

## International Beads Biennale Hiroshima Exhibition Awards 2020 Comments from the Panel of Judges

Mitsuharu Hirose / Knit Designer

I am very pleased that lots of wonderful artworks have been gathered also at this International Beads Biennale. We met various artworks such as three-dimensional works and works which showed us the possibilities of beads. Also, I felt the expansion of the world of beads by participate from overseas. I hope that the world of beads and the importance of "Make objects by the hands" will be conveyed to more people. And I hope that this Beads Biennale will grow widely with the participation of many people.

Tatsuteru Kimijima / Woodcut Artist

I was amazed at the changes in the works exhibited at the Beads Biennale. This exhibition, which adds art to costume jewelry, is the birth of supreme art that takes advantage of the characteristics of seed beads. The Artwork Category resonates with ideas and skills, and the Wearable Art Category resonates with high fashionability. Though the exhibition seems to reach its goal, the number of participants from overseas has increased and it has become to be known around the world. I am looking forward to seeing even better works. thank you!

Yoshiko Takahashi / Part-time lecturer at Bunka Gakuen University and Wayō Women's University This time, I was surprised at the high level of the work in both categories with all the masterpieces. Among the award-winning works, the judges' eyes focused on several certain works. It was a fascinating piece of work. Costume jewelries were judged with wearing. They were easy to wear, and they became to be even more attractive when wearing than looking. I would be glad if participates create works that give dreams, impress and excitement to the eye of the beholder from now on.

Mutsumi Carpenter / Full-time lecturer at Bunka Fashion College

Even made of the same material "glass beads", each artworks showed their own creativities and I could receive both the passion of creators and stories from their works.

Then I had been in spark joy during the judgement and was able to feel the depth and potential of the beads at the same time. "A beautiful green earth" which I chose for the special award was very impressive. Selection of parts, a well-balanced color scheme was wonderful. Although it has a volume, it is beautiful when worn. Furthermore, it was made with careful attention to the ingenuity along the body line and the opening and closing part.

Kimie Suto / Beads Artist

I felt that each work was full of stories and thoughts. I understand well that the thoughts of the beaders who make the artworks. And I also know that it requires them many challenges, trial and error, and passion to complete their artworks. I respect them as the same creator.

Among all wonderful entries, Iskra Stojkovska's "Gratitude for the Beauty of Our Planet Mandala #1 (Spring Garden)", which was the grand prize, was a masterpiece. I felt the energy wrapped in happiness by just looking at it. The gradation pattern calculated in detail was more than amazing also. I really felt that it fits the theme of "beauty, love and peace".

Mieko Ogura's "Strawberry", which was the special prize I chose, was a work that made me feel a lot of ingenuity by wearing it, and the balance between "adding" and "removing" was very fascinating. I received the power from the ingenuity seen in every artwork. I hope that everyone will play an active role in the future, and I would like to enjoy the bead life together. Thank you very much.

Emi Yamada / Beads Artist

There were also applications from overseas to Artwork Category and Wearable Art Category. The judgement was filled with the works of wonderful design and technique. Among them, the Artwork Category "HAPPINES BAG" was given as a special prize. As the name suggests, it is a work that seems to bring "happiness" with a creative embroidery bag. The handle part, which reminded me of the lips when smiling, made me smile.

Hiroe Takagi / Beads Artist

Beautiful seed beads made by craftsmen with all their heart. By picking up the beads one by one and shaping them, it will be reborn to an artwork made of beads. Even if you don't understand the language, it will be a power to connect people's hearts beyond the nation. The grand prize work "Gratitude for the Beauty of Our Planet Mandala # 1 Spring Garden" has a sense of security and stability due to its circular shape. I felt the power of the beauty of each bead to comfort the hearts of the viewers with love. For the special prize, I chose "Let's make indigo (love) flowers bloom". In this artwork are used the Kumihimo(braid), as one of the materials. The knots and connections are beautifully expressed. I think it will heal the hearts of people who tend to be blocked by COVID-19.

Iwao Yamanaka / President and CEO of TOHO CO., LTD.

This is the 4th International Beads Biennale Hiroshima 2020. This time, we were planning an exhibition at Miyajima, a world heritage site in Hiroshima Prefecture, at the same time as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Unfortunately, it was postponed due to the global expansion of the coronavirus. This time, although it was a year late, the examination was conducted. I was able to be the witness of wonderful works from bead artists all over the world and felt the endless power of bead art. Although in the midst of a global pandemic, it seems that beads, which have an inseparable relationship with humans since ancient times, show the power which they give to humans through bead arts. I would like everyone to feel that the works of glass beads created by artists from all over the world brightly illuminate the world.