



S h a n n o n G a i n e s B o w m a n

Kansas City, MO

Artist Statement

The bead. It chose me. After receiving my BFA in Illustration and then pursuing various artistic endeavors that left me continually unfulfilled, I stumbled onto beadwork. And now, I lead a double-life. Graphic designer by day - obsessed beader by night.

It fascinates me how ordinary, everyday objects, upon being covered in their little beaded sweaters, emerge with their own personalities, inviting you to see them in a different way.

The anticipation of letting each piece evolve is only part of the allure for me. The process, itself, is addictive. Creating the work is very much like meditating. Stitching each bead is like breathing in and out, allowing my mind to relax and focus simultaneously. And, so, I am compelled to breathe in and out. Bead by bead.

Members Only Exhibition 2009

This body of work is titled Members Only. I know you want to know "why penises?". I hope I am not disappointing anyone when I tell you there is no deep, hidden conceptual meaning behind that choice. I could have made something up to make it sound more artsy-fartsy but what it boils down to is – I thought it would be fun.

Each little guy has his own personality. Their names are as much a part of the art as the beads themselves. You will not see Untitled Penis #3. The naming is part of the fun. So, I dare you not to giggle, just a little bit.

Blue Gallery

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