

## Linda Fifield

*“Being captive to the beauty and miracle of nature, it seems fitting that the work I create reflects my love and respect for the Earth.”*

Linda Fifield grew up in a large, creative family in Knott County, Kentucky. Her mother and grandmother made the family’s clothing, quilted, crocheted, and embroidered. Linda learned these skills. She also learned to work leather, make baskets, weave, and do beadwork.

In 1974, she visited Chicago’s Field Museum. She was spellbound by the finely twined baskets made by Native American weavers. She noticed a similarity between these baskets and beadwork. She began to use a twill weave stitch in her beadwork. Her husband, Jack Fifield,

taught her to use a lathe. Jack is an award-winning wood sculptor. He showed Linda how to turn hollow wooden vessels. They use trees from their own land. Linda covers these hollow, wooden forms in a network of glass beads. She creates startling designs with precise, intricate stitching. The vivid colors of her beaded vessels express the joy she finds in creating beauty. *“I feel harmony is found in beauty and peace within harmony,”* she explains. In

2003, she was commissioned to create the awards for the winners of the Kentucky Governor’s Awards in the Arts. In 2015, she herself was honored with the Governor’s Artist Award.



*Linda says, “Sometimes I wonder, where does breath come from? Well, inspiration is kind of the same. I don’t know where it comes from but it flows in real naturally.” What inspires you to create art?*