

Top Ten Tips for Amazing Results

Words of Wisdom from
Beadshop.com Founder,
Janice Parsons



Featuring Watercolor
Illustrations by Janice.

In some ways, these
are life lessons I've
found along
the way.

I try to adapt them
to other areas of
my life.

~janice



*Seven days of zentangling. It got me through the news of the last week.
janiceparsons 4.22.19*

1

Get the
color
right...

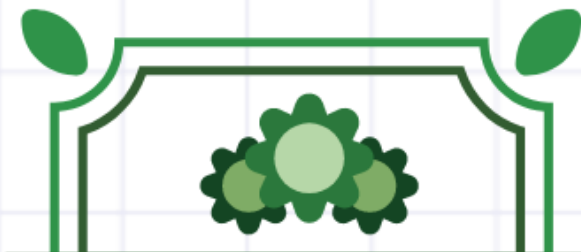


...and the
design will
follow.

We can get so overwhelmed and anxious trying to do everything (pick the technique, select the cord, where do I start, how do I end?). Let the design and outcome go for a bit and focus just on the color. Don't worry about size or shape or thread or technique. Just hone in on color.

I like to say that every green goes with every other green. In nature, one green doesn't clash with another. They all work together. So, be bold and have courage! Your color choices will reflect your sense of style and be authentic to you.

2



*...and speaking
of color.*



3

Choose beads that make your heart skip a beat. Bead crazes come and go. Stay with what makes you get excited to bead.

Yes, it's good to experiment with new things, but if you don't love it now, you probably won't later.



4



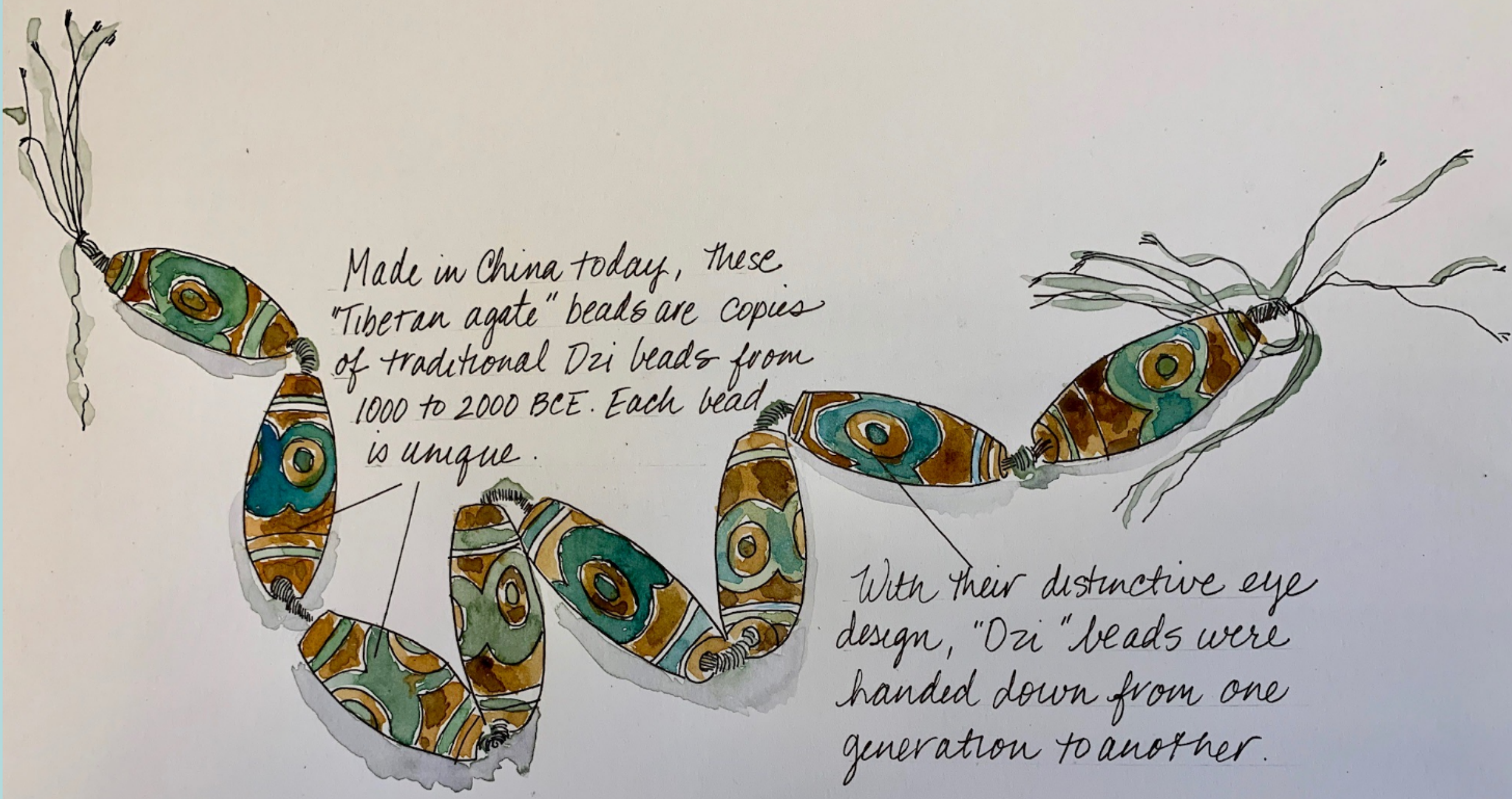
Select bead shapes/sizes you love. Find shapes, coatings and sizes that you are passionate about. Don't get anything because you think it's a good idea. Get it because it "talks" to you. Maybe you don't know how you'll use it, but if you find it resonating with you, this is all good.



