



Textures and Light of Spring

by Margie Deeb

May 2009

Imbuing your beadwork with the essence of springtime has as much to do with **bead surface finish** and the **overall texture** of your piece as it does color. Color is only one ingredient of the spring palette. Since we've discussed spring color in the last two Margie's Muse editions, let's explore these other properties.

Spring is a colorful profusion of life and activity. Its colors are **warm with golden undertones**, as if bathed in sunshine. Hues gently shimmer and hum, never shout. Keep the palette **light**: no low-intensity, shadowy colors. Pastels are part of the spring bouquet, but you want to avoid the chalky, over-whitened, sacharine look that too many pastel colors can produce. So use a vivid tone or two for contrast. And be sure to add some sparkle.

Not only do spring colors need to be high-key and light, they need to be **clear**. They must look fresh, as if washed by the rain or melting snow. There's no better finish for springtime palettes than **transparent glass**, which creates dewdrops of liquid color. Light passes through transparent beads, illuminates them from within, and tosses back rays of color.

Include finishes that augment the clarity of transparent beads. Silver-lined finishes flash like reflected sun. Color-lined beads look like morsels of color suspended in drops of dew. The softness of transparent luster, opalescent, and pearl finishes furnish a soft glow with a little less color, so use them for necessary contrast. Judicious numbers of tiny cut-beads add lively sparkle—but don't overdo.

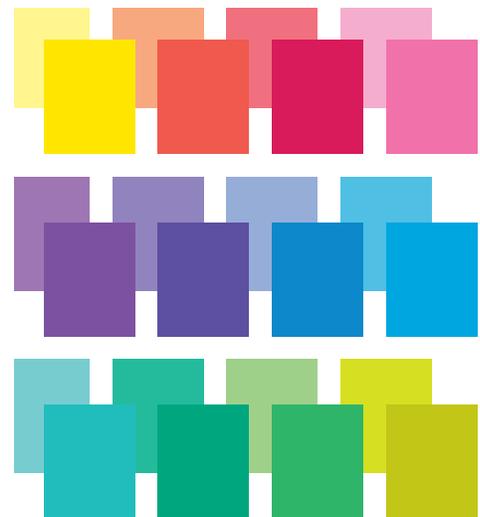
As for gemstones, peridot embodies the spring. It sparkles gently, its clear, liquid yellow-green bringing to mind new leaves moist with dew. Ebullient citrine, and petal-like rose quartz are next. When teamed up with mother-of-pearl shell or clear quartz, they form an extraordinarily clear, fresh palette. Cooler spring tones include blue lace agate, pale amethyst, amazonite, translucent moonstone (in the white range), aquamarine, apatite, and chrysoprase.

Spring textures are **lush and lacey**. Build texture in light layers or with many tiny beads, rather than large chunky beads. String or weave spring colors using beaded crochet, netting, delicate rustling fringe, or single-stands with charms. Carved beads in the form of butterflies, birds, leaves, and flowers convey spring's whimsy and charm. Focus on overall form: curved lines, rolls, and fluted petal shapes.

While color is critical to your final piece, paying attention to more subtle details such as surface finish and texture gives greater depth to your work. So **combine your light and clear colors with delicate and lush textures** to create luscious spring palettes.



Spring blooms in high-key, clear colors that look fresh and clean. Carefree blends of soft dusty pastels and a few vibrant sparkles of gold will yield luminous results.

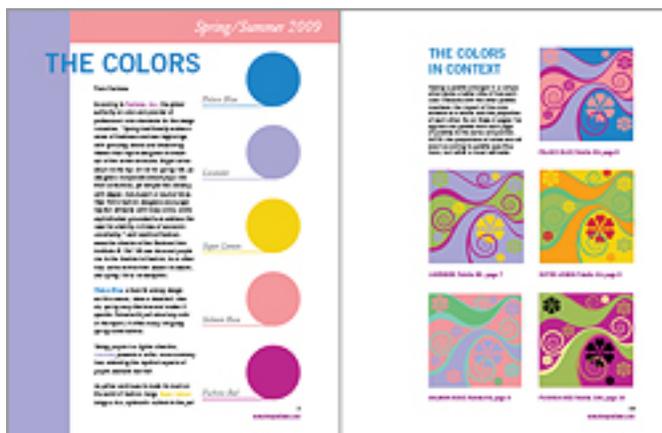


A full spring palette. Notice that even the brights aren't screaming, and the tints aren't washed out. Clear color abounds. Think of the shimmer of the Impressionists' palettes to string the spring into your beads.

