

patricia kraemer



I live in Zumbro Falls, Minnesota, with my husband, son, and black lab. We have a house on a bluff that overlooks the Zumbro River. My studio is on the third floor, above the treetops, and I have a wonderful view of the surrounding hills, farmland, and river. For 32 years, I taught art at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minnesota. I'm now retired and happily spend my time working with beads. I strive for a harmonious combination of technique and content in my work.



A

“Beads are so cool. They have it all—color, form, history, spirit, and seduction.”



B

A Hummingbird and Barbed Wire, 2010
66 x 8 x 2 cm
Seed beads; right-angle weave, peyote stitch, fringe
Photo by Hugh Kraemer 10101



C

B Lovey-Dovey Purse, 2006
30.5 x 20.3 x 10.2 cm
Glass, vintage Lucite, and wooden beads;
bead embroidery
Photo by Hugh Kraemer 10051



D

C American Traveler WisSota (Wisconsin/Minnesota) Marsh Ducks (Dabblers): Male, 2007
35.6 x 20.3 x 15.2 cm
Glass beads, vintage beads, semiprecious gems, natural objects, sequins, charms; peyote stitch, brick stitch, square stitch, right-angle weave, herringbone stitch, fringe, roping, bead embroidery, bead mosaic
Photo by Hugh Kraemer 10031

D Mourning Birds: II, 2010
15.2 x 10.2 x 7.6 cm
Beads, charms; various stitches
Photo by Hugh Kraemer 10061

WHEN AND HOW DID YOU BEGIN MAKING THINGS WITH BEADS?
Handwork has always been part of my life. As a child, I spent hours making clothes for my Madame Alexander dolls. I knitted, quilted, embroidered, and took up weaving, spinning, and felting. I love jewelry and became a serious beader in 1994.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR WORK?
It's about contrasts—combining unexpected elements in the same piece. I think the finished work is fresh and reflects the culture we live in. The birds are freestanding and feature many different stitches: peyote, herringbone, right-angle weave, square, and brick. The beads are various sizes—glass seed beads, vintage beads, bugles, and buttons.

WHAT'S YOUR WORKING PROCESS LIKE?
My ideas take time to develop. I enjoy making things, solving problems, and handling the materials while working. Beads have a strong voice, and it takes patience to let that voice come through. Even though I aspire to a high level of craftsmanship in my work, I like to take the time to let the materials guide me.



A



B

A *Hacienda Mosaico Parrot*, 2006
29 x 11 x 9 cm
Old buttons, shells; bead embroidery
Photos by Hugh Kraemer 10121/10122

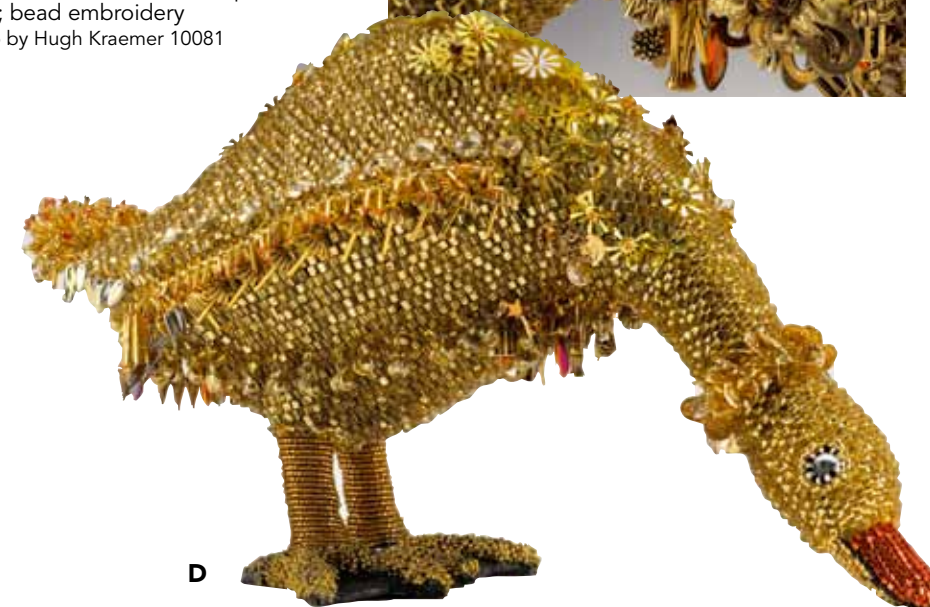
B *WisSota (Wisconsin Minnesota) Sand Hill Cranes: Male (red) Female (blue)*, 2007
Male: 76.2 x 35.6 x 15.2 cm; female: 66 x 35.6 x 15.2 cm
Glass beads, vintage beads, semi-precious gems, natural objects, sequins, charms; peyote stitch, brick stitch, square stitch, right-angle weave, herringbone stitch, fringe, roping, bead embroidery, bead mosaic
Photos by Hugh Kraemer 10011/10012



C

D *American Traveler WisSota (Wisconsin/Minnesota) Marsh Ducks (Dabblers): Female*, 2007
35.6 x 20.3 x 15.2 cm
Glass beads, vintage beads, semi-precious gems, natural objects, sequins, charms; peyote stitch, brick stitch, square stitch, right-angle weave, herringbone stitch, fringe, roping, bead embroidery, bead mosaic
Photos by Hugh Kraemer 10041/10042

C *Flicker: Fire Mountain Lovebird*, 2007
29 x 11 x 12 cm
Glass seed beads, disks, drops, and rings; bead embroidery
Photo by Hugh Kraemer 10081



D

WHAT INSPIRES

THE WORK?

My work is about ideas. The birds are part of a bead-embellished series of migratory birds and waterfowl. As an artist, I'm fascinated by the freedom birds have to travel thousands of miles every year. They cross state lines without licenses, enter countries without passports. My birds carry souvenirs (special beads and charms) as proof of their travels.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING WITH BEADS?

I love holding beads in my hands as I work. Their beauty is enchanting. They have the power of light, color, texture, and shape and are a wonderful time tunnel to other cultures and traditions.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR OTHER ARTISTS?

Don't make "stuff"; make a statement. And be patient. Let the beads show you what to do and which direction to take.

"The shimmery nature of the beads and the kinetic quality of the charms make them perfect embellishments for sculptures of birds. Pat Kraemer has chosen the ideal media."

—SUZANNE GOLDEN