



CRAFTKIT

Glass Grape Charm

Craft Kit #26 Instructions



- Step 1: Thread 1 pony bead onto center the fishing line.
- Step 2: Add 2 pony beads onto one side of fishing line.
- Step 3: Thread the free end of the line through the bead in the opposite direction.
- Step 4: Pull both ends of the fishing line through the two beads until they sit on top of the first bead you added.
- Step 5: Add 3 beads onto one side of the fishing line, then repeat step 3.
- Step 6: Pull both ends of the fishing line through the beads so that they sit on top of the previous row.
- Step 7: Add 4 beads onto one side of the fishing line, then repeat step 3.
- Step 8: Repeat step 6.
- Step 9: Add 5 beads onto one side of the fishing line, then repeat step 3.
- Step 10: Thread 1 leaf bead onto one side of the fishing line, then repeat step 3. Pull tightly to collapse the shape into a more natural, grape-like appearance.
- Step 11: Tie the sides of the fishing line together a surgeon's knot to secure the leaf onto your grapes.
- Step 12: Tie a loop onto the keychain loop and finish with another surgeon's knot.

Check out our PowerPoint at 108contemporary.org – Access 108—Resources for a slideshow with more ideas!

Optional:

Add a bead of super glue to the knots for extra hold.

Use beading wire instead of fishing line for a more structured charm. Twist wire instead of knotting.

For more information about the exhibition and step-by-step instructions, visit: www.108contemporary.org/resources

Use the hash tag #108CraftKits to enter for a chance to win a prize giveaway!

BETH LIPMAN

Accidental Vestiges

April 5 – May 26, 2019



Craft Kit #26: "Glass" Grapes

Charm

About the Artist

- Wisconsin-based glass artist Beth Lipman has mastered her innovative practice, exhibiting across the country and is currently featured in several museums' permanent collections. Lipman looks to the historical practice of the Dutch *vanitas* painting; representing one's life through the objects with which we surround ourselves. She creates portraits of individuals and our society through inanimate objects in hand-sculpted glass. Every object created, whether broken, "flawed," or "perfect" is



Beth Lipman, *Laid (Time-) Table with Cycads*, 2015

About the Exhibition

- Mundane items from food to books to plants are immortalized in crystal clear glass, revealing the lasting influence of the objects with which we surround ourselves and ultimately act as artifacts of the society within which we live. Mortality, consumerism, materiality, and temporality—critical issues since the inception of the still life tradition in the 17th century—continue to be relevant. Audiences will wander through this exhibition of glass, still life, and craft as they have never seen it before.



Beth Lipman, *Distill* #16, 2015

Examples of Past Work



Beth Lipman, *Laid Table with Fish*, 2011



Beth Lipman, *Margin for Error*, 2014



Beth Lipman, *Chalice and Tanalian Mountain (II)*, 2014,
c-print mounted to aluminum with gloss laminate, edition of 3



What is Still Life?

- Artists arrange inanimate objects and then capture their composition using paint or photography.
- Still-life painting as an independent genre first flourished in the Netherlands during the early 1600s
- Painters approached still-lives as an opportunity to display skill in painting textures and surfaces in great detail and with realistic light effects. Food of all kinds laid out on a table, silver cutlery, intricate patterns and subtle folds in table cloths and flowers all provided a variety of challenges to paint them with accuracy.

Characteristics of Dutch Still-Life



Clara Peeters, *Still Life with Cheese, Artichoke, and Cherries*, circa 1625

- Types of still-lives included:

- *Banquetje*, or "banquet pieces" with the later subgenre of *pronkstillevens* ("ostentatious still lifes")
- *Ontbijtjes*, or simpler "breakfast pieces"
- *Vanitas* works that specifically reflected the brevity of life
- Flowers
- Dead fish and game

- Artists were careful to capture intricate details such as bread crumbs falling to the table or light reflecting off metal and glassware as realistically as possible.
- Early still-life subjects often had a nationalistic feel; local products, especially dairy, were heavily featured.
- Fruit, flowers, and other perishable foods represented mortality and impermanence, yet could be preserved forever in paint.

