

Artist Statement – Linda Gisbrecht



As in my life, my craft is guided by dreams, visions, nature, stories, myths and the spirits in all of these. I use art as a way of understanding, expressing and connecting with ourselves, dreams, nature and the connection with the larger web of life. Each hand crafted piece has a story or an encounter with a creature in nature. Whether in a dream or in the woods beyond my backyard, the process reveals something about our connection with the natural world and the magic that still exists beyond the routine of our daily lives. These little shrines, or talismans are a memory of these events. As with encounters in nature, no two experiences are alike and each of my art pieces mirrors this uniqueness, and is not a duplicate of a previous creation.

My current craft has become bead embroidery. I began creating bead work pieces as a result of a dream. In this dream, a wise old grandmother lizard promised me a necklace as a gift, and to teach me the craft. Upon awakening, I excitedly began to explore this media. A few months after having this dream, I went home to visit my parents. After hearing I was now doing bead embroidery, my mother offered to give me a drawer full of seed beads she had been saving. In response to my surprise, she told me about how my great grandmother made bead embroidery handbags. I feel this deep connection with my ancestors through this craft.

I embroider my bead work by hand, constructed with glass or crystal beads. Each piece usually includes polymer clay sculptural elements that I make and paint by hand, sometimes with buttons or bits of old jewelry from my grandmother, stones or gemstones. The buttons I use are from my grandmothers "collection". Living during the depression, she clipped buttons off of each worn item and saved them. When she passed, I inherited many jars of these buttons. They speak to me now about our connections to the past, our women ancestors and to the treasures found in the bits of everyday things.