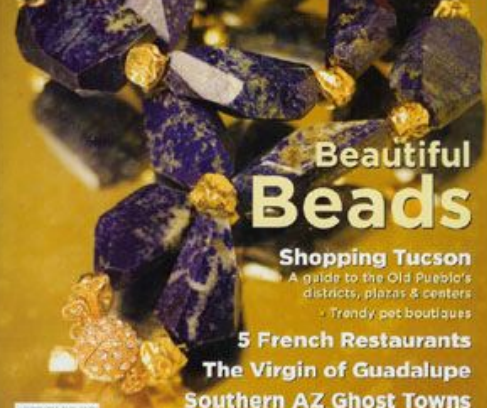


101 THINGS TO DO • DESERT DINING GUIDE

# TUCSON GUIDE



## Beautiful Beads

### Shopping Tucson

A guide to the Old Pueblo's districts, plazas & centers  
• Trendy pet boutiques

### 5 French Restaurants

### The Virgin of Guadalupe

### Southern AZ Ghost Towns



PLUS: SEASONAL EVENTS • REGIONAL ATTRACTIONS • ARTS & CULTURE • GOLF GUIDE • AREA MAPS

handmade,  
hand-painted, or  
hand-strung—  
discover

## the art of beads

### BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEADHOLDER.

Some thrill to the faceted flashes of rubies and Czechoslovakian crystal. Others prefer the cool, creamy luster of Tahitian pearls. Still others revel in the primal romance of handmade beads fashioned from clay, stone, or bone. For thousands of years, people of all cultures have been fascinated by beads—by definition, any small objects pierced for stringing or threading.

By Greg Baker • Photography by Tim Fisher • Photo assistant, Patricia Sanchez



would (appeal) equally to a four-year-old fascinated by the magic in the play of the light and the images and beauty, as it would to the Prince of Burundi."

Despite the dearness of her artwork (a single bead can command prices as high as \$275) she revels in leaving a bit of her work behind during her frequent travels. Whether carefully placed under a cactus or tossed into the sea during a boat trip, each bead is meant to be a surprise treasure. "I've got beads in the Sahara Desert, so the unknown stranger will find it," she says. "I have a bead at the very top of Machu Picchu, and one outside the post office in Antarctica," which she hopes will be discovered by a penguin gathering stones for its nest.

For more information about her classes, instructional videos, beads, and Uptown Tribal gallery, see [www.kate-drew-wilkinson.com](http://www.kate-drew-wilkinson.com).



**VANESSA GALLOWAY**  
**SEED BEAD ARTIST, TUCSON**

Vanessa Galloway's artistic homage to La Virgen de Guadalupe—Mexico's revered patron saint—turned into a beaded prayer lasting half a year. That's how long it took her to appliqué thousands of Czechoslovakian glass seed beads onto leather to re-create an image of the beloved Catholic icon.

"I had so many people tell me I should bead the virgin," says Galloway, 38, who was born in France and educated at the University of Arizona. "It took six

months of pretty consistent work in the evenings" to create the 8"x10" labor of love.

"I guess that I've felt a connection with beads ever since I got into it 20 years ago," she says. "Beads have so much history to them. It really does transcend time and culture."

Beading is an activity open to just about anyone, adds Galloway, who is also a jewelry designer and graphic artist. "It's something that's affordable," she says. "When you first start beading, you can go and spend a few bucks and make something really, really nice for yourself that is a piece of art."

And the Old Pueblo is especially supportive of beaders, Galloway observes. "There's a whole subculture of beaders in Tucson," she says. "The people I've met here who are into beads all have something in common—a respect for the life of the bead and the cultures that used them."

