

May, 2007

Change is hard.

Change is good.

The only thing you can count on is change . . .

I tell many of my clients that we don't change just because we wanna be better, we change cuz it's too effin' hard to stay the same. I've had times in my life where I wanted to make what seemed like a major change and I thought it would be easier to change everything all at once, you know, like wake up in the morning and be a new person. This didn't ever really seem to work, but the idea hasn't lost all its charm.

I'm in a place in my life and my art where I need to make some changes. I've had some health 'stuff' come up in the past few weeks and I know I need to find ways to decrease stress. So, I'm meditating again and exercising more and making some new pieces – rainbow spirit beads to hang on your rear view mirror or in a window. I'm using Swarovski crystals so they refract the light in wonderful explosive ways. They're happy and bright and simpler to make – very satisfying in a different way than my framed pieces. I'm going to look into putting some into a couple shops in the Bay area and then see about putting some in some street fairs. After all, it is the season.

The only sad thing about this change is that since I do my bead work at home and my frames at my studio, I've not been spending as much time at the studio. You'll note in this picture of the front door of my studio how the Nasturtiums and California poppies have grown over the step (nature rules after all!) & I just found out that in a couple months I will be able to move to a new studio space that will be larger and have a 'front' window where I will be able to display my art! Yeah – next challenge, display design.

So, today I heard that my chances of getting a very big, long lasting, stressful job have decreased some and I found that it made me very happy. Although my art doesn't necessarily pay the bills, it is certainly at the top of my "good time" list. So, studio and new frames, here I come!

Pix of my new work to come!

Peace and abundance, Shaye

April, 2007

Frances called me while I was traveling a couple weeks ago to tell me about a jeep she'd seen driving on the road. It was very dirty and someone had written in the dirt, "I wish my girl was as dirty as my jeep." At first it just made me laugh and then I got to thinking about how the same thing can be good or bad – dirty girl, good; dirty jeep, bad; religious war, bad; price war, good . . . Then a colleague and friend said to me a few days ago, "Not all money is good money." While, at a gut level, I agree with this statement, I really wanna know what makes something good?

I mean, what really is good and bad?? Is it all relative, all about perception?

Is it reliant on the outcome or the intent? Is something that starts out with bad intent but has a good outcome, less good?

While discussing my work schedule with a friend he told me I had to cut back, that I wasn't taking enough time for myself. I said even if I won the lotto I didn't know how I could cut back on my work because I love everything I do. He said that was stupid, that it was like saying "I love chocolate cake so I'll eat it for every meal." OK, so he's got a point (not one I appreciate, but a point nevertheless). So, how do I choose what to spend my time on? How do I distinguish between which good thing is more good? My art and my social work both make me very happy. Wow, too much of a good thing, how great is my life?

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Happy Spring!

Shaye

March, 2007

Wow, writing this from Montana – Great Falls to be exact and it's snowing outside and my immediate world is a winter wonderland. It's obvious to my colleagues that I don't live in snow country by how enamored I am with the falling snow and the white blanket that covers everything! We're slipping and sliding across the street to go to dinner and I'm tickled while the rest of the group is concerned about falling.

Where I live I often have to cross the Carquinez bridge to go where I want to go and there are currently three bridges in this crossing – one for each direction of traffic and one that is being disassembled and removed. It's been bizarre to watch this process because they have disconnected it piece by piece from land on both sides and there is a free-standing section left between the two other bridges. I was struck by how my life feels like that sometimes, like I'm busy with process in the middle, strong and freestanding with no obvious connection to where I've come from or where I'm going. I don't get me wrong I can be very resistive to establishing goals and I love the process, but I also love the illusion that I'm in charge!

I've been on the road an incredible amount again . . . Albuquerque last week, Montana this week, Southern Cal next week and the week after, Arizona the week following that. It's a lot of time away from home and my new studio. I have finished one new framed piece that I'm really happy with. It's called "The Courtesan" and I'll get a picture to post on my web site soon. In the meantime, may you always at least believe you know where you're going and when you feel disconnected, may you be strong in your stead.

Peace!

Shaye

February, 2007

Woo Hoo – I've moved into my studio. My good friend, Michael, gave me two sets of shelves that we assembled the first weekend I had the space and I've moved most of my 'stuff' over there. I've not really hung anything on the walls yet; they surround my tools and my supplies and await the proof of my creativity. It's energizing and fun to have my own space to go to . . . to be able to say, "I'm going to my studio!"