Symbolism in Dutch Still-Life



Abraham van Beijeren, *Banquet still life with a self-portrait of the painter in the silver jug*, circa 1660

- As trade and foreign import flourished in the Netherlands, still-life paintings began to include items that were exotic and expensive at the time—East Asian porcelain, spices from India, Persian textiles, fruit and flower from afar. The symbolism of earlier still-life didn't disappear, but decreased significantly. Art historians attribute the celebration of luxury to the rise of a new upper class of wealthy merchants, bankers, and traders.

- Still-life paintings often contained warnings against excess and consumerism.
- Fruits commonly represented the human soul. The flies and that menaced these fruits in paintings were a reminder of the war between good and evil.
- Skulls and hourglasses often appeared in *vanitas* still life paintings to remind viewers that luxuries were of no use in the afterlife

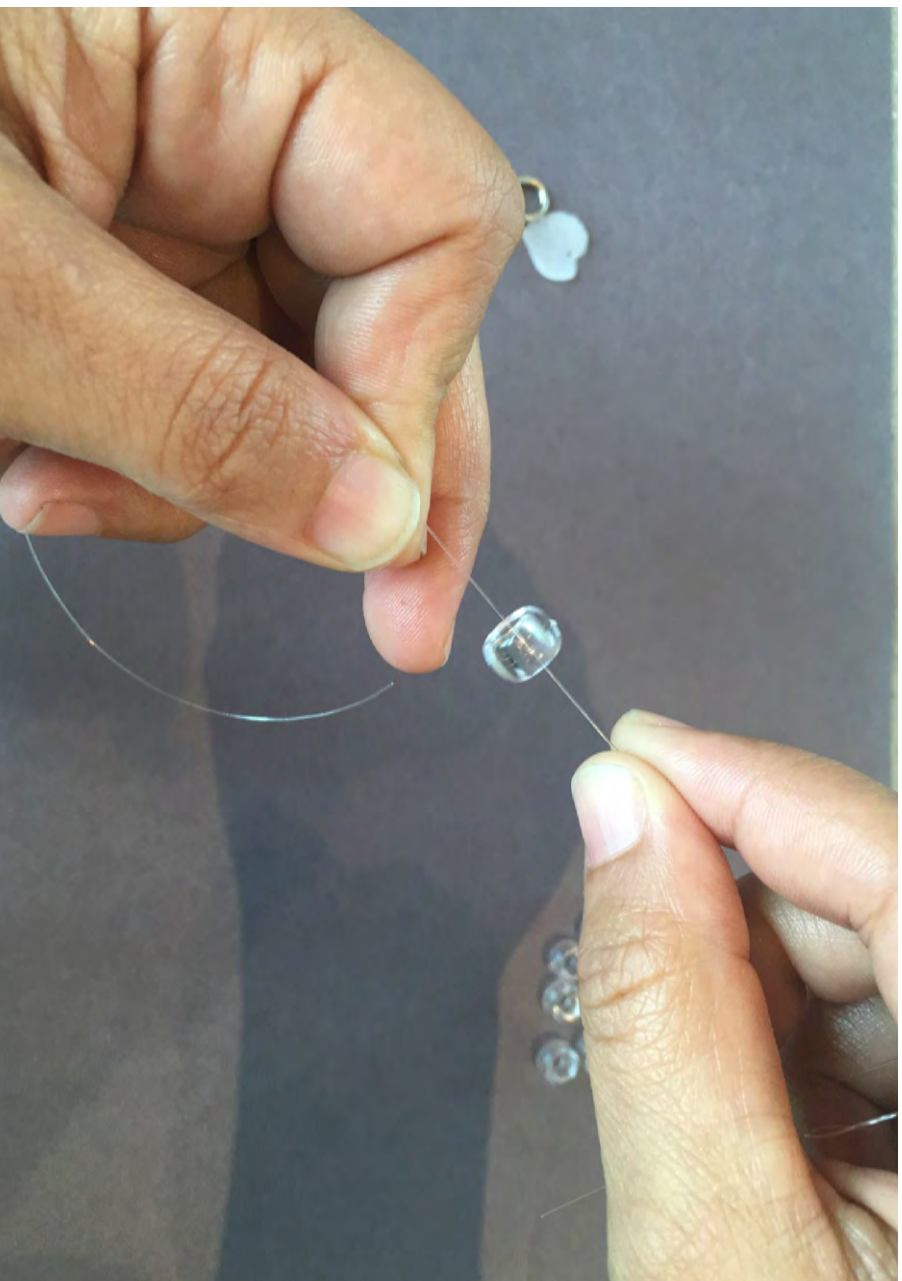
“Glass” Grapes Charm



Fruit featured heavily in still life paintings, symbolizing both wealth and mortality. Inspired by Beth Lipman's use of glass to capture inanimate objects, this Craft Kit allows guests to create their own representation of a bunch of grapes. Use the acrylic beads and fishing line to make a charm, and carry this *varitas* still-life with you on a

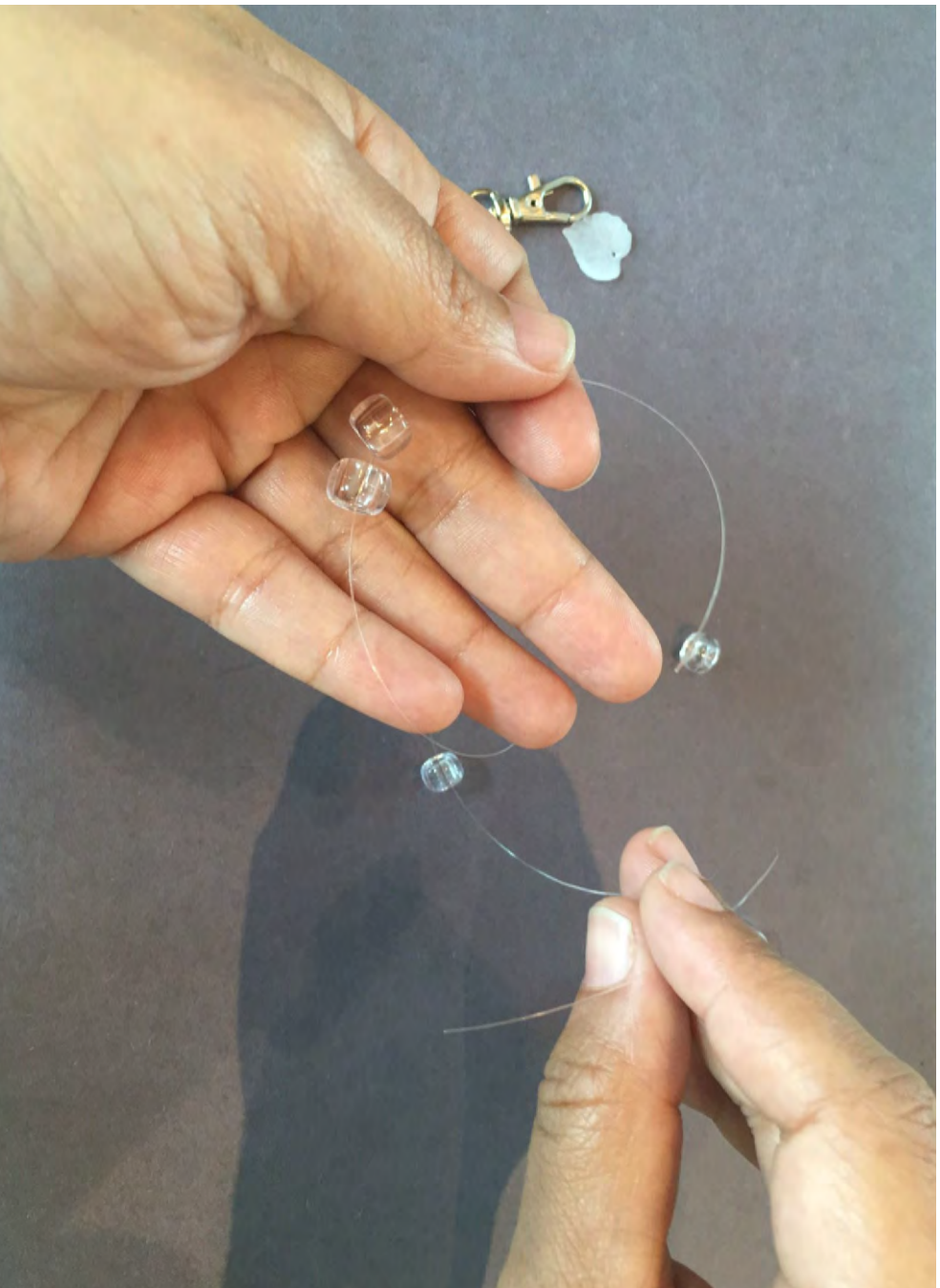
Step 1:

