

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: **RE STRING**
RE-design, RE-do, RE-think



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



The lacework was just crying out for some threading and waving through the pattern of holes and loops. Fine chain, ribbons, and a strand of tiny pearls trigger new ideas and sketches that may turn into something...some day.

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Words on a string

Neck-lace, gold-bead and pearl-silk.



Gold, silk, lace, neck, pearl, bead.

These are small, common words, but also feminine, sensuous words. When combined, like in this heading, they are familiar and descriptive labels. But what if I twist them?

Into uncommon combinations like: *silk-gold*, *pearl-neck* and *bead-lace*? To me they sound soft and rich and, as such, these words add what's missing to my tuned-down and somewhat neutral everyday self.

Threading beautiful beads on a string is like playing with words. I see my delight in words and reading can inspire necklaces and bracelets.

Someplace I read:

'Pale green eyes',
'Frozen dew drops',
'Shattered hopes' and before my inner eye the words transform into shape and texture; silver, glass, pearls and silk. Combinations of words so inspiring that I feel compelled to match them with a string of beads.



The word string stirs my textile-voice to speak up, demanding to be heard and integrated through silk, lace and linen. A string has such potential; it hit me when I found this delicate lacework in my supplies. Made by a skilled foremother.

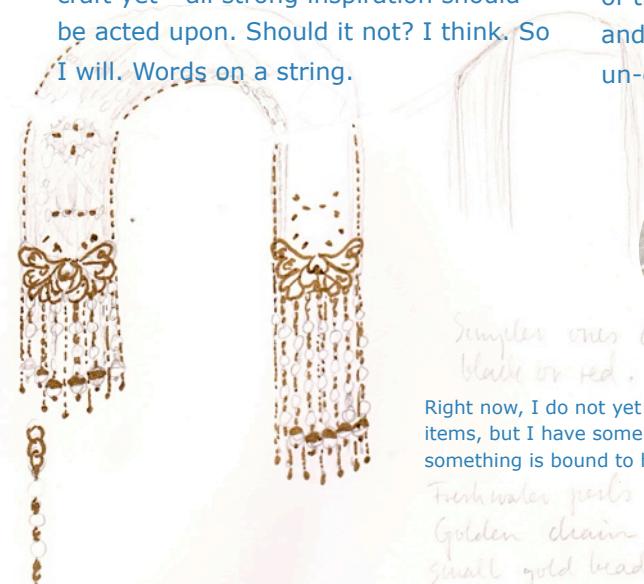
This lace is the result of one single thread, or string, systematically moved with intent and plan; under, over, through and up until this pattern appeared. That's a piece of work worth being inspired by.

Join me taking a closer look at what we already have. Let's find inspiration in the familiar. When we find a new way of thinking, seeing, using, we can play and twist the common into something un-common and new.



Right now, I do not yet know what will become of these lace and silk items, but I have some vague ideas. They itch on my design nerves so something is bound to happen. Soon.

Freshwater pearls
Golden chain
Small gold beads



STRINGING



Perlen doctor

Re-Thinking and Re-Stringing

This spring I launched myself as 'perlen doctor', or bead doctor. That's when I had to re-think, redo and re-string. A lot! Let me share the experience:

Re-designing the hopeless jewellery we push at the back of a drawer to be forgotten - that suits me perfectly while I practise to master the very basic of jewellery making skills; the stringing of beads.

Giving new life to the less than excellent knick knack we tend to keep (even when we've given up using it) satisfies my never resting creative urge. At the same time I have the opportunity to make my stupid mistakes in peace and quiet, and become more accomplished in other useful tricks of the beading trade; like attaching findings and finishing a strand in a way that is both balanced and flexible for multi use - or multiple combinations.

Our knick knack, even the more costly, is sometimes steeped in disturbing memories of weak moments; confronted with over confident sales persons or that last minute overly impulsive purchases to amp up an outfit. When we finally admit it doesn't do the expected wonders for us, the piece will forever be a disturbing reminder; of being a pushover, or incompetent shopping.

No one likes to be reminded of mistakes, so I'm donated hopeless pieces to experiment with. As the stakes are low, no one minds me fiddling around for ages and everyone has gained when new pieces come to life. One example is the blue piece to the right; a double-strand lariat-type glass-bead necklace. It sounds interesting when described like that, but really, as you can see; just a ton of pretty glass beads, no charm, no structure; a failed attempt at 'natural randomness'.



It was too long, too stiff, uncomfortable and definitely not flattering. But the glass beads were varied and pretty - too good to end their life in a drawer.

I took it apart, regrouped the beads, played around, strung some, unravelled, started again and slowly four new collier length necklaces took form. You can see all four of them to the left. These were very good glass-beads, nice to work with. All in shades of blue and they suit my blond and blue-eyed friend and her outfits like a glove. The former all-blue design was softened with tiny gold beads and some larger gold painted wooden beads.

