

## *BEANILE*

*BEANILE* or *BEANILE Lace* is an original art form rooted in the old, traditional crafts of knotting and beading. It rediscovers and explores the basic features of both:

- beads have to be threaded to become a decoration,
- knots hold beads in place, and
- arrange them into beaded composition with lots of negative space.

*BEANILE* [bi:nil] is an abbreviation for **BEA**dwork by **NI**na Libin and the silent 'E' at the end is meant to soften the 'L' so it sounds as 'БИНИЛЬ' the original Russian name for the technique.

To combine beads and tatting into one technique seemed so natural that someone should have thought of it before 1985. As it happens, some lace designers (not bead workers) have thought of it as early as 1910, but their approach was to enhance tatted lace by placing beads sparsely and only on the visible working thread, kind of sprinkle their tatting with a few beads.

Placing beads on both the working and the core threads was one of the 1980s innovations and became the defining feature of *BEANILE Lace* - tatted lace made almost entirely of beads.

Later on it would lead to beaded pearl tatting with beads on three threads; a method developed in 2012, and to multi-shuttle bead tatting with beads on 4, 5, or more threads, presently in the working stage.

The possibilities for design and application of *BEANILE Lace* seem unlimited (jewelry, couture outfits, accessories, book art, interior decoration).

*Nina Libin*