

strongbeads

magazine



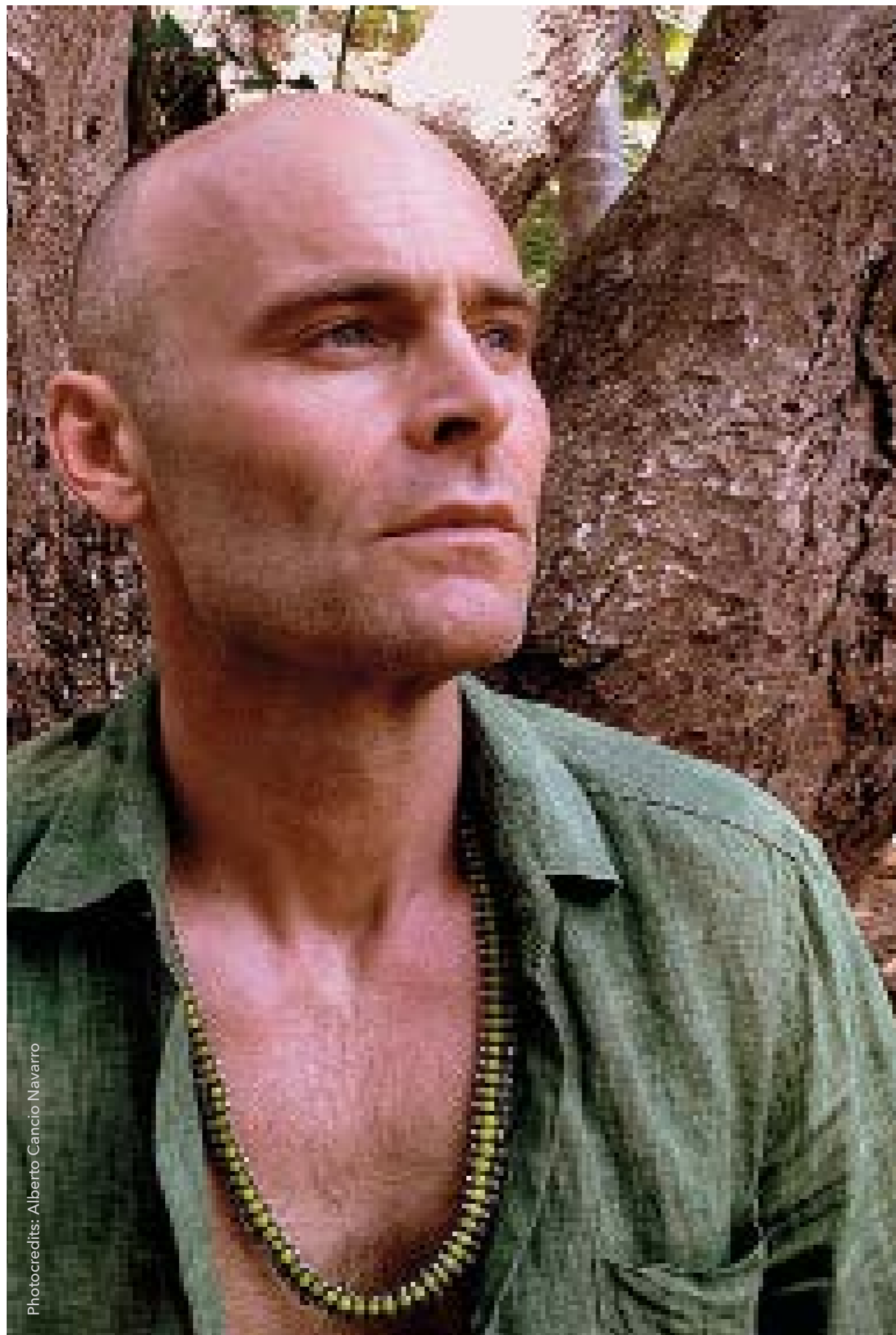


The Strongbeads logo is an old
powerful Adinkra symbol,
named *Adinkrahene*.
It is the Chief of the Adinkra symbols and
was offered to me. I love it for its
simplicity and symmetry.
Our logo is the symbol of greatness, charisma
and leadership.
Beads communicate this.



A BEADSWOMAN OR BEADSMAN HAS BEEN DEFINED,
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, AS A PERSON WHO PRAYS FOR
ANOTHER'S SOUL.







the monkey story



Yolanda van den Bos, designer

“How did you develop your passion for beads?”
I am often asked this question. Well, its a magical monkey story...

Once upon a time, in Thailand, I went for a walk in the jungle, simply dressed but flambuoyantly adorned with a newly purchased marvelous bead necklace. An ape observed me quietly, focussed, then suddenly swung down and pulled the necklace from my neck. What a shock!

The monkey contentedly placed himself back on the branch of the tree and studied my vibrant beads one by one. Tried the taste of them, then, looking disappointed and puzzled, he spat the beads out. Little droplets of colour, falling through the leaves.

I swiftly collected my treasured beads from the gound before leaving the jungle. Thus began my story.

Putting these beguiling beads back on a fish thread, creating another new necklace. What a joy! My heart and mind had been opened to endless opportunities to create unique adornments.

