



Making Your Monochromatic Magnificent

by Margie Deeb

January 2009

Monochromatic color schemes need never be boring. And if they are, then the person creating them has a lot to learn about color.

Because they feature one color, monochromatic schemes are psychologically powerful, evoking the emotions associated with that color. If blue is your choice, your piece will speak either of peaceful reflection or of melancholy, depending on how you deal with the color properties.

When different intensities, tones, shades, and tints of one color are combined, gorgeous and evocative harmonies emerge. In the medium of beads, monochromatic options expand further to include different textures and finishes of the same color.

How about a New Years' Resolution to work with monochromatic schemes in a new way? Here's how...

1. Know Your Color Properties:

Value: the lightness or darkness of a color

Temperature: the warmth or coolness of a color

Intensity: the relative saturation of a color (is it muted or full-strength vibrant).

2. Know Your Bead Finishes:

The vast array of bead finishes will add depth and

intrigue to your one-color wonders. Matte, transparent, opaque, silky, luster, alabaster, and AB finishes are just a few available to seed bead artists. Lampworkers and fused glass artists have their own finishes to work magic with. Combine at least two different finishes into your work, or as many as you can and still create a cohesive visual unity.

3. Contrast (the verb)

I teach color and design on a college level, and this is one of the mantras we repeat in unison: "A strong color scheme must have contrast."

Contrast! I am using that as a verb right now: CONTRAST the color properties. Contrast the bead finishes!

If green is the star of your scheme: aim for a variety of greens in different values, temperatures, and intensities. And contrast the bead finishes, combining matte finishes with opaque and transparent surfaces.

When you consciously contrast all the members of your one-hued palette, you will conjure up magnificent monochromatism. Good luck, and I'd love to see your finished pieces!

(See page 2...)

Each of Linda Breyer's meticulous pinecone beads is a monochromatic scheme.

The colors radiate light to dark from the inside to the outside of each scale. She consciously used contrast to great effect, varying the value, intensity, and temperature of the hue of each color scheme.