If you can't afford to purchase something right away, start a "swipe file" of photos and screen shots of products at shows, in shops, and online. Compile them into a file and come back and look at them later.



Are there themes? Are there ones you would nix? Write some descriptions about why you like them. And then save up for the next time you bead shop. Maybe the one you saw is no longer available, but I will bet you are more confident now about what to buy.



Made in China today, these "Tibetan agate" beads are copies of traditional Dzi beads from 1000 to 2000 BCE. Each bead is unique.

With their distinctive eye design, "Dzi" beads were handed down from one generation to another.

janicepaulson 4.06.19

5



Use a Photograph
for inspiration.

By far the easiest way to point and click the selection of materials for a project is to use a photograph as your guide. Pull the colors out of that landscape or city skyline and palette your colors, shapes, and design. It's funny how a photo can magically do that. This technique takes a lot of the work out of choosing ingredients.

You want to space out the trucks so there are never two big trucks right next to each other. That's dangerous! In design, it can look bulky, unless it's intentional. So, work on strands in relation to each other so they are in concert.

6

For multiple strand designs, think of your beads as cars and trucks on the freeway.

7

Give your designs “air.” Thread and bead tension is something many of us struggle with, especially at the beginning of our beading journey.



Jewelry isn't static; it's not intended for display, except in a museum.

It's meant to be worn by living, breathing people.

So, beads can use some room to move and adjust to wrapping and closing. Keep that in mind because most of the time we string in a straight line...

Matte White
African Opal



Matte Wood
Opalite



Matte Silver
Crazy Lace



8mm Stone Rounds, so natural and alive
with color. Mix and match to make a
mala that speaks to authentic Earth.

Janice Parsons 4.24.19



Getting stuck is normal. Many people call it a creative block. I think of it as a wall we think we have to climb, except if we take a minute, we see there's a door we can go through



If you start to feel your creative energy die, stop what you're doing. Is there another area of the project you can work on for a while? Is there a second or third strand you can start?



Take some kind of break because chances are you will come back to the place you got stuck later and have a good solution.

9

Remember

No one has
your
creative
DNA.

Allow yourself the time and permission to make mistakes and hopefully you'll make good mistakes you learn from. You are the only person who can do you, and that definitely makes your jewelry unique. Even if we were to copy something, we can't make it exactly.

Like a painter, give yourself some time to understand the medium and the style before doing something new. On the other hand, if you haven't found your joy, keep trying! You'll hit on something that you can say, "Okay that's it!"

Tip

When you find a
technique or
style you like,
try building on it
before rushing to
the next idea.

10



A World of Stone Pi's

jameparsons 5.0.19

However, whenever, wherever you create... Enjoy!
Email me at janice@beadshop.com. I'd love to see what you create!

Find more of Janice's designs on our website www.beadshop.com