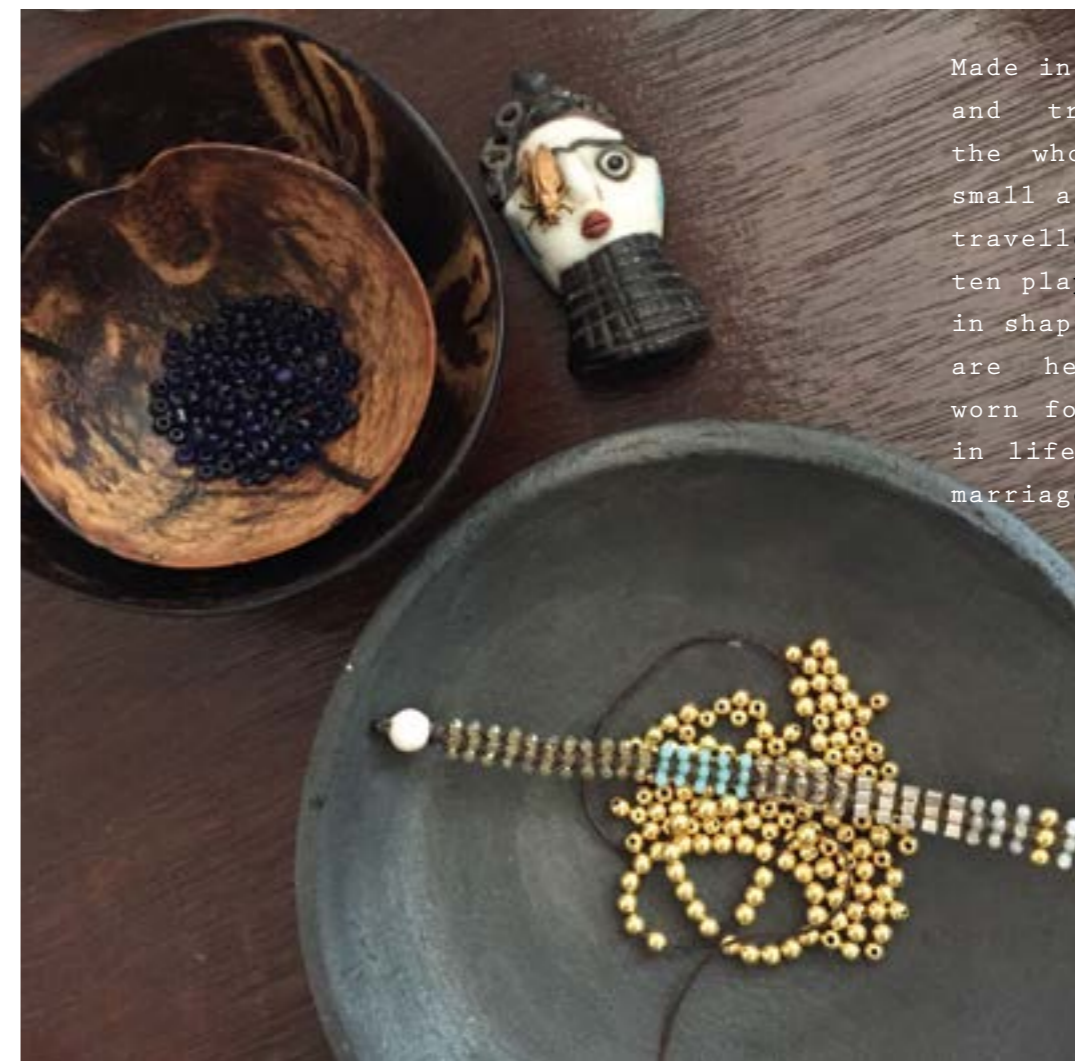
Yolanda



BEADS

Beads have a place in almost every area of human life. They help express religious beliefs, political history and social circumstances.

People have been using beads for thousands of years for prayer, trading, to communicate status and to cement political alliances. Beads speak their own language.



Made in a specific place and traded throughout the whole world, these small artefacts are well travelled and have often played a potent part in shaping history. They are held, gifted and worn for special events in life, such as births, marriages and deaths.

THE STRONGBEADS BRAND WORKS WITH COLLECTIBLE GLASS BEADS, NATURAL SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS AND REAL GOLD AND SILVER.

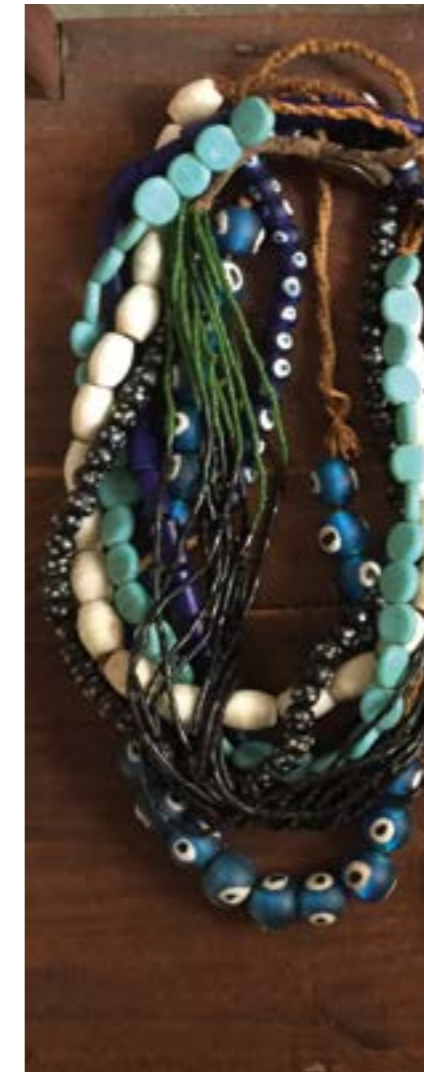


Beads tell silent yet vital stories about their makers, traders and owners.

I am fascinated by their history and folklore. And by their incredible sustainability and resilience. For as long as beads have been in existence, they have fallen from broken strings or fabrics and then hidden away in a box, a tin, or at the back of a drawer, only to be rediscovered and turned into a completely new adornment.

We refer to Bead Culture: they first appeared forty thousand years ago and ever since, they have been made and used by virtually every culture worldwide.

By wearing their own unique beads, their owners express their inner selves.