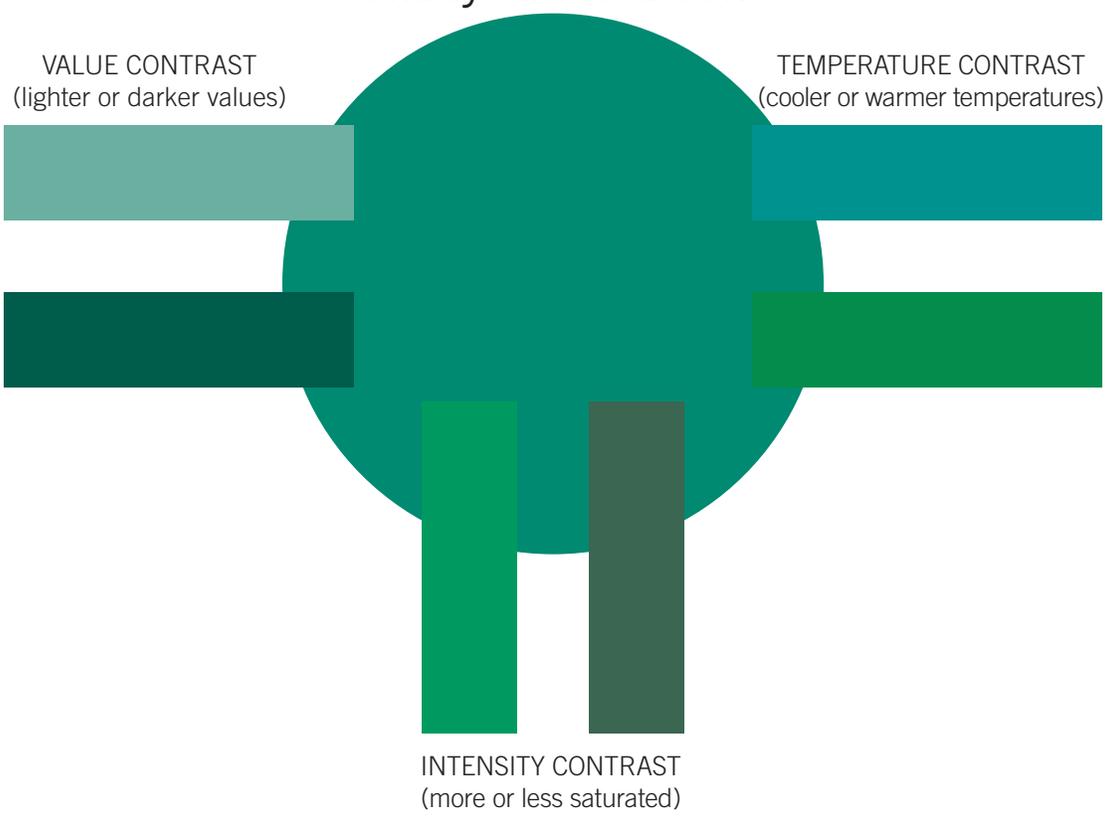
<http://mortsbeads.deviantart.com>

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

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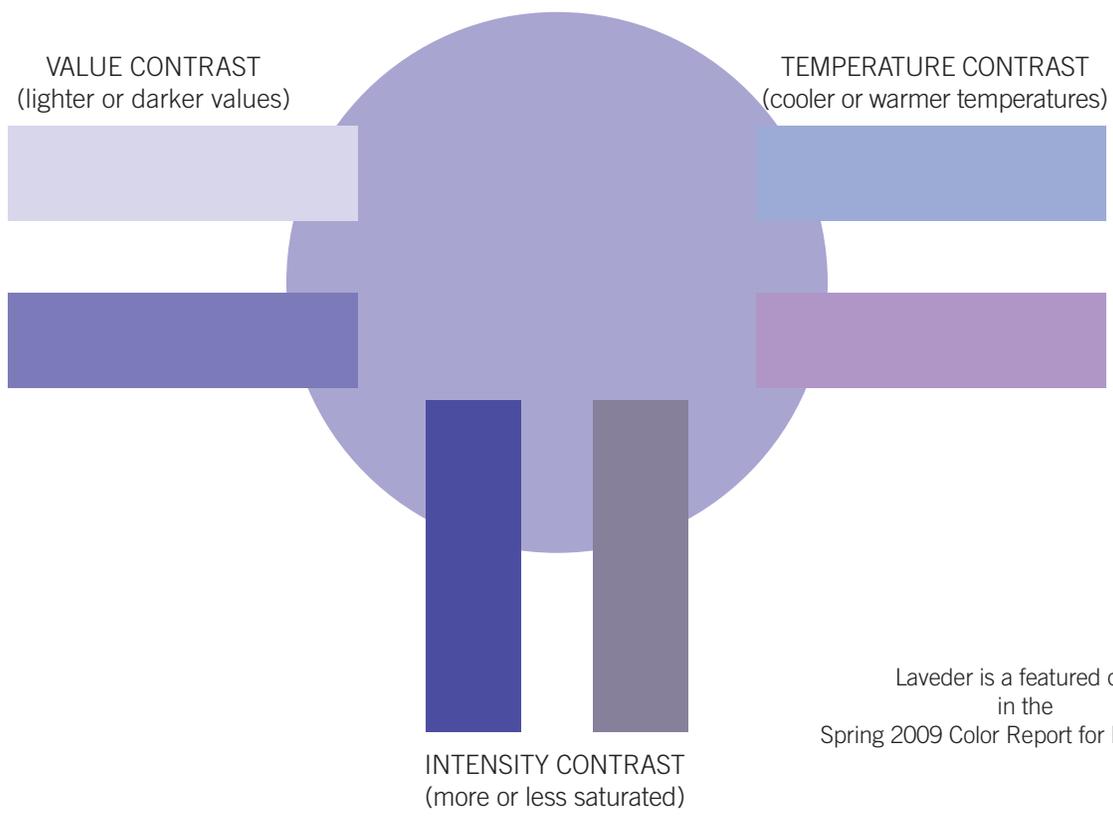
Main Color: Shady Glade Green

Shady Glade is a featured color
in the
[Fall 2008 Color Report for Bead Artists](#)

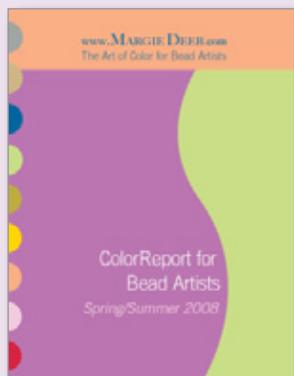


Main Color: Lavender

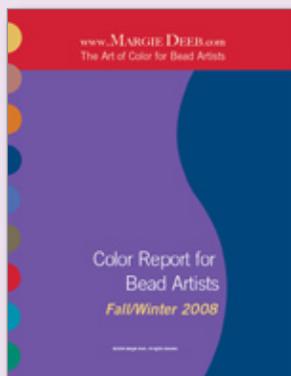
Lavender is a featured color
in the
Spring 2009 Color Report for Bead Artists



How Have You Lived without the Color Report for Bead Artists?



[Download the Spring/Summer 2008 PDF now](#)



[Download the Fall/Winter 2008 PDF now](#)

Each season the *Color Report for Bead Artists* will expand what you can create in any medium - by introducing you to color combinations you've never used or even seen before. These seasonal PDFs contain over 40 palettes, descriptions, photos, gemstone and Delica bead suggestions, and ideas based on Pantone's fashion color report.

One of the most fun aspects of creativity is color: using new colors and harmonies. If you're like me, your beadwork soars when you're challenged and inspired. And it becomes exponentially more fun.

