

## **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 blends traditional skills and materials with her own innate sense of beauty to express her profound love of nature in an art form that is breathtakingly original. She grew up in a large, creative family in the Appalachian Kentucky community of Knott County. Her mother and grandmother provided the family with hand-constructed garments, quilts, crocheted laces, and embroidered linens. Linda’s own creative journey expanded to include leatherwork, basketry, weaving, and beadwork. In 1974, she visited Chicago’s Field Museum and was spellbound by the finely twined baskets of Native American weavers. Noticing the similarity in texture between these baskets and beadwork, she began to employ a twill weave stitch in her beadwork. Her husband, Jack Fifield, an award-winning wood sculptor, taught her to use a lathe to turn hollow wooden vessels using trees from their own land. She encases these forms in a network of Czech glass beads, creating startling designs with precise, intricate stitching and elaborate embellishments. What shines through the vivid colors of her beaded vessels is the intense 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 given to the recipients of the Kentucky Governor’s Awards in the Arts. In 2015, she herself was honored with the Governor’s Artist Award.