BEADS ARE JOYFUL WITH GOOD ENERGIES. THEY REMEMBER THE EYE OF OUR MOTHER, FIRST THING WE SEE WHEN BORN. PSYCHOLOGIST EXPLAIN THIS WAY THE JOY OF BEADS.





a bead is a journey

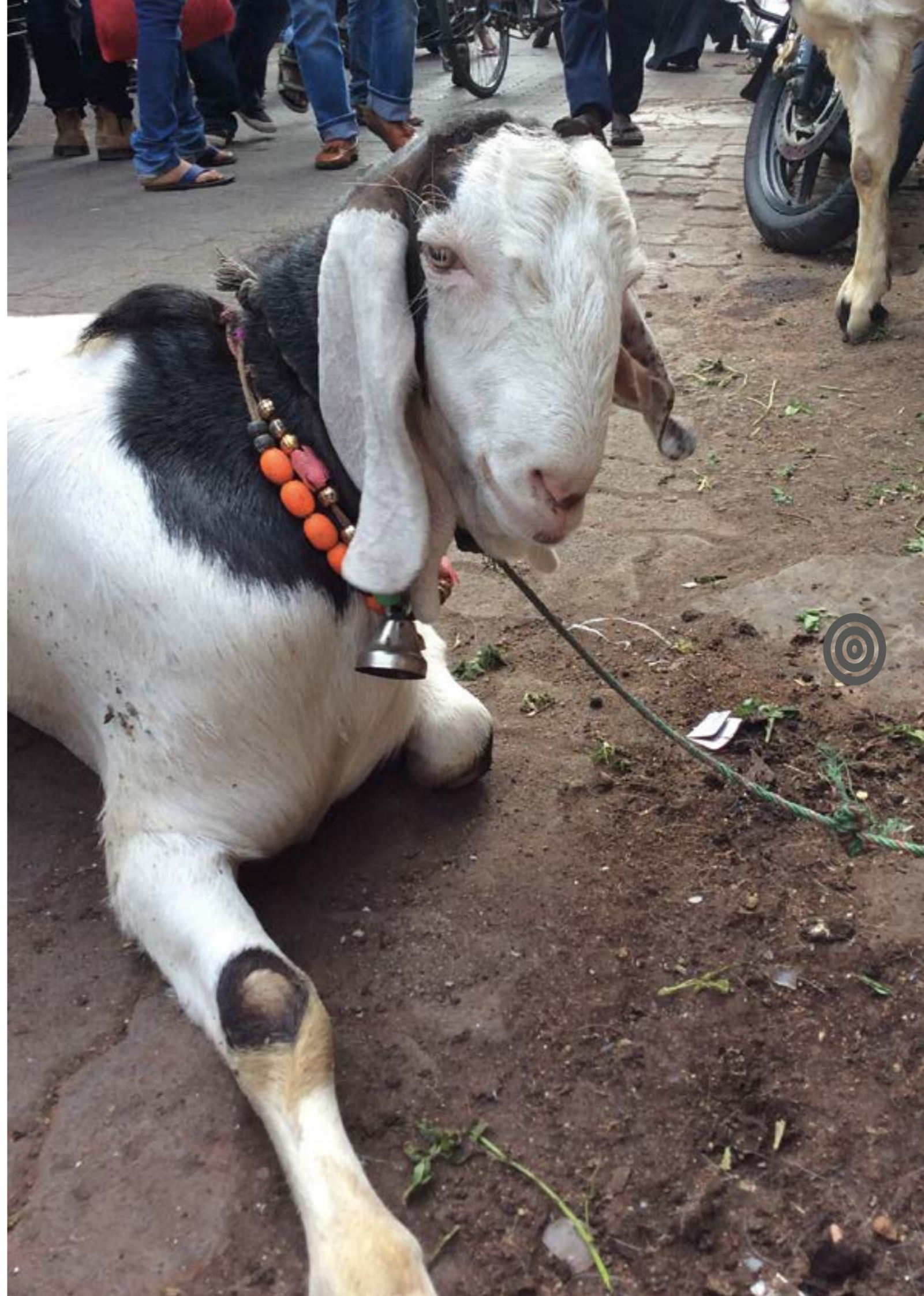
SPANNING THOUSANDS OF MILES AND MANY YEARS, THIS ECLECTIC MIX OF STONE, BONE, HORN, SHELL AND GLASS HAS LOTS TO SHARE. THE HISTORY AND STORIES TIED UP IN THESE STRANDS COULD FILL A BOOK, YET THERE IT SITS ... TIMELESS AND READY FOR MORE ADVENTURES. OLD WORLD BEADS, ANCIENT MYSTERIES AND A COLOURFUL DISPLAY OF A LIVE WELL LIVED.

ON THE ROAD

Beadmaking is a beautiful craft, and their traders are travellers.

All these fascinating beads must have passed through hundreds of hands all over the world for many different reasons. Strongbeads collects them from many far-flung places on different continents. They are used, traded, copied from history, designed, crafted, sold, dusted, and polished to perfection. It is rare to pass a day without a bead being in close proximity. In storehouses, ships, aeroplanes, suitcases, on tables, shops, markets, counters, on fabrics and furnishings, and especially, on people.

Beads; even they were part of our earth sources.





I am Yolanda.
I am a nomad, I am my
own studio travelling
everywhere with my big
bag of beads. I am a
compulsive bead hoarder,
adding to my collection,
making new items,
selling, gathering, a
circular journey of
creativity. Each piece
is lovingly hand-knot-
ted, it is a passionate,
meditative, peaceful,
and gently time consu-
ming art.

OUR STUDIO



HE WHO WORKS WITH HIS HANDS IS A LABORER.
HE WHO WORKS WITH HIS HANDS AND HIS HEAD IS A
CRAFTSMAN.
HE WHO WORKS WITH HIS HANDS AND HIS HEAD AND HIS
HEART IS AN ARTIST.





All our 'working hands' making an honest slow production of good quality



Beads are making easily friends



Whilst beading in India, some of the local women became curious about what I was creating, and one by one, a small group of women came to my home and began to offer to help with the various processes of beading. We became our own small 'Bead Tribe', all sharing a love of the history and folklore of these little orbs. They found the experience, just as I do, to be meditative and calming, and are happy to find companionship, financial independence and self esteem.

