

ANN LAASE BAILEY – bead, acrylic and mixed media artist

Ann Laase Bailey is a self-taught artist. She grew up surrounded by the art of her maternal grandfather, portrait and landscape painter, Emanuel K. Anderson.

As the child of a diplomat and then as a business executive, Bailey has travelled the world extensively. A global nomad, she has lived on three continents, in six countries, and in ten US states. Traditional art forms in countries of her youth, such as Australian aboriginal art, Scandinavian rosemaling, and Italian mosaics, made a lasting impression.

Bailey studied Mechanical Engineering at Cornell University. While at Cornell she supplemented her technical studies with courses in art, art history, theatre and literature. It was a class on African Art that spurred her into beadwork. Given the assignment to create a piece of art based on contemporary African art, Bailey chose the work of Nigerian artist Jimoh Buraimoh as her inspiration. Little did she know that in a few years time their work would be seen together in a group exhibition!

From an early age, Bailey has collected beads and other “precious” found objects. These items often find their way into her work, sometimes decades after their initial discovery.

Bailey and her husband currently reside in Santa Fe, NM and Eagle River, WI.

Selected Exhibits

“Stitchers and Beaders: America’s Best”, Ohio Craft Museum, Columbus, OH

“Pure Vision – American Bead Artists”, a travelling exhibition

Leedy Voulkos Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN

Paul Watkins Art Gallery, Winona, MN

“New Directions in Contemporary Beadwork”, Winchester Gallery, Las Vegas, NV

“The Glass Bead Game” and “The Glass Bead Game II”, Illumina Gallery, Atlanta, GA

Publications

Moss, Kathlyn and Scherer, Alice. (1992). The New Beadwork. New York, New York; Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publisher