

International Beads Biennale Hiroshima Exhibition Awards 2024

Comments from the Panel of Judges

Mitsuharu Hirose / Knit Designer

This time also proved a challenge for me to rank the many outstanding works. As I am not an expert in beads, I cautiously cast my votes while listening to the comments and opinions of each judge. The grand prize-winning piece truly evoked the spirit of the African land, as its title suggests. The gold prize was awarded to a work that garnered votes for its fresh and innovative idea. The piece I selected for the Judges' Award is a Teddy Bear. It is connected with Irish-style motifs woven with beads. It was a bit unfortunate that the colors were somewhat subdued. In a contest, I believe what matters most is how much of an impression the work leaves on the viewers.

Yoshiko Takahashi / Part-time lecturer at Bunka Gakuen University and Wayō Women's University

We receive numerous wonderful submissions every time. With each occasion, I am increasingly amazed and moved by the high level of completion, delicate craftsmanship, and beautiful techniques displayed. This time, I felt that the quality of the works was so high that it would not have been surprising if any of them had won the grand prize or other top awards. Therefore, the selection process was quite difficult. Among them, the top works stood out for their unique, diverse, sometimes even wild use of beads, exceeding the conventional concepts of beadwork. I was impressed and captivated by these innovative expressions. In both categories, I look forward to seeing further ingenuity and creative evolution in the future.

Mutsumi Carpenter / Full-time lecturer at Bunka Fashion College

Each work exhibited a high level of technical and artistic completion. The pieces, created with free imagination and expression, perfectly embodied the theme of the Beads Biennale, "Beauty, Love and Peace". Judging these works was incredibly enjoyable and filled me with happiness. "The Secret Spring" beautifully and mysteriously expressed the artist's vision of a spring welling up with flowers through bead embroidery with various shades of blue. It sparked endless imagination, making me wonder with what and how would I pair it, or where I would wear it to. Therefore, I decided to award it the Special Prize.

Kimie Suto / Beads Artist

From the Grand Prize Winner to the Honorable Mention pieces, all the works overflowed with the enthusiasm and creativity of the creators, and I express my sincere respect for each and every one of them. In particular, the Grand Prize Winner, 'Blessing of the Land' seemed to stand out from the other pieces with its level of completion and moving expression. As well, the Gold and Silver Award pieces fascinated the screening panel with their own distinctive beauty and appeal. I am deeply grateful to everyone who submitted an entry to this exhibition. Your expression and technique with beads were well on display and I was moved by your passion and effort. I hope that your creative endeavors will continue to develop further and that you will continue to take on new challenges.

Iwao Yamanaka / President and CEO of TOHO CO., LTD.

2024 marks the 5th International Beads Biennale Hiroshima. This year also, we received many excellent pieces from countries around the world. In the Costume Jewelry category, there were intricately worked pieces boldly adorned with beads, while in the Art category the screening process was made difficult by so many works using beads in an infinite number of ways and clearly displaying the great potential of bead art. Beads were originally meant for connecting people. Taking advantage of this occasion we hope to realize, even if only in some small way, a world where everyone, beyond national borders, can have a sense of peace through beads art.