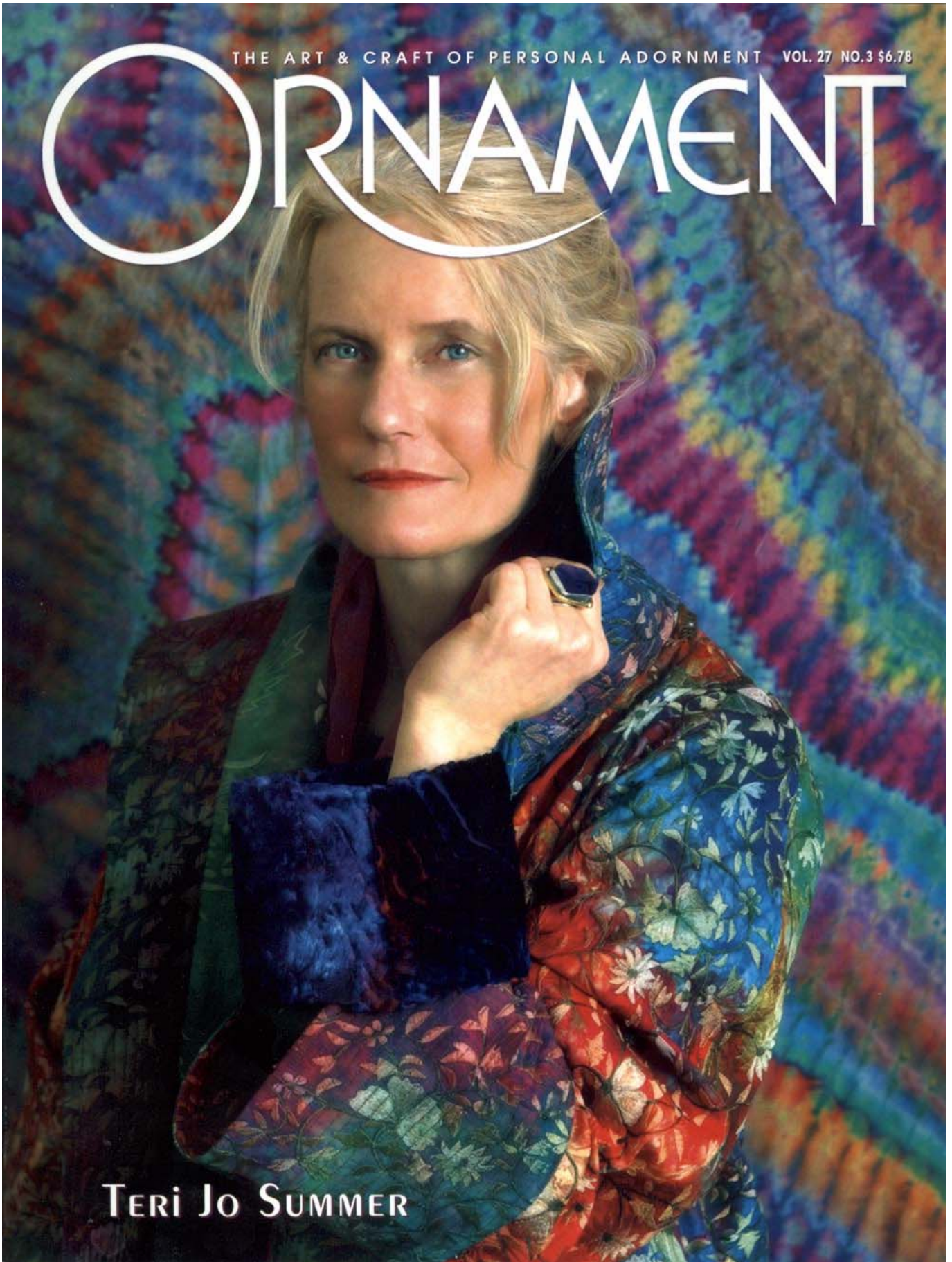


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ORNAMENT

TERI JO SUMMER





STEPHANIE SERSICH



Carl Little

Glass Bead Creator

On the fourth floor of the State Street Building on Congress Square in the heart of Portland, Maine, behind one of those old-fashioned frosted doors featured in detective movies, you will find Stephanie Sersich busy spiny knotting and making her glass bead creations. Never judge a studio by its entranceway.

The life lived by this master of dazzling necklaces and bracelets, sprightly earrings and other ornaments might be best described as a whirlwind. Between trips across country to teach bead workshops, attend shows and fairs, and further her knowledge of bead art, this twenty-seven-year-old is on the go year-round. It is no wonder she makes a point of paying special tribute to her full-time “accomplice,” Lauren Hayden, who has been making beads with her for the past two years, and Ivory Murphy-Rieger, half-time office liaison, who administers the bustling business. “The three of us get about

six people’s worth of work done,” Sersich reports, “and it all goes under one name so people think I’m a superwoman.”

This superwoman grew up in Newton, a suburb of Boston, in a household custom-made for a future beadmaker. Projects were always going on around the young girl and materials for making things were ready at hand. Her mother, Annie Lenox, an interior designer, was always making costumes and collecting ethnic jewelry. Jim Sersich, her father, made custom furniture. There were few rules and self-expression was encouraged.

After graduating from high school, Sersich attended Carleton College in Minnesota, “a very liberal liberal arts college,” the beadmaker says, with an egalitarian feel to it. She found her favored milieu in the art department, focusing on watercolors and metalsmithing. She soon discovered, however, that she needed to combine the color of the former with the intricate work—and fire—of the latter. “That’s why glass