Vanessa Galloway can be contacted at [vanasha@msn.com](mailto:vanasha@msn.com). Her work is available

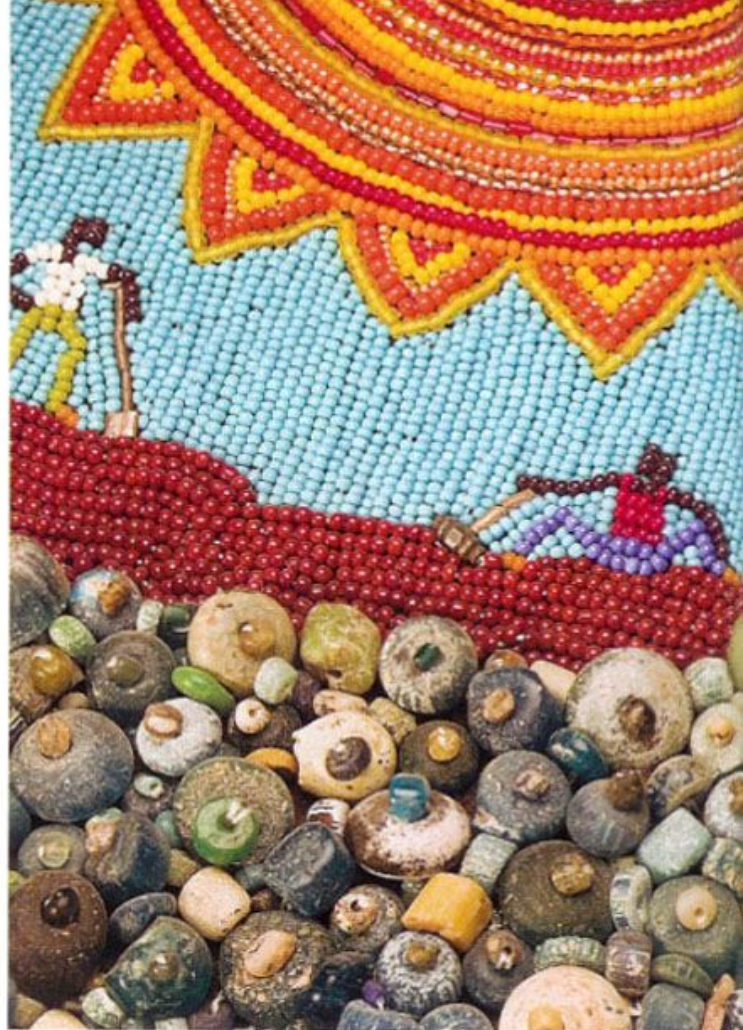
locally at Piney Hollow and displayed on their website at [www.piney-hollow.com](http://www.piney-hollow.com).



COURTESY VANESSA GALLOWAY



Beaded Virgin of Guadalupe by Vanessa Galloway



The intricate beadwork in Vanessa Galloway's artwork can take months to produce.



**LAURIE WETTERSCHNEIDER,**  
**CUSTOM JEWELRY DESIGNER,**  
**TUCSON & CARMEL, CA**

Once upon a time in Manhattan, Laurie Wetterschneider and sister Lisa Peterson played at making jewelry, threading string through bits of cereal and dry pasta to make Froot Loops necklaces and elbow macaroni bracelets. Today, the sisters' custom-designed pieces adorn the décolletages of celebrities and fashionable femmes around the world.

Their jewelry—noted for its use of bold colors, generously sized pearls, chunky semiprecious gemstones, and artful clasps—is sold in high-end boutiques in New York City; Carmel-by-the-Sea, California; and luxury resorts such as Tucson's celebrated Canyon Ranch.

"We just became impassioned about beading—Lisa in New York, and I in Tucson," says Wetterschneider, who has also worked in the radio broadcasting and fundraising industries. "We were sharing designs with one another and realized there were a lot of similarities, and thought 'Why not create a company incorporating both our styles?'"

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COURTESY LAURIE WETTERSCHNEIDER



Tourmaline and gold vermeil beaded necklace finished off with a rhinestone clasp, created by Laurie Wetterschneider

Wetterschneider found she developed an emotional attachment not only to her creations, but also to her customers.

One woman "hadn't bought herself jewelry for a long time, because her husband gave it to her as gifts all her life," she says. "But afterward, when people told her how beautiful she was wearing it, it brought back memories of the gifts from her husband and the joy and pride she felt."

