

# GREY PEARL

## Jewellery Art & Design

This is a e-newsletter about art, jewellery, design and the process of changing vocation. With personal observations of the pitfalls and joys that naturally follow.

In this issue: **INSPIRATION**



I'm a designer of things that surround us - changing my focus to things that adorn us.

One definition of *Inspiration* - "a stimulation or arousal of the mind or feelings to special or unusual activity or creativity." *Inspirare* - "the act of breathing life into..."



The Bungee Bracelet is silver plated chain link strung onto an elastic cord, ideal for attaching multiple charms or dangles

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## Almost anything inspires me. All the time.

Let me give you a glimpse at what inspires my jewellery designs and how ideas take shape.

- Ideas arise when (in my head) images of jewellery material merge with snippets of trivial input. A myriad of inspirational sources create a mix that spins and churns until it shows potential for becoming attractive and wearable jewellery.

### Sources of inspiration:

**Colours** - again and again and always - colours will forever be an unfailing source of inspiration. This little assemblage of manmade and semi precious beads below should well illustrate there is no danger running out of inspiration.



**Pearls** of course. Grey pearls in particular. Grey is the accent I can't do without; part black where all light is absorbed and part white where all light is reflected. Grey is an amalgam of my childhood white-dress-dream and my adult designer-black-uniform. The grey pearl is my black swan. Uncommon. Desirable.

**Words** - Certain words stir up images, moods and feelings that I want to recreate. Sometimes even ideas for whole collections start to form when I hear a few words: *Twilight, Dawn and Dusk. Green Hope Lariats.*

And the above sample board shows beads I picked for a collection inspired by a title; *The Summer-Garden Party.* The bungee bracelet mini collection; *Snow Whites Apple, Heart and Kisses* chockablock full of soft, pale mother of pearl dangles, each with some few bright red apples, hearts or kisses, was sparked from the description: 'Snow white mother of pearl charms'



Personal note:  
**INSPIRATION**

To me, inspiration is not a result of stimulation that I actively seek. Inspiration springs from a mindset; it's about being totally open to passing possibilities and impressions. About being willing to constantly consider and question all the ideas that flow from this state of mind.



Aurora Borealis bracelet. Tinted pearlescent wooden beads, faceted cream discs and mother of pearl dangles which will be changed for these cute little Howlite polar bears.



· *Glycines or Wisteria* in spring

**Almost anything inspires me. All the time.**

**More sources of inspiration:**

I'm not saying I'll ever use all on this list, but it sparks off ideas. Ideas which I store, reconsider and maybe completely rework. Like the marbles in a plastic onion net; it's just a test. But I like the idea and with research I found an ideal soft metal/cashmere mesh that could lead to something smoother than this. I just have to get hold of this supple 'metal-stocking' and if I ask nicely, another child may be kind enough to donate his marble collection.



**Materials:** Stones, wood, gold, silk, linen, silver, copper, brass, glass, steel, silicon, porcelain, resin, plastic, paper, fur...

**Everyday items:** elastics, coins, doorstoppers, tiebacks, toys, lightbulbs, fruit, nuts, baskets, pins and studs, marbles and onion nets. Hard-wear stores, oh yes! Shattered car glass - beautiful, my art brushes - soo soft and vintage shirt collars, lace and needlework - intricate wonderful craft. The potential is exhilarating.

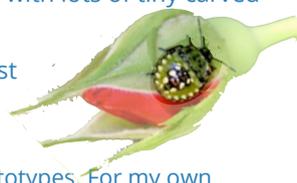
**Images from nature** - memories of the frozen water I fled from come to mind before the sun-filled garden I fled to:

**Water** in transition between solid and flowing. - A garden frozen over too early turns pastel from frosty leaves and petals. - The mundane becomes memorable when a mist wrapped in freezing winds and weather lends a pearlescent coat to all it touches. In the ice sharp rays of the low winter sun snow crystals sparkle in all hues of blue. - Breath-taking northern light, Aurora Borealis, flickers over the deep blue winter sky.

**The sunny garden** is present too:

When the wisteria fills the pergola with sweet purple clusters I have amethyst fantasies, and over weeks, all things underneath is covered with petals looking just like the amethyst beads below. - White banksia roses hang in plump garlands; in my mind they shrink into a multi strand chunky bracelet; petal-green with lots of tiny carved mother of pearl roses. Who knows?

- A beetle on a rosebud may even manifest as an adornment one day.

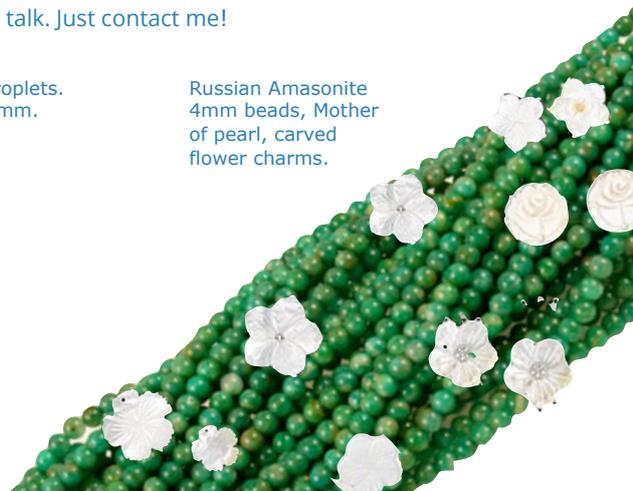


**The ideas** fill books, and some become prototypes. For my own discipline and to keep myself from straying too much I organise the designs in collections. A catalog will come. But meanwhile, if any of these sketchy ideas generate more images or ideas in your head that you'd want help to realise - then it would be fun to talk. Just contact me!



Amethyst bead droplets. Side drilled 8-12 mm. Yet another idea to ponder.

Russian Amasonite 4mm beads, Mother of pearl, carved flower charms.





ABOUT:

'm Tittin Rinde, Norwegian visual artist/designer living in France, educated in Norway at KHiO, Oslo National Academy of the Arts. Textile designer by degree, visual artist by practise, visual communicator by experience and creative thinker by nature.

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### Celebrating summer - an inspiration

A season, or tradition can serve as inspiration as well. From a fair distance Scandinavia looks fascinating and when it comes to celebrating midsummer Sweden has the most charming traditions. Very old and picturesque with a maypole, singing and dancing and blond heads adorned with wildflower wreaths.

One of these summer days I noticed a little heap of beads I thought I'd never use; deemed too bright and simplistic for my taste. Those were blue and yellow little beads, and flashes of the Swedish flag came up.

Even when an inspiration involves elements or colours not normally 'my style', I still like to see where the material takes me. So I try to challenge myself and create 'something' in spite of my reservations *and* still like it.

- Some white beads the same size turned up and to be orderly I put them in the box with the blue and yellow ones. That did it. Suddenly it wasn't the Swedish flag that struck me, but visions of a Swedish midsummer; sunny images of the celebration of the longest day, blue sky, daisies and cornflowers - and the fleeting nordic summer.

Not exactly art, but I might wear it because I love what it reminds me of!



Jewellery that really catches my attention are often pieces that come close to art. Wearable art. But wearable in itself is far from enough; in addition to be visually satisfying, jewellery still needs to be comfortable to wear. I want



my pieces to be adornments; to be flattering, comfortable and to brighten my day like a wildflower wreath. To be happy adornments charged with the same spirit of celebration and joyful abandon as a bright Swedish midsummer.

More to come from Tittin at GREY PEARL - sunny summer wishes!