

Meet the Beaders

On a Saturday morning, you might find Karla Firehammer, Karen Dismukes, Sandy Koeser, and Cathy McQuitty at a “Bead ‘n’ Feed.” After breakfast, they spend the morning beading together. Beading sessions can get a little hectic since they involve thousands of beads and often the most curious of their collective eight dogs and three cats.

The Beading Facts

- A single illustration can incorporate between 3,000 and 8,000 beads, as well as several kinds of fabric. It took about 120,000 beads to illustrate this book!
- The artists find beads everywhere: from garage sales to beading conventions, from Venice to Kansas City. Sometimes they even swap beads. They each have hundreds of containers of beads in a rainbow of colors.
- Beads are sewn onto canvas with a special thin thread that looks like dental floss.
- One illustration may require 40 to 120 hours of work, depending on the size of the piece and the number and type of beads.

When they're not beading or working . . .



Karla walks her three dogs. (Her crabby cat stays at home.) Look for her dog Gatsby in “Sheriff Doggy.”



Sandy cans vegetables she's grown in her garden. Look for her dalmatian Bobdog on the Contents page.



Karen loves to travel and once beaded while sitting on the terrace of a Tuscan villa. Look for her cat Toulouse in “Astrodog.”



Cathy knits and makes wood carvings. Look for her dog Jack in “Swimming.”