



Penny Beesley was raised in an art loving family and encouraged at an early age to pursue her artistic aptitude. Weekends were often spent at her father's elbow, in class or in his studio, exploring clay, acrylic, watercolor or experimental media. Art was a very focal point during high school, rewarded by the purchase of a Cranbrook loom and a foray into spinning, natural dyes and multimedia weaving. Pieces began to sell!

She attended Eastern Michigan University, attaining a B.F.A. in ceramics and painting, but with extensive forays into jewelry, photography and drawing, while weaving off campus. During those 5 years more was spent on art supplies than on food.

A wonderful summer of study in Italy, focusing on art history and photography, expanded both her skills and her waistline. Commissions for abstract pastels, drawings and weavings through local interior designers in private and corporate sites in the Birmingham, Michigan area augmented a real world retail job running art galleries and frame shops for the next 5 years.

Twenty-five years later, after running and managing successful restaurant and event businesses in Atlanta, a five year sabbatical sailing, artistic endeavors are back at the forefront. The constrictions of space on a boat led to making beaded jewelry, photographic journalism, creative cooking and small abstract collage pieces. For the past 4 years, jewelry has sold well in New Bern, NC. and Harbor Springs, MI and via the internet.

In returning to painting in the last year, she has found once again the same design elements reoccurring in another media. Color, juxtaposition of shapes, negative space definition and abstract expression come from an inner spot and flow naturally. She also finds a mix of media opens more opportunities for chance chemistry. "Sometimes I think I should return to the training of realism in drawing or painting of recognizable things but the argument inside the skin is to be abstract and spontaneous".