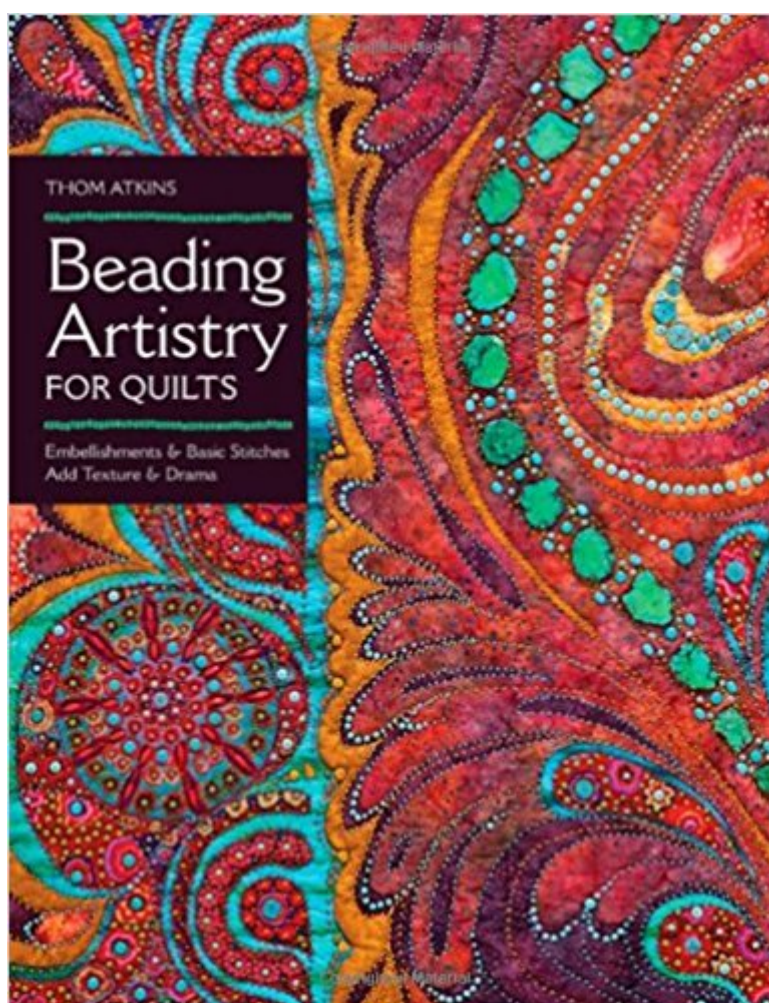


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# Beading Artistry For Quilts: Basic Stitches & Embellishments Add Texture & Drama



## Synopsis

Use beads and simple stitches to create magnificent texture, dimension, and lifelike details on any quilt. Award-winning quilter, Thom Atkins, teaches you everything you need to know about the best supplies and techniques to get breathtaking results—plus there's a bonus tutorial on how to create a beaded bezel. Dozens of show-stopping images throughout the book illustrate the unlimited possibilities for designing your own spectacular beaded quilt. Whether you like to make traditional or art quilts, this book will help you take your fabric embellishing to a whole new level.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

... I love patchwork, beadwork, and I love handwork, and Tom Atkins marries all 3 of these techniques together in his book. Thom shows various beading techniques and example after example of how simple beading can elevate a printed piece of cloth into art. The instructions are easy to follow and it's nothing short of divine inspiration for me between each cover. There is literally nothing that I don't love about this book. Atkins' work is breathtaking and, by its very nature, inspires me to elevate my art and dare to try new things. This book is staying in my library forever and ever. (Mark Lipinski Diplo: Towards more inclusive and effective diplomacy)By using beads and simple stitches, you can add drama and texture to any project, whether it is a traditional quilt or an art quilt. The author will teach you about tools, supplies, techniques and bead selection. Dozens of images will inspire you to create your own beaded masterpiece. An added bonus is a tutorial on creating beaded bezels. (Quilter's Delight, 9/15/12)This has got to be my favorite book in this selection

because I have always used a lot of beads and sequins in my work and this book is bead heaven! Thom adds stunning texture and life-like details to quilts and pictures by using basic beading stitches. This is a comprehensive guide to bead selection and the use of the proper tools, plus a bonus tutorial on how to create a beaded bezel. This is a visual feast and certainly one book I will definitely include in my collection. (Fabrications Quilting For You, February/March 2013) This is packed with lots of information to set you on your embellishing journey. Beads can add sparkle, a focal point, and enhance the shapes and lines of your work. Included is a guide to supplies (both beads and tools), stitches and techniques, so you can choose exactly the right approach to give the effect you are striving for. Often a project needs extra dimension or added stitches to make it feel finished and here you have a resource to draw on. Even if you don't think beading is for you, the beautiful photos you see as you leaf through the pages will have you reaching for the book for colour and design inspiration. (Down Under Textiles, 28)

Thom Atkins is an award-winning quilter who learned to sew as a child on his grandmother's treadle sewing machine. Later in life, his sister taught him about bead embroidery on fabric. He has worked in a variety of art disciplines from illustrating to stained glass to silversmithing and more. Thom lives in Santa Cruz, California.