During the process of making this magazine our characteristic cat King Peanut crossed the Rainbow Bridge







MATERIALS



Pieces made by hand,
with love and good energy

I love to work with natural materials especially with shell and with horn.

The animal during its lifetime collects their energy to produce its own protection. With each year that the animal has lived, the shell or horn has grown in depth and strength, and after the animal has passed, it leaves behind this legacy of beauty and protection

The dark richness of the horn of the water buffalo is particularly beautiful and hardy, representing the strength and beauty of the beast on which it grew.

This gives it power for me. I source these materials during my travels and on my big walks through the jungles.

The Strongbeads tag is water buffalo horn, cut by a craftsman and inscribed by laser. Another example of ancient life meeting modernity. In this hectic modern life I am selling an old product, used by our ancestors to distinguish themselves from one another.



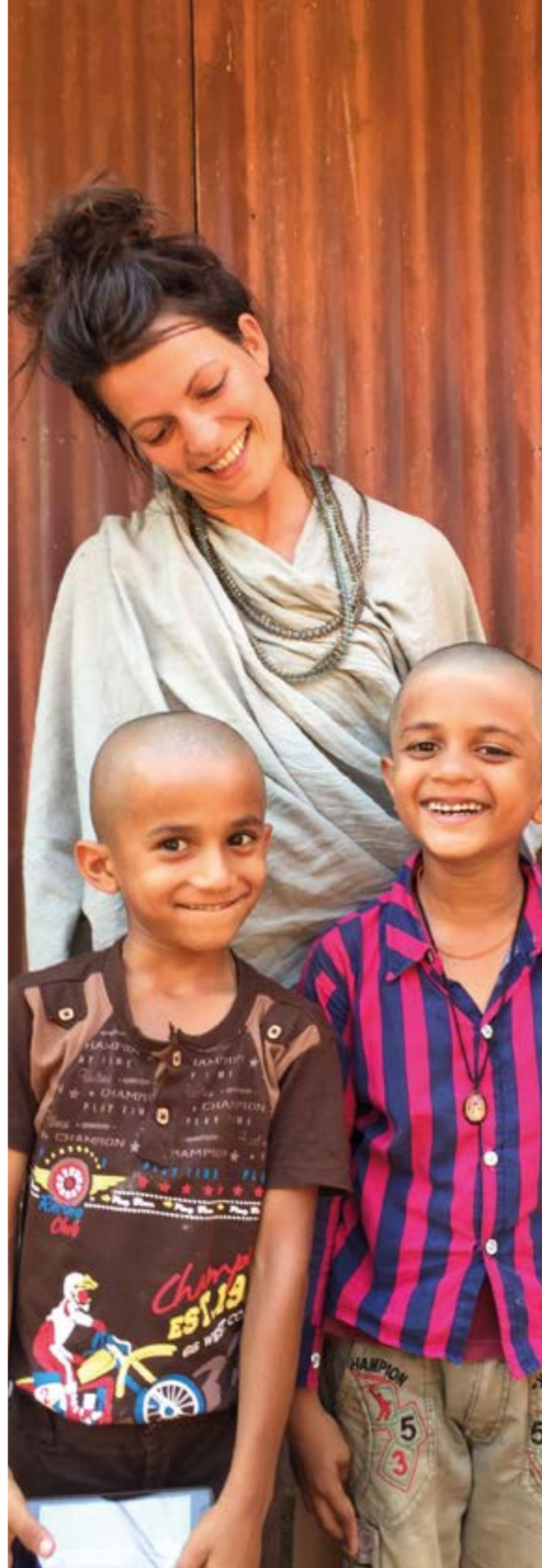
WE STRING OUR BEADS ON PURE COTTON THREADS THAT WILL STRETCH SLIGHTLY WHILE WEARING. THE WAX COATING WILL DISSOLVE GRADUALLY.



GLASS BEADS SPEAK OF THE ARTISTS WHO MADE THEM. TRAVELLERS AND TRADERS CRAFTING THEIR SKILLS FOR ALL TO SEE.



HUMANS HAVE BEEN USING SHELL AND HORNS FOR TOOLS, FOOD, MEDICINE, ADORNMENT AND EVEN CURRENCY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. SHELL IS SOME OF THE EARLIEST MATERIAL USED IN THE FORM OF BEADS. THINK ABOUT THIS: CRUSHED SHELLS ARE A SOURCE OF CALCIUM, PROTEIN AND MAGNESIUM. FASHION OR SURVIVAL?

