

## Entitlement

We live in a world that tells us that the “big dog wins” and that she who has the largest bank account rules. That if we are popular enough we get what we want on looks a wink and a nod. That if we are well enough known that we have to answer to no one- not even ourselves.

You maybe asking yourself right about now, what in the world does this have to do with Beading?

Well, A Lot.

You see, most of us start out into this art form very naïve, trusting, giving and unaware of where this “addiction” will lead.

We see an eye catching piece that draws us to the art. Makes us want to learn to create ourselves.

We are eager to learn, take in knowledge that others are willing to give as well as pay for publications and other forms of learning.

Then in some cases those same “givers” bite our hands! Ouch! Where did That come from, no one could have foreseen!!

Jealousy comes in and rears her very ugly head.

You see, there are those who have come in, learned and in turn started to create. They feel they have earned a spot in the professional world. Then they want to place their “values” onto everyone else. I do not mean Ethics I mean values they hold important to them such as Dollar Values.

So many times I have heard about one artist complaining that another is selling WAY too low and therefore endangering the first ones sales. They feel that they are Entitled to push their pricing onto the next person because they want a certain amount to be paid to them and that can not be accomplished if the same or near same product is being offered cheaper.

So many times I have heard complaints that one person sells another person information to create and sell items only to have the person who is making the items charge Less than what the original creator of the pattern does or would sell them for. They created the pattern and by all rights of Entitlement can dictate what happens to Each and Every item Anyone else decides to make for ever and for ever, Amen!

And of course, that Entitlement also gives the right to downgrade and dismiss anyone that disagrees.

Are you getting the feeling that the original joy of what brought some to this art form has been lost?

My position is that as a designer- I make projects available for others to recreate from. They have done the work, bought the materials and I have absolutely no say whatsoever as to the selling value they place on that item they made. I Do have the right to say that you Legally Can Not Copy my instruction and then sell it.

My position is that as a teacher- If it were not for someone else handing down information we would all be without. Sometimes that information is purchased, sometimes it is free.

My position is that as an artist- If I cannot set my own prices, rates or have the freedom to color outside the original lines then what good is a craft or art form in a world that allows you to become your own success story?

There is not any "set standard" in art. That is Why it is Art!

If someone values a rock off of a gravel road at \$5 then it is Worth that to Them and you have a Choice to either Agree or Disagree. It doesn't make it Right or Wrong. What would be wrong to me is to have someone have a gravel road rock for sale at \$5, and have another person selling a gravel road rock for \$10, and then have the latter one Complain that the first one should Up their price because the one person wants more- no other reason, they simply want more because they are entitled to it because that is the value they have come up with.

I truly believe that some people should NOT sell. There are some who create patterns that should keep them for their own use and sale Only the finished products. That way they ensure that their product is only being used according to their specifications and are being sold at the price they see fit.

And it really doesn't Stop there. There are those who feel Entitled to receive because they feel they have less than others or are at a disadvantage because of lifestyle, situation, money, location ...

Those Entitled peoples feel they are Owed to them what other people generally work for in some way or another.

Tell me Why is generic person A any more deserving to receive than generic person B?

I saw a man in a wheelchair compete in an iron man competition and he was surely not playing any sympathy cards as to Entitlement. He wanted and got an equal opportunity. He made what allowances He needed for himself all by himself and not asking others to do. Beaders are no more handicapped that they have to be given supplies to create and if they are they need to be a little more creative in their endeavors to get their own supplies.

I am not for dictatorship and I am not for total handouts because you have no self esteem or gumption to go out and try to do for yourself.