

Bead artist Maggie Meister found her voice in Italy.

She began beading 15 years ago and started teaching beading in 1996.

"Before I went to Italy, I was doing very basic jewelry design," said Meister, who will be teaching how to make two of her jewelry pieces at Your Design Ltd. in Bettendorf on March 8 and 9. "I didn't really feel like I had any kind of voice. I knew I wanted to do something, but it wasn't until I moved to Italy that things start to click into place."

That was in 1998. There she visited the Naples National Archaeological Museum, which was showing mosaics from Pompeii. Somebody told her, "Oh, they look like those little beads you use," she recalled in a phone interview last week. So she tried "interpreting what I saw in mosaic pieces in my work."

She also saw antique gold-granulation jewelry, and it looked like it was made of small beads, so she attempted to re-create it.

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