

Designer **OF THE WEEK**

Beads of inspiration

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, **Chameleon Jewelry** owner **Arlene Summers**, 66, of Mesa, has been collecting lampwork beads. She started making her own jewelry a decade ago.



"My first piece was a pendant with a lampwork focal bead that just stole my heart. To me they are our modern-day jewels, tiny wearable treasures," she says of the handcrafted beads.

Summers experiences a "sense of flow" while making jewelry, and she makes her handcrafted pieces so that other women can enjoy wearing them, she says.

She wanted to create designs that would represent the many changing moods of women. She characterizes these moods in her jewelry designs as romantic, bold, whimsical, funky, sophisticated and sultry.

WRITTEN BY **MIGNON A. GOULD**
PHOTOS FROM COMPANY



Flights of Fancy necklace, \$190.



Diva pendant, \$189.



Tiger crystal earrings, \$40.

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"Like the women who wear my jewelry, my moods can change like a chameleon," Summers says. "A woman may feel like looking sophisticated and sleek one day, sexy and sultry the next."

In addition to lampwork beads, she uses gold, silver, pewter, pearl, vintage, semiprecious beads and Swarovski crystals. She also works with wire and precious-metal clay, which turns to silver when heated in a kiln.

Summers leaves no avenue unexplored when thinking of new ways to fashion pieces. She draws upon different cultures and periods in history for motivation and finds Art Nouveau, Art Deco, ancient cultures and contemporary design the most inspiring.

"My work does not fit into a formula that repeats over and over again," she says. "I love to experiment and discover new possibilities to create serendipity." Find Chameleon Jewelry online at www.rubylane.com/shops/asummersartjewelry.



Sizzle necklace, \$219.

Grapes of Glass necklace, \$298.

Pretty in Pink earrings, \$45.