

Bead Embroidery in Chinese Style by Terry Deary



Bead embroidery is a beautiful and intricate art form that has been used for centuries to decorate clothing, jewelry, and other objects. It is believed to have originated in China during the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD), and it

quickly spread to other parts of Asia and Europe. Bead embroidery was used to create elaborate and luxurious garments for the wealthy and powerful, and it was also used to decorate religious objects and ceremonial costumes.



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Today, bead embroidery is still practiced all over the world, and it is used to create a wide variety of items, from clothing and jewelry to home décor and accessories. There are many different types of beads used in bead embroidery, including glass beads, seed beads, crystal beads, and metal beads. The beads can be sewn onto fabric, leather, or other materials using a variety of stitches.

Terry Deary is a renowned bead embroidery artist who has created stunning pieces inspired by Chinese culture. Her work is characterized by its intricate patterns, vibrant colors, and meticulous craftsmanship. Deary has exhibited her work in galleries and museums around the world, and

she has also taught workshops on bead embroidery. She is a passionate advocate for the art of bead embroidery, and she believes that it is a beautiful and expressive way to create wearable art.

In this article, we will explore the history of bead embroidery, the different types of beads used, and the techniques involved in creating beautiful bead embroidered pieces. We will also feature the work of Terry Deary, a renowned bead embroidery artist who has created stunning pieces inspired by Chinese culture.

History of Bead Embroidery

Bead embroidery is believed to have originated in China during the Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). The earliest examples of bead embroidery have been found in tombs and archaeological sites in China, and they feature intricate patterns and designs. Bead embroidery was used to create elaborate and luxurious garments for the wealthy and powerful, and it was also used to decorate religious objects and ceremonial costumes.

During the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 AD), bead embroidery became increasingly popular in China. This was a period of great cultural and artistic development, and bead embroidery was used to create some of the most beautiful and sophisticated garments of the time. Bead embroidery was also used to decorate Buddhist temples and monasteries, and it became an important part of Chinese religious art.

Bead embroidery continued to be popular in China during the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279 AD) and the Yuan Dynasty (1279 - 1368 AD). However, it began to decline in popularity during the Ming Dynasty (1368 -

1644 AD). This was a period of political and economic turmoil in China, and the demand for luxury goods such as bead embroidery declined.

Bead embroidery experienced a revival in China during the Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1912 AD). This was a period of relative peace and prosperity, and the demand for luxury goods increased. Bead embroidery was used to create elaborate and beautiful garments for the wealthy and powerful, and it was also used to decorate palaces and temples.

In the 20th century, bead embroidery continued to be practiced in China, but it was no longer as popular as it had been in the past. However, in recent years, there has been a renewed interest in bead embroidery, and it is now being used to create a wide variety of items, from clothing and jewelry to home décor and accessories.

Types of Beads Used in Bead Embroidery

There are many different types of beads used in bead embroidery, including glass beads, seed beads, crystal beads, and metal beads. The type of bead used will depend on the desired effect. For example, glass beads are often used to create colorful and vibrant designs, while seed beads are often used to create intricate and detailed patterns. Crystal beads are used to add sparkle and glamour to a piece, while metal beads are often used to create a more edgy or contemporary look.

Here is a brief overview of the different types of beads used in bead embroidery:

- **Glass Beads:** Glass beads are the most common type of bead used in bead embroidery. They are available in a wide range of colors,

shapes, and sizes. Glass beads can be transparent, opaque, or iridescent. They are relatively inexpensive and easy to work with, making them a good choice for beginners.

- **Seed Beads:** Seed beads are small, round beads that are often used to create intricate and detailed patterns. They are available in a wide range of colors and finishes. Seed beads are more difficult to work with than glass beads, but they can create beautiful and delicate designs.
- **Crystal Beads:** Crystal beads are made from lead glass and have a high refractive index, which gives them a brilliant sparkle. They are available in a wide range of colors and shapes. Crystal beads are more expensive than glass beads, but they can add a touch of glamour to a piece.
- **Metal Beads:** Metal beads are made from a variety of metals, including gold, silver, copper, and brass. They are available in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Metal beads can add a touch of edginess or contemporary style to a piece.

Techniques Involved in Bead Embroidery

There are a variety of techniques involved in bead embroidery, including backstitch, couching, and bead weaving. The technique used will depend on the desired effect. For example, backstitch is a simple and versatile stitch that can be used to create a variety of patterns. Couching is a technique that involves sewing beads onto a fabric or leather base. Bead weaving is a technique that involves weaving beads together to create intricate and delicate designs.

Here is a brief overview of the different techniques involved in bead embroidery:

- **Backstitch:** Backstitch is a simple and versatile stitch that can be used to create a variety of patterns. It is worked by bringing the needle up through the fabric or leather base, then inserting it back down through the fabric a short distance away. The needle is then brought up again through the fabric a short distance further along, and the process is repeated.
- **Couching:** Couching is a technique that involves sewing beads onto a fabric or leather base. It is worked by wrapping a thin thread around the bead and then sewing it down to the fabric or leather base. Couching can be used to create a variety of patterns, and it can also be used to add embellishments to a piece.
- **Bead Weaving:** Bead weaving is a technique that involves weaving beads together to create intricate and delicate designs. There are a variety of different bead weaving stitches, and the stitch used will depend on the desired effect. Bead weaving can be used to create a variety of items, including jewelry, clothing, and home décor.



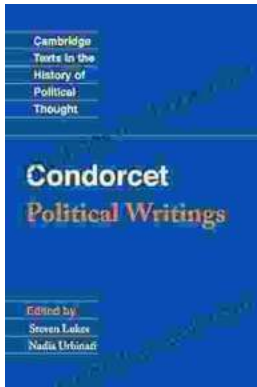
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