- Thread 1 pony bead on the fishing line.
- Make sure it's in the center of the string



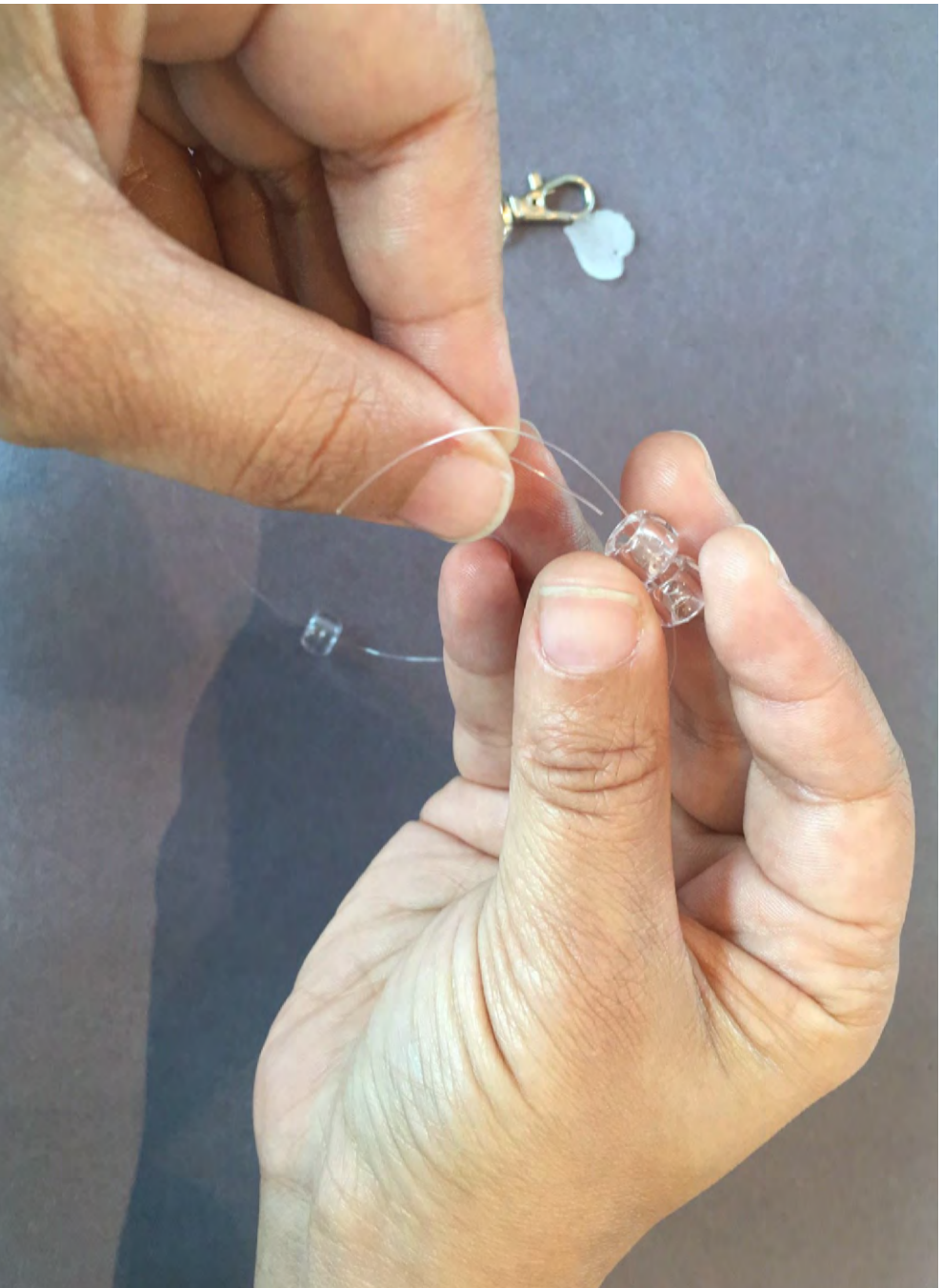
Step 2:

