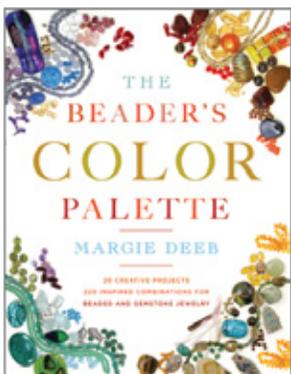
Includes loom building instructions, finishing split loom necklace instructions, and peyote, brick, and looming instructions. (Paperback, 44 pages)

\$19.95 US Dollars



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)

\$21.95 US Dollars



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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