

The easel, the loom, the potters' wheel. The camera, the kiln, the chisel. The Vineyard is rich in artisans with eyes and hands of fine artists. Whether for the collector, homeowner or discriminating designer or architect, Made-on-Island is a gallery for new possibilities.

Profiles by Karla Araujo

All That Glitters The Handcrafted Beaded Jewelry of Sarah Young

My business began with a passion for beading," Sarah Young explains, describing how she turned her affinity for vintage glass, semi-



Sarah Young in her Oak Bluffs shop

precious stones and minerals, crystals and sea glass into a thriving trade. Today she is the proprietor of her own shop in downtown Oak Bluffs, designing and crafting unique earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

A native of upstate New York, Sarah made her way to the Vineyard



14 years ago to study lampworking, a type of glasswork that uses a gas-fueled torch to melt rods and tubes of clear and colored glass to make beads. After three summers, she decided to make the Island her year-round home.

"I found myself drawn to the sense of community," she says. "It's been a good place for me."

Vineyard Sky Bead Design, her boutique alongside the Nashua House Hotel on Healy Way in Oak Bluffs, showcases her soft-hued handmade jewelry. Using a wide array of materials – vintage

German and Czech glass, Austrian crystal, lampworked glass, minerals, semi-precious stones, freshwater pearls, furnace-blown glass, shells, Czech and Japanese seed beads, Turkish and Balinese silver, and distinctive found objects – Sarah has created a niche for herself, one bead at a time.

What sets Sarah's work apart from other makers of beaded jewelry are the quality of her materials and her attention to detail. Before moving to the Vineyard she worked



as a buyer in a large Boston bead shop. By the time she began designing and making her own jewelry in the early '90s she had developed sources for fine grade elements. She is meticulous in her design choices, too, carefully placing the beads for comfort to the wearer, evaluating the weight, size and dimension



of each piece, and incorporating stringing techniques and materials that ensure longevity.

Both Vineyard Sky in Oak Bluffs and Rainy Day on

Main Street in Vineyard Haven offer a wide selection of Sarah's work. But for those customers seeking something more unique, she specializes in custom orders. She is often commissioned to create jewelry for brides and bridal parties as well.

"I really enjoy making jewelry for individuals," Sarah says. "I like to get to know the person, the occasion, the significance of the materials. I often re-work old pieces that include beads or objects that



are part of family history."

Sarah's signatures? "Green, green, green!" she says exultantly. "I love an earthy palette."

Her favorite designs are those built around a focal piece – a found object or vintage glass, sea glass or shell that can't be replicated. She also enjoys taking

old jewelry apart and reconfiguring it. "Jewelry, to me, is a renewable resource," she says.

Sarah is working with a web designer to make her site more interactive.

Soon Vineyard Sky devotees will be able to choose pieces

online and order them directly from the site. Until then, it remains a tantalizing display of her work but you'll have to call, email or stop in her shop to actually seal the deal.

Vineyard Sky Bead Design is located at 9 Healy Way, Oak Bluffs, alongside the Nashua House Hotel, across from Offshore Ale. Shop hours are



Thursday-Saturday 10am-4pm or by appointment. Phone: 508-696-8700. Website: www.vineyardsky.com. Sarah also exhibits her work at Rainy Day, 66 Main St., Vineyard Haven and at the Vineyard Artisans Festivals Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekends only. **vs**