Talking about mistakes, I make plenty. Even a simple exercise like keeping track of the sequence of the beads gets messed up by the tiniest distractions. Bravely I unravel already finished strings and hope these lessons will keep me from more costly mistake further on.

GREY PEARL

STRINGING



Perlen doctor - more challenges

My first aim was to make use of as many of the original beads as possible. The beads were all blue, made of glass but very different in size, shape and hue. There were more than twenty different types of beads. When sorted and regrouped I could see which beads would look good together in a new shorter necklace. It turned out there was plenty to make four new shorter necklaces. The only beads I didn't use were some bright turquoise ones, pretty, but not really compatible with the others. Everything fell into place as soon as they were out and the only thing missing was some gold to set off the gorgeous blues.

Secondly, I wanted each strand to be nice on its own. But all strands should work equally well when combined in twos, or even three together. Finally, all four combined should work as a unity as well. All that was achieved and my friend no longer has one necklace but four +++.

Obviously, in addition to the single four, she now has multiple combinations. I haven't shown all of them, and I won't tell you how many, but **challenge you** to figure out how many possible combinations four necklaces will give!

If this example inspired you, maybe you want to check out if your drawers hide some bad jewellery decisions too. If they do, take some photos and we can have a look at it together and decide if it's worth playing around with. I will not redesign gold jewellery by melting it, but precious metal pieces with detachable parts and connections I can handle. Restrung pearls, a must when redesigning, is something I have practiced too. I will have to charge you for the bit of work and any extra material. But it need not be that expensive unless you decide to have lots of extra or really costly materials added. I'll work out a quote before you decide anything.

Or, take me up on the challenge, come up with the right answer to how many possible ways there are to wear 4 necklaces. By sending me the answer ([click here](#)) you take part in a **draw** to have me **redesign** one of your personal given-up-upon pieces of jewellery!



To the left, examples of some of all the possible combos of twos, then two threes in the middle of the bottom row and finally, far right, all four together. Chunky, but not too heavy.

This issue is about: REDOING
RESTRINGING, RETHINKING



ABOUT:

I'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.

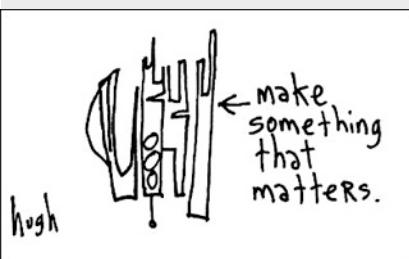
Writing keeps it all together.

Other fields of work: portrait.
See albums on art blog

Contact: tittin@rinde.com

Art Blog:
[Backtracking slowly forward](#)

Phone: +33 (0)6 18 48 08 69



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Stringing beads sounds like a soothingly simple activity. And it can be, once the idea is developed to the stage where the practical work takes over. The soothing string cannot begin before a long series of decisions are made. Deciding which type of string is one. For these glass beads which can cut through a soft string in no time I chose a nylon coated wire with 19 micro strands of steel. A high number of strands makes it more flexible and soft. More on wire later.



**Finally, some of you have asked me how I plan to sell my designs?
Can I buy the things I've seen in the newsletter?
Can I come to you with my own idea? Good and timely questions, girls!**

- **I will have an online shopping page. But it's not set it up yet.**

For a good reason; so far I have been too busy learning, with little time to produce quantities of any designs. You who know me well, know that I want to deliver the best I can. From the **next newsletter** on I will start to show prototypes with **measures and price indications**. Patience, I work as fast as I can; a shopping page will come! **You can still shop though.**



- **YES! - What you absolutely can do is order things similar to what you see in the newsletter.** I say similar, because some prototypes are made with plastic beads but intended to be made with glass or semi precious stones. Therefor, many designs can be **custom made** just by choosing other materials or colours.

The price will depend on the materials you choose. Up or down-grading materials need not alter the look much, it will only influence the price. You may want to add a **personal touch** - tell a story by adding a special bead or charm or even a colour. All this is **very simple** because the pieces I show are tested and they work.

- **The last question is a big YES too. Of course I want you to bring your ideas!**

Just keep in mind that it takes **more time** and testing to develop a new design. If you enjoy the process and don't mind the extra cost you can have a truly unique piece. If I can't help you, I'll tell you, and try to steer you towards someone who can.

Some of you have visited me, tried my prototypes and seen something I worked on that you wanted, and then ordered. That's fun and easy. But through the drawings and photos in the newsletters I try to give everyone else a peek onto my desk as well. Be it prototypes or inspiration-photos, use your imagination, then I'll answer all questions about anything you see. Just send me an [email](#) indicating issue n° and page number.



Back to stringing words and ideas; memories can be strung, stories, life, pets, anything personal to you. Wild strawberries... Like my friend Ragne Hilde says - "jewellery is an expression; of art, history, culture, even your perspectives". My last little fun *on-a-string* project is Birds on a String'. So go ahead, ask me to string! With this happy yellow parakeet I say bye for now,

Tittin @ GREY PEARL