



ISGB
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
GLASS BEADMAKERS

The ISGB Celebrates Beadmaking in Venice

*Jennie Lamb, Complex Mandala
Wheels, First Place Winner*

by Floor Kaspers

Many styles of glass art originated in Venice, and this might even be more true for the specific art of glass beadmaking. Lampworked beads made with murrine, reticello, gold foil, and many other materials were either invented or reimagined in Venice.

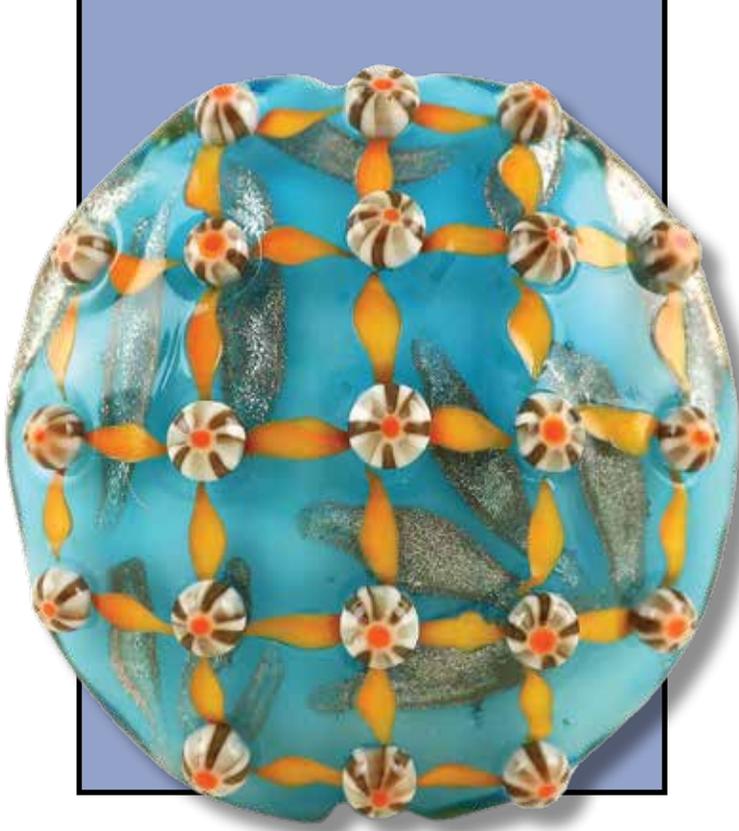
Recognizing the Importance of Venetian Beadmaking

The art of glass beads, including beadmaking and bead stringing, was recently recognized by the United Nations as an intangible cultural heritage in 2020. This recognition was achieved through the hard work of both the *Venetian Comitato per la Salvaguardia dell'Arte delle Perle di Vetro Veneziane* and the *French Perliers d'Art de France*. As the International Society of Glass Beadmakers (ISGB), we were proud to be able to collaborate with them to recognize the importance of Venice in our own way. For the second year in a row, we designed an international bead competition, *Your Bead for Venice*. Beadmakers from around the world joined in by sending images of their bead or set of beads that were inspired by Venetian beads or bead techniques. In 2023, forty-one artists from fifteen countries participated.

A jury selected twenty finalists whose beads were on display at the prestigious Murano Glass Museum in Murano, Venice, Italy, during Venice Glass Week. A second jury with judges from four different countries carefully inspected the beads in person and awarded the top three prizes. Furthermore, any visitors to the museum during Venice Glass Week could vote for their favorite beads.



Linda Wilson, Essence of Venice, Third Place and Public Award winner.



Elisabetta Cappello, *Foreground/Background*,
Second Place Winner.

It was particularly special this year that twelve of the finalists were able to be in Venice during the exhibit, which created a wonderful exchange of bead inspiration and bead knowledge from around the world. The finalists were also treated to several of the bead events that were organized by the Comitato, including a tour of a neighbourhood in Venice with a strong connection to the history of beadmaking. One of the highlights was a visit to SUV Beads, where Antonella dei Rossi and Salvatore Sito showed us once again the universal nature of the language of beads.

Competition Winners

During the award ceremony, the jury awarded three prizes. Third prize went to Linda Wilson from the UK with her bead set, *Essence of Venice*. The judges especially enjoyed the almost hidden murrini inside the beads. The public choice award, for which almost 1,400 people voted, also went to Linda Wilson. Second prize went to Elisabetta Cappello from Italy with her close to perfectly executed bead, *Foreground/Background*. First prize went to Jennie Lamb from the UK with her *Complex Mandala Wheels*. These beads showed great skill and attention to detail, rhythm, and a delicate sense of color.

ISGB hopes to be able to keep the competition going in years to come. This will provide a way for beadmakers from around the world to keep connecting with each other. It also provides a way for beadmakers worldwide to be inspired by Venetian techniques and aesthetics.

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Visit www.isgb.org to learn more about the ISGB educational opportunities, upcoming events, and how to become a member.

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