I've been having a hard time finding the cord I use to string my beads. I've got my name in at multiple bead stores to notify me when it comes in (it's on back order everywhere) and no one's calling. One of the shops said they think it's being used in the war and that's why it's unavailable (aaaaaaaaagh, OK, I'm pretending I never heard that!). So, with the lack of my favorite cord, I've had to be more creative and have found a new way to make my spirit beads.

I am now using tiny little glass beads between the larger beads and the color transition happens in these smaller beads. Stay tuned for pictures of this new technique (my favorite photographer is trying to find the perfect way to capture the incredible brightness of this new style)..

I was in Arizona last week for business and spent the first two days in Scottsdale then drove to Tucson. As luck would have it, I was there two days before the start of the biggest gem and bead show in the U.S.! And, I was already scheduled to be in Asilomar on the weekend for another work assignment which meant I couldn't stay and hang with all the bead vendors. The energy was amazing – trucks, vendors, booths being set up, the whole city of Tucson changing shape and preparing. It's so spread out that they have bus lines that are named after gems that take visitors to different locations of booths. Next year, I vow to make it to this show! Frances will be out of grad school and available for travel and now that we've found a cat whisperer to take care of Bandit we can more easily go out of town without traumatizing him! Well, I'm off to my studio to be creative. Namaste!

Shaye

January, 2007

OK, I admit it, I've been avoidant. I allowed my ego to get bruised by not being selected to be in an art show that I applied for. I immersed myself in my social work (not totally a bad thing!) and took a break from my art. But I'm back!

I am getting an art studio this week (no longer sharing this space with my home office). It is a small space with a support beam in the middle of the room – no closet, no adornments other than brightly colored doors set in freshly painted white walls.

This space is just a couple doors down from the Vallejo Art Guild gallery.

It is surrounded by other artists' studio spaces, a veritable hotbed of creativity!

Getting my own studio space is an assertion of my commitment to my art.

I have missed this tangible outlet for my creativity . . . this connection to my spirituality.

I have a friend who paints and by his own admission is "pretty good" but who chooses not to exhibit or share his art because, "it's like taking your clothes off" in front of others. It's true, creating art and sharing it is a scary thing. It increases my sense of vulnerability and insecurity, where in my social work, I am confident and capable. When I was a Graphic Designer, my art was a product; a viable, saleable compromise between client and designer.

My art now is about me. It is an exposure of my emotional self. It is a way for me to honor others who have allowed me to share part of their life journey. It is a spiritual act in which I can touch others in ways not possible with just the language I use. It brings me peace and connects me to a place in my heart that is not accessed in other ways.

I passed a sign on a church a couple days ago that said, "Worry is a misuse of imagination". I find this incredibly simple and profound and I vow, as I move into this new year, to worry less and trust more. I also vow to be more regular in writing my blog (you'll note that this one is dated by the month, not the season!). My life is rich and full and fun and will now include more art too! (You'll see this reflected in the web site as the store gets finished and new pieces are featured as they are finished.)

Wishing everyone a peaceful, abundant and worry free new year.

Shaye

SPRING, 2006

After all this rain, finally spring - the flowers are blooming in our backyard and we have freshly cut roses, freesias, daffodils and tulips in vases around our home. The California poppies are blooming on the highways and the hills are awash with bright yellow, orange and carpets of lush, verdant green from all the rain. It is a time of renewal, of longer days and hope. The visible signs of spring remind me of the richness in my life..

I've been traveling quite a bit lately - several states in the South, Ohio/West Virginia, Los Angeles, Hawaii. I've been picking up beads, new end pieces, wonderful fabrics and icons with which to build altar pieces. Booth display, it seems, has become as much of my art as my art! I feel motivated and inspired and pushed out of my comfort zone (which is often where I do my best work).

You'll notice that there are changes being made to my web site - there are a couple new borders and there will soon be the ability for you to send e-cards to friends. Also, we're looking at including the ability for you to select the end piece and complete a custom order via the web site. Very exciting!

I am also starting to prepare for the "Art in the Yard" show again - this will be held in Concord, California on Saturday, July 22nd and all of us are hopeful that it will be a cooler day than last year. I'm also preparing to submit my work for consideration for the Craftswomen show held annually in San Francisco. It's a wonderful show and is the largest juried women's craft fair in the country.

My work is multiplying and bringing wonderful new people and opportunities in my life. Now all I need are about 12 extra hours in each day to be able to participate in all the wonderful opportunities that are spread out in front of me.

I wish you all peace, abundance and love.