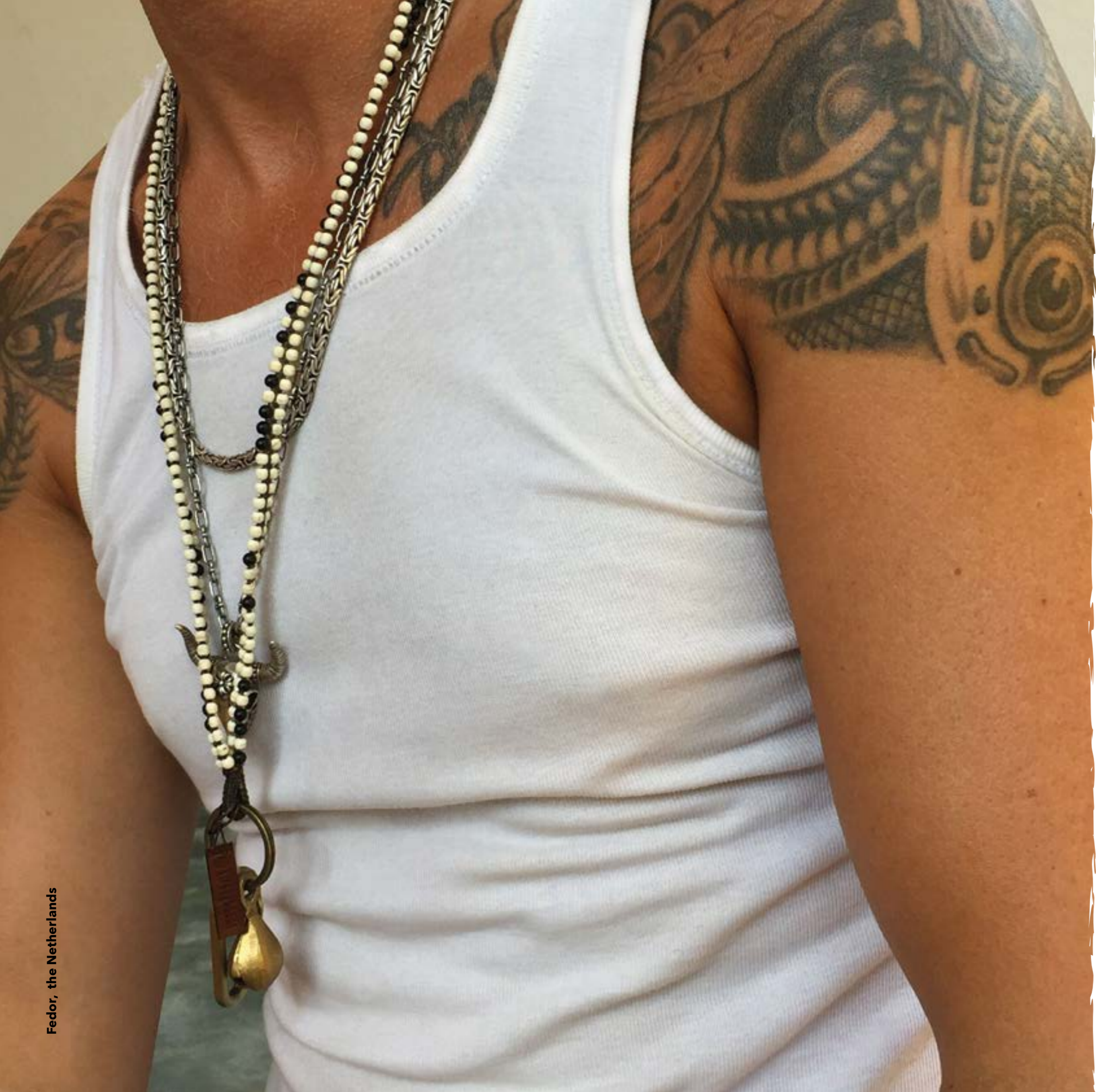




Strongbeads, a gift from the heart

TO SEE A WORLD IN A GRAIN OF
SAND AND A HEAVEN IN A WILD
FLOWER, HOLD INFINITY IN THE
PALM OF YOUR HAND AND ETERNITY
IN AN HOUR.





PEOPLE

Who is wearing Strongbeads?
All generations, all nationalities on the different continents. Most of us wear beads in our lifetime, we all love these little orbs.



Zoë, the Netherlands



Katey, Scotland



Sirius, Germany



Seetaram, India



Sue, the Netherlands



Kate, India



Anke, Germany



Lady Africa, the Netherlands



Pat Rick, Switzerland



Dick, the Netherlands



Baby Harry, Australia



Stella, Italy



Amy, the Netherlands



Marlein, the Netherlands

discover

our world





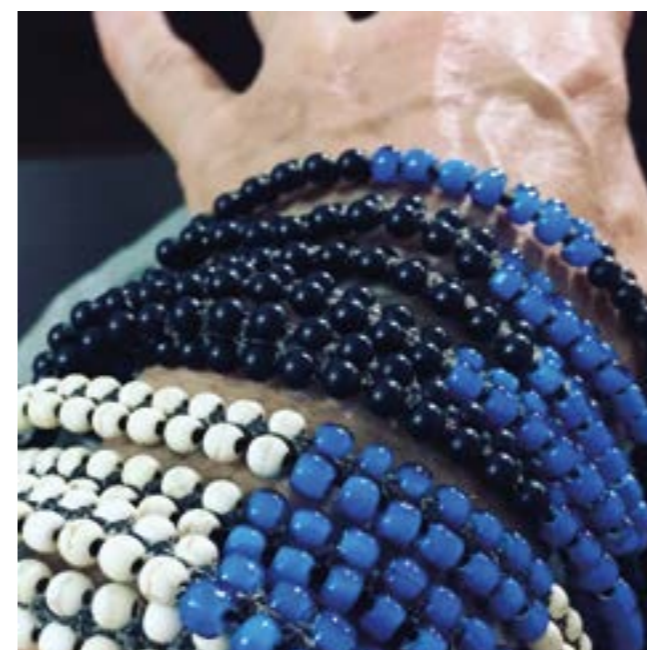
BASIC COLLECTION

It feels good to wear
the pieces and feel the
energy of the beads.

When wearing beads, one
cannot help but touch
them. For comfort,
for protection, for
strength, for prayer, it
is not only their colour
or look, its the way that
they feel. Smooth. Reas-
suring.



Keychain, our white beads woven in our basics



Anklets, Strongbeads Basic Collection



Photocredits: Elia Staris

Our Bodybeads are a versatile form of jewellery, which can be worn in many different styles on the body (sure 33 ways). Each side of the Bodybead reflects an individual mood with different energies, male & female





INDIGO BLUE

A colour that is deep, variable and mysterious. The colour of night skies and deep waters.

A natural plant dye, that began its journey across the globe from India over 6,000 years ago. Indigo is also the sixth chakra colour, which is said to include the third eye. This chakra is believed to be related to intuition and gnosis (spiritual knowledge).

It is said that the colour blue, symbolising the ethos of the worker's life is virtually everywhere, moving from paler through to brighter blues, through to the darkest indigo.

