

FOCUS ON FABULOUS



By Diane Woodall

Patricia Carberry's necklace, *Breath of Spring*, is a feast for the eyes; it is a stunning blend of handmade lampwork beads and beaded beads working together to bring out the best in each other. It is a piece you want to take the time to explore as your eye moves from one lovely component to the other. I simply couldn't stop staring at it!

Created by

Patricia Carberry

Patricia shares, “So much of my work (and my wardrobe) involves dark or neutral colors. I wanted to create a piece that used lighter, brighter colors for spring. I was using a lot of dichroic glass at that time, mostly on black and other dark jewel tones. I created the beads using Bullseye glass, having lots of sheet glass left over from my fused glass period. I chose several lighter colors and frit, and just experimented with different colors of dichroic. I used several techniques, including raking, adding trails, pressing; just had a few play days with these specific colors. I also made disks in many colors and styles. I created over 50 beads, and chose the ones I liked best for the piece.”

She adds, “The beads are intensely layered and look like little universes in your hand. They are deeply layered, and I like that you can look into each piece and keep seeing something more inside. I tend to create my jewelry by collaging - making many beads - at least 100 - and then

laying them all out on my table, finding things that I like to go with them, and then start string it up, to see what I like. I do this many times, adding and subtracting components. I then let it sit for a day or two before doing the final stringing.”

Assembling the necklace was a feat in itself. Patricia explains, “After making all of the beads, I laid them out, and then gathered together all of my fabulous supplies - handmade Thai silver beads, Swarovski crystals, anything I had collected over the years that would be a good fit for the beads. I had also been playing with beaded beads I learned to make from a tutorial by Nikia Angel, from the book *Beadwork Creates Beaded Beads*. http://www.bead-patterns.com/designerspotlight/ds_aug2005.php. I had been making jewelry with freeform peyote stitch and glass beads or fused pieces, so I had drawers full of seed beads. I began making the beaded beads in all colors, then chose these for this particular piece.”

Patricia has been working in glass for almost 40 years. Beginning in the early 1970s with stained glass, she created custom, one-of-a-kind and limited edition windows for commercial and residential establishments. In the mid-1990’s she attended a workshop on fused glass, and became intrigued with working with glass in its molten state. This led to her interest in lampwork beadmaking.

She says, “Working with glass is very direct and immediate. The ever changing rainbow of color and light continues to fascinate me. You never know what you’re going to get when you melt glass; it’s always a surprise. It’s like painting with light.”

Throughout the 1990’s and beyond she participated in fine craft shows up and down the East Coast. She and her husband moved to Prescott, Arizona, in 2008, where she continues to create glass beads and jewelry. Her work is currently represented by Van Gogh’s Ear, and Philabaum Gallery in Tucson, Arizona, and can be seen on her website at www.ptcarberry.com.

