

## *Rue de la Paix*

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Ah, Paris, one of my most favorite cities in the world! One of the oldest streets in Paris for couture fashion and exquisite jewelry is the Rue de la Paix, which is in the center of the city. This street was first opened in 1806 by a decree from Napoléon I as a part of a program to open the heart of the Right Bank of Paris. As part of the entrance onto the street, a grand column, crowned with a statue of the Emperor, was created, being made from the bronze of 1,200 captured cannons from the battle of Austerlitz (1805).

Many buildings along this fashionable street were inspired by the Place Vendôme, which is a square in the 1<sup>st</sup> Arrondissement across from the famous Tuileries Gardens, and is the starting point to the Rue de la Paix. Considered the most expensive street in the world, it housed the likes of jewelers like Cartier (one of my favorites), Lalique and Boucheron. Fashion designer Charles Frederick Worth was the first to open a couture house here, later to be joined by the famous fan maker, Duvelleroy and the Guerlain Family of perfume manufacturers.

The Rue de la Paix was a bastion for jewelers, couturiers, shirt-makers, hat and glove-makers, and perfume manufacturers! If you were wealthy and enjoyed being catered to in the contemporary style and taste of the time, this was the place to be. Visitors could stay in prestigious hotels, visit posh cafes and coffee houses, ride through the streets and gardens in elegant barouches to see and be seen.

My design “Rue de la Paix” was inspired by the sense of what this famous street would have looked like in the late 1890’s. The streets lined with fashionable shops, their windows laden with wares of their trade, enticing the passersby to stroll in to shop. The sights, smells and a sense that fashion and fine jewelry had found a home here must have been truly amazing. Watching the likes of Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, Dukes and Duchesses, being escorted to their favorite shops to purchase something special, must of truly been a grand spectacle to witness!

The House of Cartier created torque-style bracelets inspired by animal bracelets dating from the 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. Traditionally, these bracelets had animal heads that were facing each other and were hinged at the underside of the bracelet. This style is very difficult to create in beadwork as the structure has to be shaped and rigid, but I have finally figured it out!

Rue de la Paix has two pearl “heads”, each embellished with three 6mm CZ’s, that are beveled with peyote stitch, along with rings of crystals for an added sparkle. The body of the bracelet has a brass cuff blank and a rubber tubing armature that supports two tubes of peyote stitch that are shaped to curve to the shape of the cuff blank. Fashion and beadwork come together....creating elegance along the way!

Workshop: This is a 1-day workshop

Skill level: Intermediate to advanced

Bracelet length: My samples are 7 inches long, so plan accordingly.

### *Materials List*

- Two 12mm Swarovski pearls
- Six 6mm round CZ's: 2 each of three colors
- 64 Swarovski 2mm crystals
- 36 – 48 Czech 2mm pearls (the amount will depend on your bracelet length. Plan on 6 pearls per added inch)
- 9 – 12 grams 15° seed beads **(A)** (the amount will depend on your bracelet length)
- 1 gram 15° seed beads for accent **(B)**
- 2 grams 11° Delica beads that match the A beads **(C)**
- 5 – 8 grams 11° seed beads to match the A beads **(D)** (the amount will depend on your bracelet length)
- 1 gram 11° seed beads for accent that match the B beads **(E)**
- Nylon beading thread to match the A, C and D beads. I used One-G.
- Microcrystalline beading wax (optional, but highly recommended)
- One .25 inch by whatever size fits in length brass bracelet cuff blank (I carry 5.5 inch, 6 inch, 6.5 inch and 7 inch long blanks)
- Approximately 5 – 6.5 inches of window screen rubber tubing, also known as spline (I will have this available in class)
- One .75 inch wide band-aid (I will have this available in class)

### *Tools*

- Two size 12 beading needles
- One size 13 beading needle for tight spots
- Small sharp scissors and a thread burner
- Beading surface of choice
- Lighting and magnification (if needed)