An ancient colour, yet fitting perfectly in modern times, and just like a pair of jeans, can be worn with anything, fitting and flowing with the body's own natural colours ...





CENTIPEDE COLLECTION

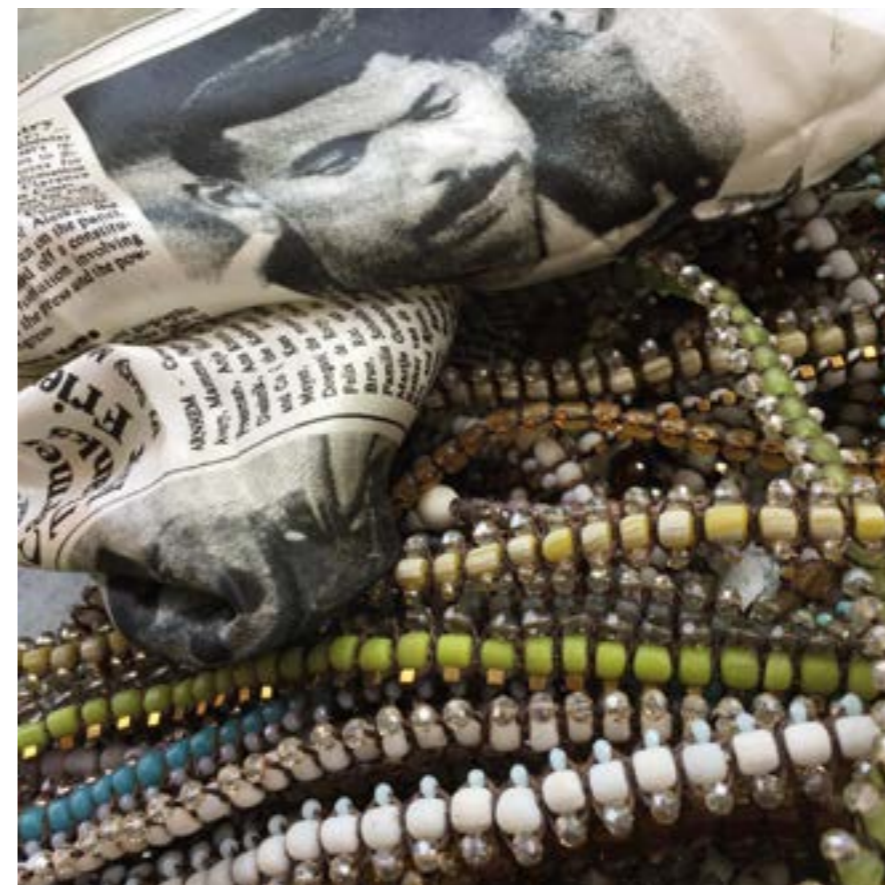


The centipede collection, just as the rest of my work, is inspired by nature. The centipede is a fascinating creature, all those legs!

It is reminiscent of a spinal column in the ways it can bend and move. These beads are threaded in a way in which it can bend and move with the wearer.

All our fasteners are made from naturally sourced shell beads that are from the centre part of a large conch shell. In the Hinduism and Buddhism religions, shankh (a conch shell) is of great importance. It symbolizes purity and auspicious beginnings with its lustre and brilliance.

All of the items are amazingly versatile as they can be interconnected, so several bead lengths can be worn as belts, bodybeads, necklaces, anklets and bracelets, in whatever way fits ones outfit or mood.



OUR UNIQUE HANDWOVEN CENTIPEDE PIECES GO BY COLOUR AND LENGTH, ALL DEPENDING ON HOW YOU PREFER TO USE THEM. THE LENGTH OF THE JEWEL WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF WRAPPINGS.

ALL COLOURS ARE A PERFECT COMBINATION WITH SILVER AND GOLDEN JEWELS.

MOST BEADS HAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT SIZES AND TEXTURES, THIS MINOR IRREGULARITY IS THE NATURE OF STRONGBEADS PRODUCT. WEAR THEM WITH JOY.





SIGNATURE COLLECTION

Our Signature Collection contains our Talisman Jewels and Bodybeads. The creation of glass artefacts is a skill that is passed on over centuries. The mastery of sustainable glass bead production is an intense skill, learned over multiple years. These beads are wonderful micro sculptures that can each be admired as an individual work of art.

Strongbeads composes unique pieces, Shaman chains and Bodybeads with the sole purpose to connect and resonate with their owner.

The ethos of these adornments is that they are crafted from natural sustainable valued materials.

These beads speak a silent beautiful ancient language crossing all cultural barriers.