It thrills me to work with colors I've never seen or tried. Watching how the hues interact with each other and how I interact with them gives me such joy. And I want to learn more, go further, reach higher and create more.

Join me in exploring the exciting new colors of each season.

Responses to Margie's *Color Report for Bead Artists*:

"I really like the color report - particularly because there are colors that I probably would not have considered or noticed and this gives new directions to travel. I also REALLY appreciated the listing of the gemstones."
- Kathy L.

"Very helpful. I tend to work in certain palettes over and over again, but seeing a different palette helps me move out of my comfort zone."
- Susan K.

"I appreciated the fact that you mentioned your initial reaction to some of the Pantone colors for this season and yet after exploring them, your reaction to them changed. It reminds me to be open to colors I might not usually consider for jewelry (or wearing)."
- Rosalynn B.

*"I know I will not care for every season's colors but *The Color Report for Bead Artists* still gives me an idea of what to look for when designing for the next season. It is very helpful knowing that what I make will work with what is in the stores for those months."*
- Betty



Master Color One-on-One with Margie

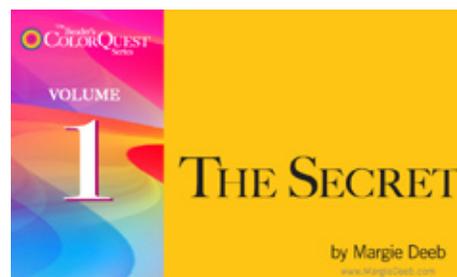
Take your artistry to a higher level. Spend 3 months learning from the master of color one-on-one. Examine your strengths and weaknesses, and get on the path to discovering your true color voice.

In this consultation process you will:

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- Raise your artistry to a new level
- Have your current work critiqued
- Create new work for critique
- Become an empowered artist

You and your artwork will be forever changed.

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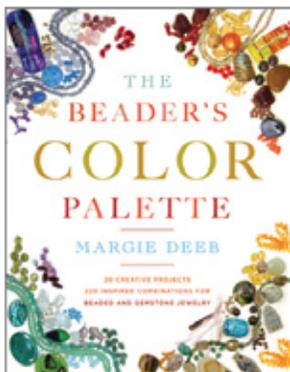


Learn the most critical secret to making dynamic, powerful color combinations. A 33-page PDF for instant purchase and download

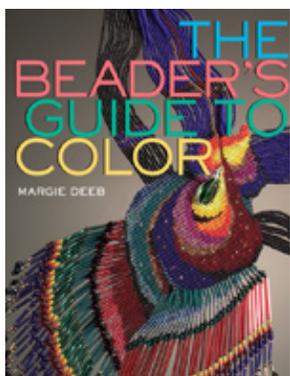
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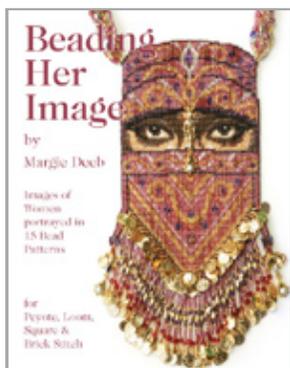
The Art of Color for Bead Artists



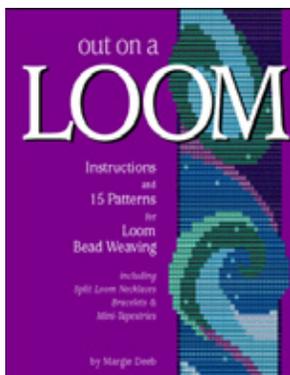
The Beader's Color Palette: 20 Creative Projects and 220 Inspired Combinations for Beaded and Gemstone Jewelry opens the door to worlds of color inspiration. Gather from history, culture, and our planet to create stunning color schemes for beaded creations. Gorgeous beaded jewelry illustrating 220 specific 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



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



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



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. (Paperback, 36 pages)
\$19.95 US Dollars

Artist, designer, musician, and color expert



Margie Deeb is the author of several books, including the popular *The Beader's Guide*

to Color and *The Beader's Color Palette*.

She teaches color courses for artists, interior designers, and bead artists. 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*. She has appeared on the PBS show "Beads, Baubles, and Jewels" speaking about color. Visit Margie's website for her books, patterns, jewelry, inspiration, and more:
www.MargieDeeb.com

Margie's Blog:
colorforbeadartists.com

MARGIEDEEB.COM
The Art of Color for Bead Artists
April 2008

The Beader's Color Palette
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Color Report for Bead Artists Spring/Summer '08
Download Now

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By the way, this month's "Margie's Muse" is an excerpt from the "Cultures of Our World" chapter of the book.

Margie's Muse
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This month learn to work beautiful patterns with traditional motifs of Latin America. Get inspired from *The Beader's Color Palette*.
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