

Featuring the latest from the
International Society of Glass Beadmakers

Coming Out of Hibernation



Jeri Warhaftig's Monster
from her upcoming
Beyond Beginner workshop

Patty Lakinsmith,
Flowers beads

by Alicia Sheerin

It has been a rough few years. Suddenly plunged into lockdown, we all had to find a way to conduct business completely from home. How were we going to be able to connect and communicate safely and effectively? Especially the glass community! How were we going to be able to teach or to learn new techniques in such a tactile medium without being face to face?

True to its mission, the International Society of Glass Beadmakers (ISGB) immediately rose to the challenge. The Board led the charge, and with input and assistance from many members, a new online calendar of ISGB events and meetings was developed and launched. Even our premier annual event, *The Gathering*, which is normally a four-day, in-person event went virtual! It was amazing how smoothly our members took to the new technology, and someone took notice!

Looking to Future Developments

On New Year's Eve, the ISGB was notified that the organization was the recipient of a \$30,000 anonymous gift! It was given specifically for us to work on creating a long-term strategic development plan for the next five to ten years, embracing all of the current trends in glass art. Immediately, our trusted officers jumped into action to find the right professional to help us with this important initiative. At this writing, the Board is holding a special meeting in June led by this experienced consultant to develop an exciting plan! Stay tuned for details.

Now, as the frost melts, there is something else going around that everyone is catching—spring fever! No wonder 2023 is the first year where it feels safe to meet and congregate in person again. ISGB is ready with a full slate of events, both online and in person, to suit everyone's comfort level, and *The Gathering* will once again be an in-person event. We are preparing to get *Fired Up* in Omaha, Nebraska, from October 26–29, 2023!



Sharon Peters, Bird Hat from the
last ISGB in-person meeting of
The Gathering

Additional Highlights

ISGB is thrilled to provide the following opportunities to help our fellow glass artists hone their skills and discover new techniques.

- **Connection.** Our highly successful Creators and Makers Second Sunday Series will continue. These intimate interviews, demos, and studio tours keep getting better. Be sure to mark your calendars *now!*

- **Community.** Our membership Quarterly Creative Challenges will continue, with April being centered around sharing your class work for a chance to win a free workshop.

- **Education.** In response to member requests, the most popular classes from *The Gathering 2022* are being relaunched monthly, and the 2021 workshops will soon be available as on-demand classes. We also will have a new workshop in April with Jeri Warhaftig that will focus on expanding your bead making skills.

- **Opportunity.** While the deadline for this year's Viyada and Alexx Chang's Scholarship was March 1, 2023, ISGB members will have the opportunity to apply for several scholarships in connection with *The Gathering*.

Whether taking advantage of in-person or virtual events, the ISGB remains your bead making resource for every season. Be sure to explore all of these educational opportunities for expanding your skills available from ISGB.

Visit www.isgb.org for more information on these fantastic upcoming events and how to become a member of ISGB.



Marcy Lamberson's Bubbleheads featured in her upcoming on-demand workshop





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