Shaye

HOLIDAY - 2005

I have really been struggling with writing my social work, no art. My challenge has been that in the past few weeks, I've only been doing social work, no art. I have no upcoming art shows to share and my current job, of helping residents to find a new place to live because the nursing home in which they live is being closed, is not a happy one. I am struck by how many people worldwide are homeless - because of war or natural disasters, poverty or unsafe home conditions. This is especially glaring to me at the holidays when the images we are bombarded with are of families, together in their homes.

I've also been thinking about peace a lot lately. Is it ever complete or does it exist on a continuum; measurements based on severity, intensity, frequency, elimination of 'non-peace'? Where is peace found . . . at a deserted ocean cliff, with children at play, in a quiet moment with a loved one, in bed at night? Is peace found in our language, our actions, our thoughts, our feelings, our experience? Is peace something we see, feel, hear, know, speak, give, or are given? I long to be surrounded by peace.

As much as I want everything to be perfect right now, I recognize that life, like my art, is a process. And as frustrating as the process can be, it's necessary to express the final outcome. So I plug along with my work, trusting that the positive energy that I send out into the world has a positive effect even if I do not get to see it myself. And I wait, as patiently as I can for the time to get back to my soul soothing art.

My goal for myself this holiday is to avoid getting blinded by what I can't accomplish and to find the positive in everything I do. My wish for you is a safe and peaceful place - if it's not under your own roof, then may it be in someone's heart.

Holiday blessings and a Happy New Year, Shaye

P.S. To the individual, who found my web site by searching for your own name, I responded to your e-mail - I hope you got it. Thanks for writing and keep in touch!

October 17, 2005

I've been traveling quite a bit lately for my social work. I'm off to Idaho today and then to Santa Cruz from there. While I'm not all that excited about business travel, I always try to get to the local bead stores while away from home. I love finding end pieces that are representative of different cultures and trolling the antique or thrift shops also gives me opportunities to find local treasures.

The Art of Politics show in Sausalito was great fun, and what a beautiful day. There was art, music, sunshine, huge yachts nearby and so many incredibly talented and creative artists I felt honored to be selected to participate. The Blue Goddess, made as a donation for the Breast Cancer Resource Center's silent auction brought in \$225!

I have another afternoon show this coming Sunday, Oct. 23, at Salem Lutheran Home (2361 E. 29th Street, Oakland, 1-4 p.m.). This is to celebrate Salem Day and the opening of the art gallery. It's a great chance to show my art and reconnect with friends and colleagues — I have been doing social work consulting with Salem since 1998. One of the pieces I will be showing is my most recently completed custom ordered Kwan Yin. The frame is different than anything I've done so far and as I often do with my art, I've gotten quite attached to this piece while finishing it and having it up in my studio. I'll be sending this piece off to its new home after the Salem show.

The way things come together in my life is truly amazing to me. I've been working with a dear friend who was wearing this beautiful tie that I complimented him on several times during the day. At the end of the day he took the tie off and gave it to me, knowing full well that I would use it in one of my pieces. I'm currently working on another custom order and was really struggling with what the frame would look like. I had the basic color scheme and had found the beads I wanted, but just couldn't find the right paper or embellishments for the frame. While I don't often work with fabric, this just feels 'right' to me. Heck, I may have to start hanging out in the tie section of the department stores now!

Peace, Shaye

September 2005

Wow, working on this web site has been incredible. While it's been easy and fun to make art, moving into this more official 'business' realm has been a totally different experience.

I had my first official art show on 7/23/05, "Art in the Yard," and it was a rousing success despite the 105-degree temperature. While I had really positive feedback from friends and family prior to this event, this was my! First opportunity to really bare myself and my art to people I'd never met before. I was incredibly grateful for the positive responses I received from other artists and attendees. And the sales weren't a bad thing, either.

My next show is on 9/25 and is a juried show in Sausalito, CA. I had a lot of fun because the theme was "War" and for me and I created pieces to express the theme. The two pieces accepted are "W" and "Peace." "W" features a paratrooper suspended from Army green beads, in a frame with camouflage and black leather embossed with the word "war." "Peace" is a sterling silver peace sign on Swarovski crystal rainbow beads with a shiny black, turquoise and gold frame. I also created some others while working with this theme. "Capitalism" features an American Express Gold card and a black and gold frame; "Family 1" features a Peruvian tin with two women getting married and the frame includes a silver foil triangle and a beaded fringe on the bottom; and, "Choice! e" (the frame is still in process) the spirit beads feature an end piece that is a female torso with a baby inside.

I am excited and feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to create and share my art. I really believe that all of our interactions and connections have a benefit, though we may not ever really be able to see what they are. Thank you for the positive connection that you help me create.