The artistic process—a reward in itself—results in creations with sumptuous descriptions such as Aquamarine Glass, Peacock Pearl, and Swarovski Crystal Necklace. "It's very relaxing, in a world where we are tethered to our computers and our cellphones," she says. "You become totally focused on the stones you're working with and the pieces you're creating. Whether you're doing it as a profession or a hobby, it's an escape—and you have something beautiful to show for it."

The sisters' complete line of jewelry may be viewed online at [www.lauricandlisadesigns.com](http://www.lauricandlisadesigns.com). Find them locally at Creative Arrangements by Sylvia at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, Elements Home Accessories & Gifts, The Showcase Boutique at Canyon Ranch, and The Museum Shop at Tucson Museum of Art.

*Freelance writer Bryn Bailer, who has been wondering what to do with all her grandmother's vintage, cut-glass rosary beads, now knows.*

Photograph background colors provided by Citron Paint & Design.



According to some, lapis lazuli protects the wearer from evil.

By Laurie Wetterschneider

## bead shops & classes

**B**efore diving headfirst into bead buying, consider taking a few classes in basic beadwork. If you want to expand your horizons, many stores also offer group instruction in advanced bead weaving or specialized beading stitches.



**A BACK DOOR BEAD & YARN CO.** 6174 E. Speedway Blvd., 745-9080, and 7250 N. La Cholla Blvd., 742-0377, [www.backdoorbeads.com](http://www.backdoorbeads.com). Beaders and knitters alike flock to this dual-purpose shop. Classes include basic/advanced design and assembly, appliqué, and pearl-knotting techniques.

**BEADS OF PARADISE** 7306 E. Broadway Blvd., 721-2700, <http://bop.pizazzworks.com>. Purveyor of semiprecious gemstones, freshwater pearls, and other beads. Also offers classes in wire linking and other techniques.

**BEAUCOUP CONGÉ** 355 E. Ft. Lowell Rd., 696-0032, and 3773 W. Ina Rd., Ste. 130, 744-6277, [www.beadholiday.com](http://www.beadholiday.com). In addition to bead stringing/wire-wrapping/knotting classes, the store's helpful sales staff offers group lessons in introductory soldering and rosary making.

**DAH ROCK SHOP** 3401 N. Dodge Blvd., 323-0781, [www.discountagatehouse.net](http://www.discountagatehouse.net). Wide selection of fossils, minerals, and lapidary equipment, as well as strung, round, faceted, and chip beads.

**EXPRESSIONS ART GLASS** 8002 E. Broadway Blvd., 886-7720, [www.expressionsartglass.com](http://www.expressionsartglass.com). Offers periodic classes in "torch bead" beadmaking.

**JAY'S OF TUCSON** 4627 E. Speedway Blvd., 323-1123, [www.jays-of-tucson.com](http://www.jays-of-tucson.com). Sells beads and display items for professional jewelry artists and offers instruction in bead stringing and bead weaving.

**PINEY HOLLOW** 427 N. 4th Ave., 623-4450, [www.collectible-beads.com](http://www.collectible-beads.com). Tucson's oldest full-service bead and jewelry shop offers instruction in bead stringing, wire working, constructing beaded jewelry, and seed-bead loom weaving.

**STRUNG OUT ON BEADS** 5460 E. Speedway Blvd., B105, 323-6233. Specializes in gemstones and pearls, and hosts private/group classes in beading and chainmail assembly.

### » in Bisbee

**UPTOWN TRIBAL** Copper Queen Plaza, Bisbee, 520-432-7818, [www.katedrewwilkinson.com](http://www.katedrewwilkinson.com). Gallery featuring the work of world-renowned glass beadmaker Kate Drew-Wilkinson, including her books and videos, glass beading demonstrations, and jewelry from her own collection.

### » in Tubac

**BEADS OF TUBAC** 10-A Tubac Rd., Tubac, 398-2070, [www.margaret-rose.com](http://www.margaret-rose.com). Large selection of quality beads, including gemstones.