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

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Learn More About Spring Color in the Spring/Summer 2009 Color Report for Bead Artists



Green is the color of spring 2009. According to Pantone® it will invigorate us and our wardrobes with three distinct tones: Vibrant Green, the calmer and sophisticated Dark Citron, and clean, clear Lucite Green (which you met in the [February 2009 Margie's Muse](#)).



My latest publication, [The Spring/Summer 2009 Color Report for Bead Artists](#), features Pantone's ten colors of the season. Through words, palettes, and photos, I show you how to work with them to create cracklin' good bead art.

What, or Who, is Pantone?

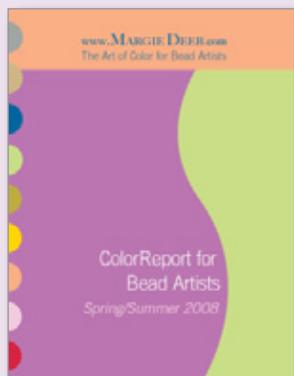
[Pantone, Inc.](#) is the world-renowned authority on color. For more than 45 years, Pantone has been inspiring design professionals with products, services and leading technology for the colorful exploration and expression of creativity.

Each year, innumerable products and services are sold by Pantone and its hundreds of licensees in over 100 countries in the graphic arts, fashion, home, interior, plastics, architectural, paint, industrial design and consumer markets.

Includes...

- Pantone's 10 sizzling spring colors
- suggestions, descriptions, and proven examples of how to work with each
- 40 brand new palettes
- full color photos of jewelry made with this season's colors
- Delica and Gemstones suggestions

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



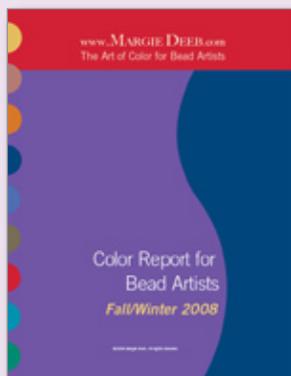
[Download the Spring/Summer 2008 PDF now](#)

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.



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

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

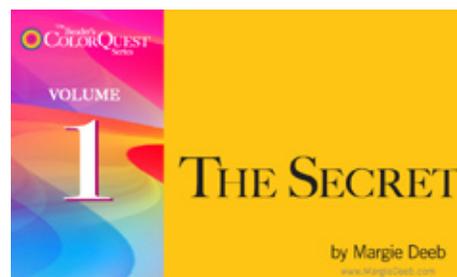
Take your artistry to a higher level. Spend 3 months learning from the master of color one-on-one. Examine your strengths and weaknesses, and get on the path to discovering your true color voice.

In this consultation process you will:

- Discover more of your color voice
- Raise your artistry to a new level
- Have your current work critiqued
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You and your artwork will be forever changed.

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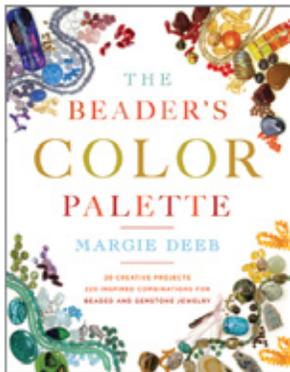


Learn the most critical secret to making dynamic, powerful color combinations. A 33-page PDF for instant purchase and download

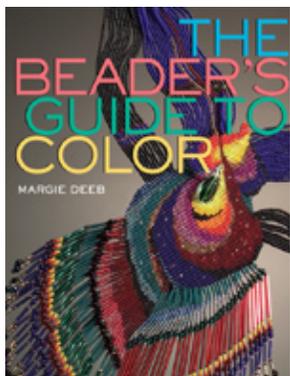
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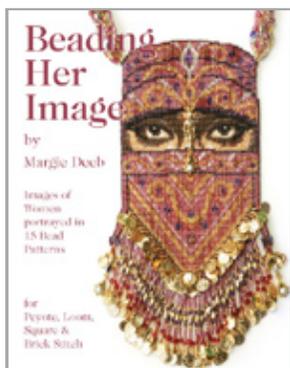
The Art of Color for Bead Artists



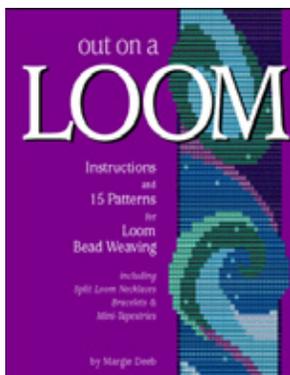
The Beader's Color Palette: 20 Creative Projects and 220 Inspired Combinations for Beaded and Gemstone Jewelry opens the door to worlds of color inspiration. Gather from history, culture, and our planet to create stunning color schemes for beaded creations. Gorgeous beaded jewelry illustrating 220 specific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

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