

Joyce Illian Jewelry

Joyce Louise Illian began early in her childhood to sew and embroider and appreciate needle arts. She attended Colorado State University, first majoring in Art, but graduated with a minor in art. During her college years she continued to pursue painting. However, early in her career as a social worker, she discovered the meditative benefits of loom weaving. She continues to enjoy fiber weaving. Shortly after her move to Marble in 1983, she began studying weaving with beads and today is a contemporary beadwork artist, mostly using off loom bead weaving techniques as an art form. Glass beads with their ability to transmit and reflect light make it an art form with a unique capacity. Excess and extravagance in color, texture and concept are a natural for this medium and involve a slow, time-consuming process of one bead at a time.

Weaving with beads has become a passion in the last 30 years. Although she has taught herself much through reading and studying, she has also studied with David Chatt of Seattle, Washington (who is known in the bead world for his elaborate embellishments and his development of original stitches), Sue Jackson of Chicago, Illinois (a national published artist), and Nanc Meinhardt of Highland Park, Illinois (a much published bead artist known for her highly textured freeform weaving). Joyce's pieces are one of a kind and include 3-dimensional, sculptural works. Much of her work is inspired by nature from backcountry trips. Many of her pieces include marble from the local marble quarry, known for pure white marble but which in the last few year has mined marble with serpentine inclusions.



Joyce Illian and Lynne Mace

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