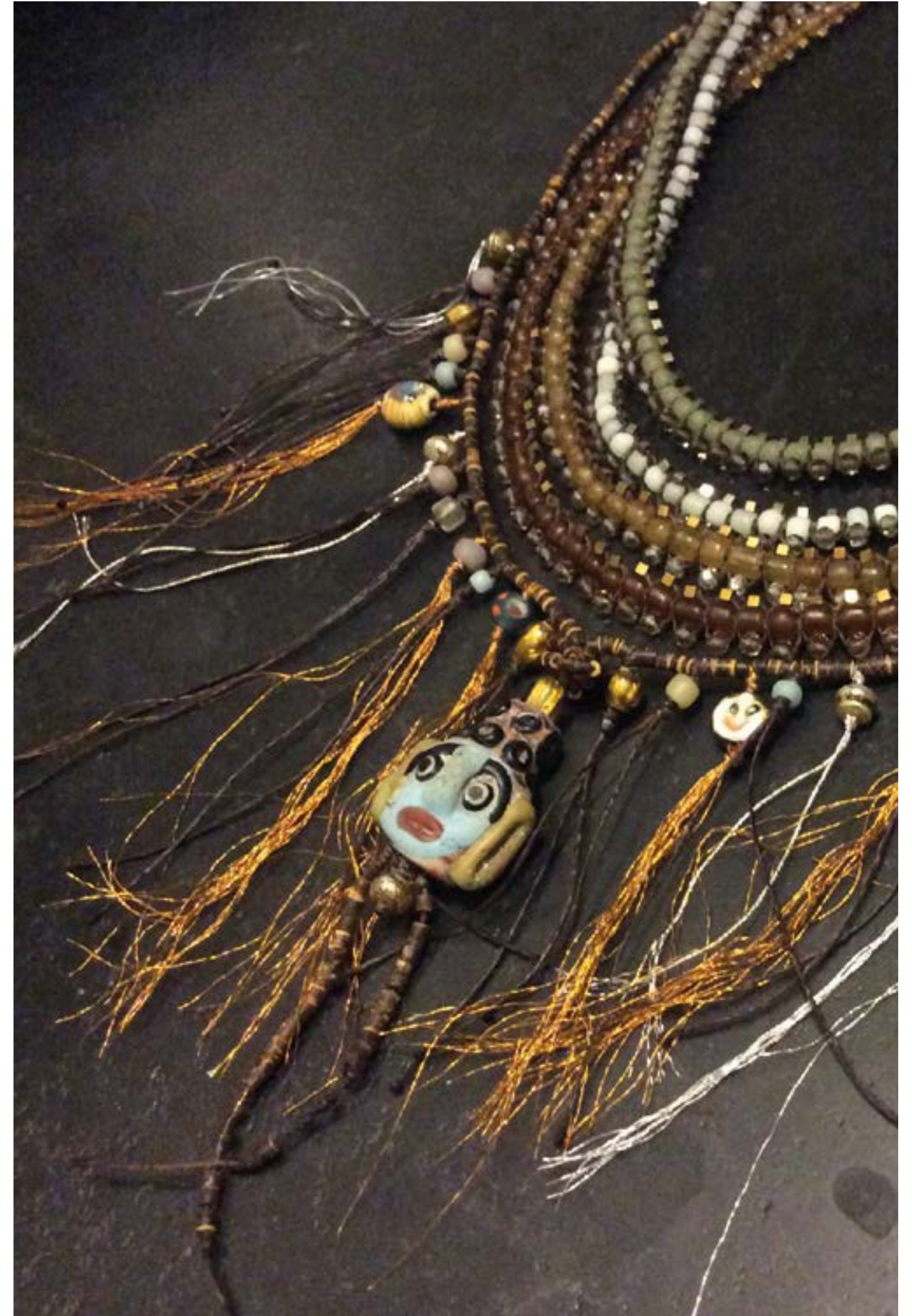
To me, every bead is a world of its own and every world an untold story waiting to be revealed. Each individual jewel a book of wealth.

love nature, love colours



THE 'MELON' BEAD DESIGN IS AN ANCIENT ART FORM THAT HAS ITS ROOTS BACK INTO THE BCE'S. KNOWN AS 'BLIM-BLIM' IN PARTS OF ASIA. THIS SYMBOLIC FRUIT REPRESENTS ABUNDANCE AND GOOD FORTUNE. ITS WEARER WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED VERY LUCKY TO HAVE ONE.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THESE
LITTLE BAUBLES THAT SPEAK
TO US?
BEADS ARE (AND HAVE BEEN)
WOVEN INTO OUR STORY AS
HUMANS AS FAR BACK AS CAN
BE REMEMBERED.
A WOVEN STRING OF THESE
LITTLE GEMS HAVE ALTERED
HISTORY AND CHANGED LIVES
MANY TIMES OVER. THIS
BATCH WAS COLLECTED OVER A
LONG PERIOD OF TRAVELLING
AND REPRESENTS THE NEVER
ENDING 'NEED TO A BEAD'.





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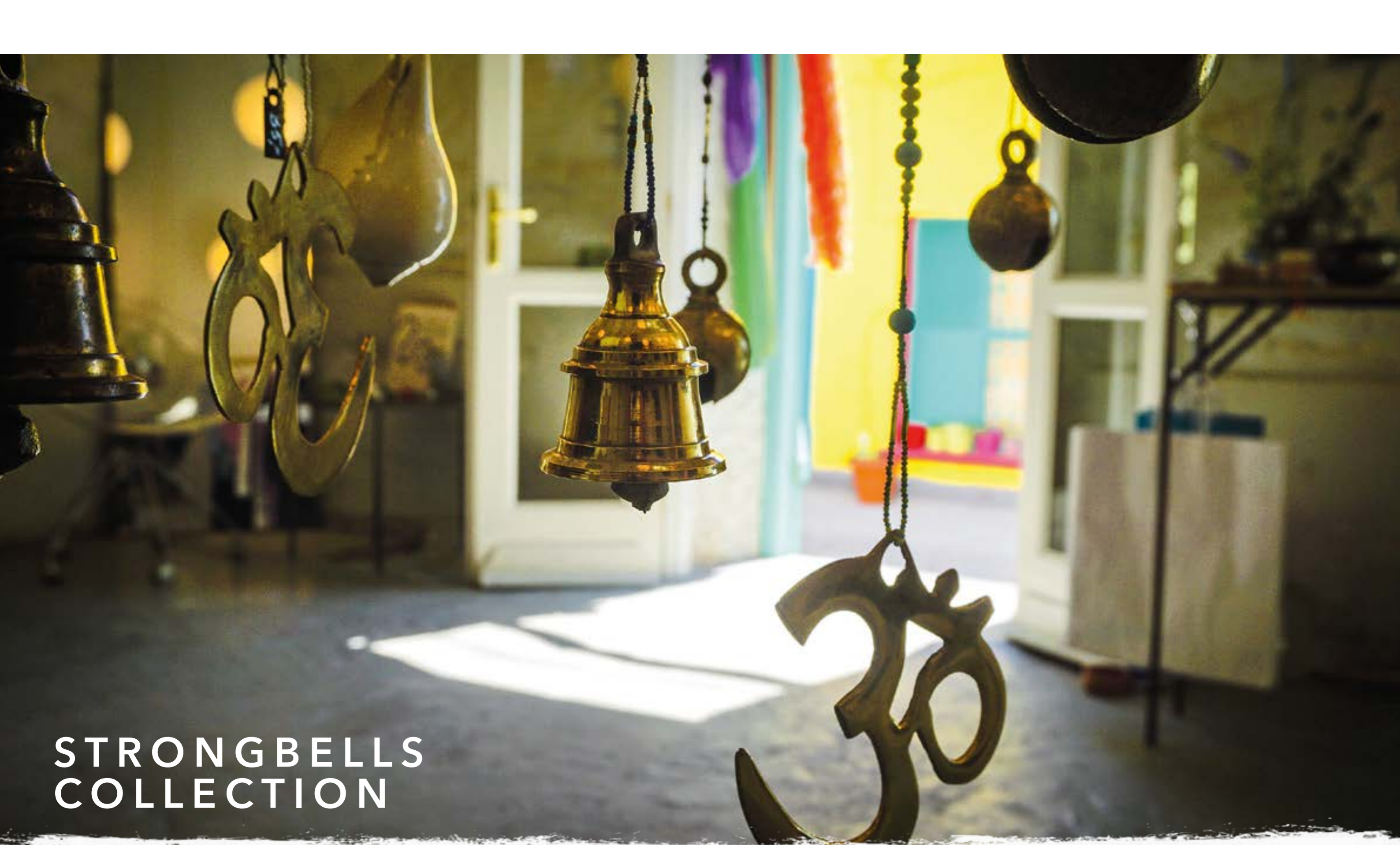
GOLD & SILVER