When I first opened Thom Atkins book Beading Artistry For Quilts my jaw dropped faster and lower than a dot-com start-up stock in the 90s on a Monday morning. There are just not enough adjectives to convey the full extent of Mr. Atkins artistry, but I'll try: Vibrant, Colorful, Sparkling: Atkins' luminous palette begins on the cover and does not let up until the final page. Exceptional, Exotic, Exquisite, Thrilling: This is beading fusion like we've rarely seen outside of museums. Incomparable, Unprecedented, Rare, Superlative: Atkins' unique background, skills, and abundant passion result in staggeringly unique artwork. That's just about the photos; the text itself is imbued with Atkins' friendly and humble style. (But back to the photos, I have to point out there are 29 pages (29!!) pages of gallery photos at the end of the book, several with both full and close-up shots.) Atkins also gifts us with a "Bonus Feature" on creating a beaded bezel using cabochons. Throughout, Atkins shares his experience gracefully and enthusiastically; he is clearly an artist of supreme caliber. Somehow he manages to impart a feeling of accessibility and kinship, despite the very advanced level of beading presented here. Instructions, techniques, and tips are plentiful: stretch the thread before beading, know your bead vendor and ask questions about their bead quality, how to make special fringes and picot edge stitches, how to accommodate different hole placements, combining

couching with other stitches, how beading is effected by environmental factors, and much, much more. Atkins also freely mentions specific brand names when suggesting various tools and notions, such as "Terribly Tacky Tape 1/2 Inch". You might want to know that while Atkins provides a great deal of information about beads and fabric, this is *\*not\** a straight how-to project book. By this I mean there are no project designs with specific step-by-step instructions that will get you from his finished concept to your own look-alike piece. Beading Artistry utilizes more of a generalist "look what you can do" approach, full of wisdom, insight, and inspiration. Prepare to use your own plethora of adjectives when you peruse and study Beading Artistry For Quilts; you might even need a thesaurus. Beautiful.

No matter where you are in your beading or quilting journey, this book is for you. Beginners can use the clear charts to start using the four basic bead embroidery stitches right away, while accomplished artists (and everyone else, for that matter) will find abundant inspiration in the many sumptuous photos of the author's work. Some basic knowledge of how quilts are put together is assumed, but anyone who lacks that knowledge can easily pick it up from a quick internet search. This is not a project book. Instead, there's a discussion of supplies and tools, followed by an explanation of the four bead embroidery stitches that form the basis for all of the author's beaded work, as well as variations on each stitch. Even if you've never attached a single bead to fabric before, the instructions are clear enough for you to understand and get started. Once the basics are covered, the author shows how he's applied them in his work. Well-drawn diagrams and copious close-up photos illustrate each design concept. The writing is down-to-earth and infused with the author's gentle humor. And -- I must admit it -- there's a special spot in my heart for anyone who learned to sew on his grandmother's treadle sewing machine (as I did -- and I still have the machine). Experienced beaders will recognize that this book barely scratches the surface of beading techniques, but that's not really what this particular book is all about. It's much more about the marriage of beads to fabric, and the design considerations involved in finding the perfect balance between the two in any particular art quilt. Although you can certainly learn some technique from this book, it's much more of a concept book than a technique book. Advanced beading (and bead embroidery, and quilting) techniques can be found in many other excellent books. This one is more of a springboard for your own creativity.

This book is stunning! The artist/author's work is a joy to behold, from its flowing patterns to its near realistic landscapes. I'm seeing beadwork in a completely different light now.

I purchased this book on impulse because I do many types of fine needlework, including embellishing crazy quilts and surface embroidery. This looked like embellishment 'over the top'! I am really enjoying using this book, after reading it cover to cover. In fact, I recently had a get-together with a few fellow needleworkers for the sole intent of using this book's chapter on working with bezels. We had a delightful afternoon teaching ourselves how to attach cabachons to fabric using the instructions provided. Each of us came out with a beautifully attached cat's eye stone on fabrics of our choice thanks to the good directions and photos in the chapter. And we have taken the author's suggestion for the future to buy beads in several sizes for each color so that we can use some of his techniques from other chapters. Each of us has different tastes in needlework, but the techniques and instructions can be applied to many styles and finished effects. This book is a keeper.

Lovely and well-illustrated guide to embellished quilting by one of my personal heroes. This book is inspirational for both quilters and beaders to better your creativity.

I don't think I have ever bothered to review a book. This one is amazing and if you are considering it, I would just buy it now. What if it goes out of print and you miss out? I have had it a couple weeks and the first day I was looking for something, anything to bead because I was hit with inspiration and creative energy. Ever since I have taken it everywhere (even camping) in case I have a moment to look through it again. Thom is a fabulous artist, the pictures are wonderful. You will not be disappointed unless you are hoping for actual project to do. He provides info on various techniques and lots of visual inspiration, it is up to you to use his knowledge to create your own art.

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