

I LIVE ON A FEW ACRES off the grid in the Colorado Rockies. Inspiration?

All I really need is to fall out of bed. I walk my dogs twice a day and it washes over me—from the trees, rocks, mountains, birds, even from a rusty can left by a century-ago miner. A favorite are the hummingbirds that zip around the trees in springtime—they were the stimulus for "Nature's Jewels."

Natural talent? I don't know—my great-grandmother was a Chippewa Indian. She crafted beadwork for vaudeville shows in the old days—she was so talented. I think it's because of her that a lot of the techniques I use are Native American. I appreciate their feeling for the earth and their respect for nature.

I'm a starving artist, but I'm very happy out here. Maybe more people should try living off the grid—you never know what you'll discover.



Heidi F Kumkli

"Nature's Jewels"
First Place Winner, Beads
2003 Saul Bell Design Award

natural



phone 800.545.6566

www.riogrande.com

Heidi Kumkli
www.freespiritcollection.com
Ward, Colorado