OUR SILVER IS SOURCED FROM THE HILLS OF ASIA. THE HIGH QUALITY, 99% PURE SILVER BEADS ARE ONLY 1% METAL AND TRIBALLY MADE. THE HANDMADE GOLDEN BEADS, WOVEN IN OUR PIECES ARE 14 KRT, 18 KRT AND 20 KRT, MADE BY A FULLY QUALIFIED GOLDSMITH.



GOLD IS IMPORTANT IN MOST CULTURES. IT REPRESENTS BEAUTY, POWER AND RESPECT. GOLD IS ALSO MANY TIMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORCE OF THE SUN AND THE RENEWAL OF LIFE.





STRONGBELLS COLLECTION

Lighten up your life with a
special Strongbells gift to yourself or to a loved one



Melvita, India

Our long dangly beaded strings with a bell tell colourful stories. The bell, once rung, colours the mood of the place, changes the energy flows, brings in blessings and with one ring the meditative word 'OM' flows out.

The beads are a collection over time, over journeys, over moods and colours.

Every string of beads is a small concert in our minds, as we juxtapose them in a playful sequence, of colour of forms, of origins, of little pleasures from our own mind.

These beautiful bells from the temples of India, travelled across countries to share their wonderful vibrations. To allow the spirit to flow.

We share with you these moments, these small pleasures that live within us.



Joy is about feeling good in the moment, right now





CUSTOM MADE

ANY SIZE YOU PREFER, WE'LL MAKE FOR YOU. LATEST
COLLECTION OF KNOTTED COLLARS, CHOKERS
BRACELETS AND ANKLETS WITH ORGANIC MATERIALS.
DIFFERENT SIZES AVAILABLE.



WHOLESALE

IF YOU LIKE WHAT STRONGBEADS MAKES AND YOU
WANT TO HAVE OUR PRODUCTS IN YOUR OWN SHOP,
PLEASE CONTACT US FOR
SPECIAL PRICES AND CONDITIONS.





A sense of abundance and multiplicity





DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

SOME OF THE SMALL GLASS GEMS ARE KNOWN AS 'PONY' BEADS. THE NAME WAS APPROPRIATE, AS THEY WERE PRIMARILY TRANSPORTED INLAND VIA A HORSE (PONY) BACK.

MADE IN EUROPE AND TRADED THROUGHOUT THE NEW WORLD, THESE SMALL ARTIFACTS ARE WELL TRAVELLED AND HAVE PLAYED A POTENT PART IN SHAPING HISTORY.

BEADS HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY INTO MANY SACRED OBJECTS. THE USE OF BEADS AS A WAY TO COUNT PRAYERS IS UNIVERSAL AND IS THOUGHT TO DATE BACK TO THE LATE BC'S.

Strongbeads is like a little black dress, every wardrobe needs one.

ALL TYPES OF BEADS WERE USED FOR TRADE, ADORNMENT, CURRENCY, MAGIC, MEDICINE & RITUAL. ALL BEADS HAVE ACCUMULATED GREAT 'ENERGY' OVER THE CENTURIES.

IN MANY CULTURES IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE BEAD SANCTIFIES THE WEARER AND IN TURN THE WEARER GIVES LIFE TO THE BEAD.

A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF SPIRIT.

Beads of any material decorated with circular patterns resembling human or animal eyes are desirable for symbolic and superstitious functions such as averting the evil eye.

In ancient times, it was believed that Spiritual enhancement in the next life could be stimulated through the use of beads, made specifically for that purpose.

SOME OF THE EARLIEST MACHINE MADE (MOLDED-GLASS) BEADS THAT CAME OUT OF BOHEMIA IN THE 1800'S WERE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF INDIGENOUS FAVORITES. THESE 'SNAKE VERTEBRAE' BEADS WERE WIDELY POPULAR AND COLOURFUL SUBSTITUTES FOR THE REAL THING.

In all of the ancient images, the eye seems to have the widest geographical spread and history.

Eye beads started appearing in Mesopotamia over 5,000 years ago and have continued to be part of the human adornment mystique ever since.

There is something magical about these beads ...

Can you see it?



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