

# Beads galore for the do-it-yourselfer

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A sophisticated extension of the do-it-yourself craze can be found in a little shop called BeadsBeads where literally thousands of different sizes and shapes and colors of beads can be found for those who want to create their own kind of jewelry.



A silver strand sets off the colored Ethiopian beads. The chunky look is a popular one to coordinate with primitive prints.

The walls are decorated with a peculiar mix of shapes and textures labeled with fascinating names such as "dovey-tooths," "mitchi eggplants" or "black palm."

On tables, little plastic containers carry the latest of "real slices" (which come in several colors) or "Indian ceremonial stones" or even just plain "wooden beads" which sell for one cent apiece.

There are no ready-made pieces of jewelry in the store. Everyone is on his own to put together their own design. About the closest the proprietors come to helping a customer is a small give-away instruction sheet that gives suggestions for attaching a clasp.

"TEXTBOOKS ARE limiting and we discourage copying," said Roy Castleberry, who works with Kris Vaughn out of the shop at 622 N. Woodward.

We give our customers a suede cloth to start playing with a lot of different ideas and a lot of beads and let his own design sense take over. Sort of instant classroom, or class on the spot.

When we visited the shop we met one woman who had a liking for turquoise but wanted it made up with gold instead of silver trim.

"That type of request is common," Castleberry said. "People come here to make something they can find on the market (or often they will own something, something that could be used for a pendant for example, a central piece but they need something to go with it."

Then we bring out the suede cloth and start playing with it. We do that for a jade necklace and we do it for a 50 cent child's bracelet," he said.

Customers are also wont to bring in a new piece of clothing and hunt around "for just the right color or just the right size to make a necklace to go with a new blouse or shirt," Ms. Vaughn said. "Sometimes we help them improve it along, but its practically made on the spot before they leave," she said.

AMONG THE MORE expensive pieces are the antiques but Ms. Vaughn says

both origin and age of most beads are "still very iffy. We might know that its Indian or European or Afghanistan, but we can't be specific in these terms and we don't pretend to be."

She explained that in spite of the fact that beads are as old as civilization itself, there has been no real study of them until the last ten years. And it wasn't until two years ago that the first grant was made for research on beads as artifacts.

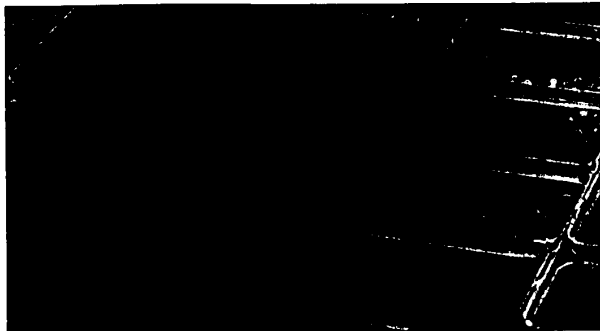
She and Castleberry both have fine arts degrees and extensive backgrounds in the visual arts.

They have been in business together in the Woodward shop for about two months constantly adding to their inventory because you can make a bead out of just about anything. But there are no imitations here of anything. There is nothing here that is plastic," Castleberry said.

Sue Karrer, a jewelry designer from Rochester, filled up several muffin tins of a layered stone for American Indian jewelry pieces while Ms. Vaughn was asking another customer, "Are you sure you want this, if you drop it, it will break."

Meanwhile, Castleberry was laying out his suede cloth for a young man interested in a lapis drop.

When we get a male customer he's back and back again. Really hooked," Castleberry said. "Maybe men get a bigger look out of saying 'Look, I did it myself'."



Customers come up with their own designs, choosing from a multitude of beads in as many sizes and shapes and colors.

Staff photos by Harry Mauthe

a la mode



Bicentennial swirls are but one of thousands of types of beads to choose from for the do-it-yourselfer.



Clam shells make up the bulk of this necklace. At right are samples beads made from bone and fish spine.



American Indian beads make up these necklaces which surround a layered ceremonial stone, a spiritual symbol.

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Roy Castleberry, proprietor of BeadsBeads chats with jewelry designer Sue Karrer, from Rochester.

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Aug. 16 and 17—Informal modeling of coats and suits from 11 a.m. 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy

Aug. 16-Aug. 19—Informal showing of Irma Shorell cosmetics, from 1 p.m. 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy

Aug. 17 and 18—Fashion seminar, sponsored by Saks Fifth Avenue, at 1 p.m. in the Somerset Hall Conference Room, Somerset Mall, Troy

Aug. 18—Formal showing of Ralph Lauren sportswear at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy

Aug. 18 and 19—First Detroit area showing of Marina Ferran collection at 10 a.m. 4 p.m. at Claire Peanone, Somerset Mall, Troy

Aug. 18 and 19—Informal showing of Albert Capraro collection 11 a.m. 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy

Aug. 19—Back to school show of Miss J and Mr. J fashions for teens at 7:30 p.m. in Jacobson's, Birmingham

Aug. 19—Fashion and beauty advice from Mademoiselle magazine staff, at noon in the Kresge Court, Northland. Volunteers will be chosen from the audience

Aug. 19—Glamorous encounter series begins at 1:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. for four weeks at Somerset Mall, Troy. Series is designed to show audience how to become better shoppers and how to get more mileage out of a wardrobe

Aug. 20—Informal modeling of St. John Knits sportswear dress, from 11 a.m. 4 p.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy

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