Thread 2 more pony beads about 4 inches down the fishing line.



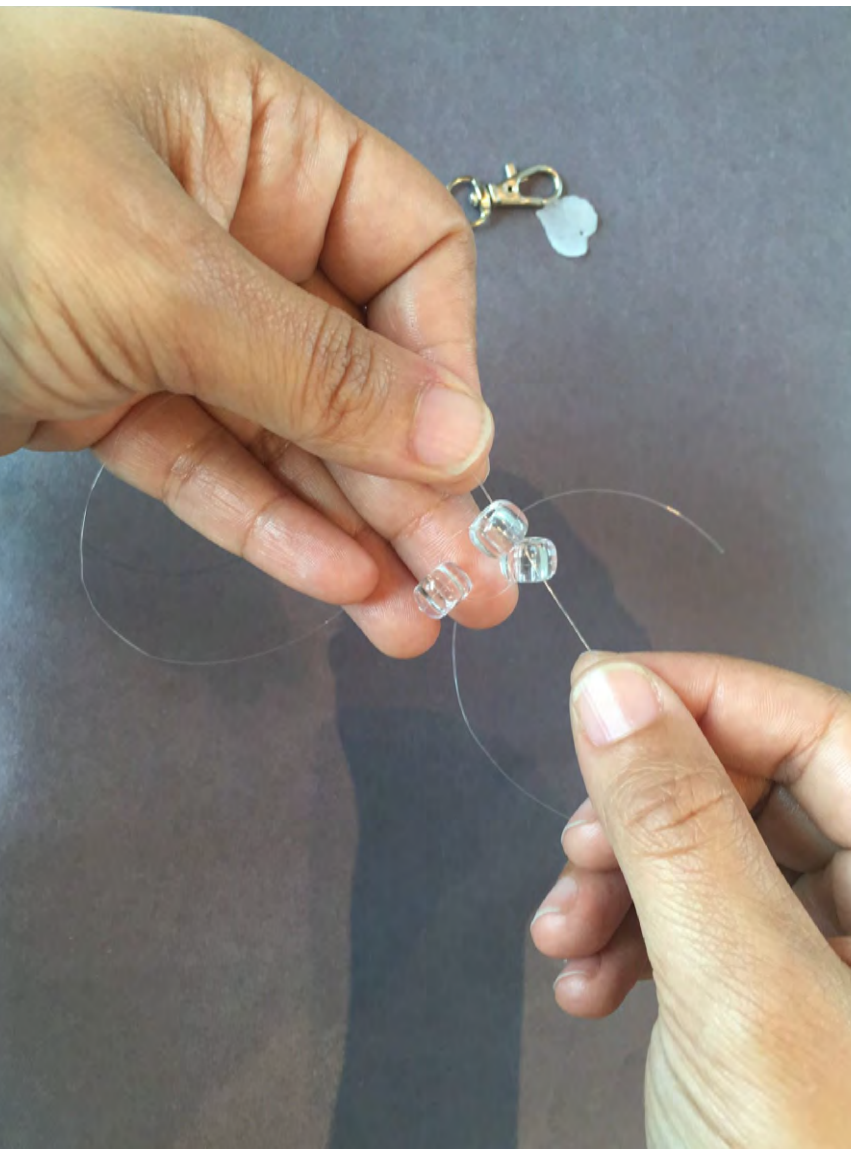
Step 3:

Circle the free end of the line around in the opposite direction to thread it through the two beads of Step 2.



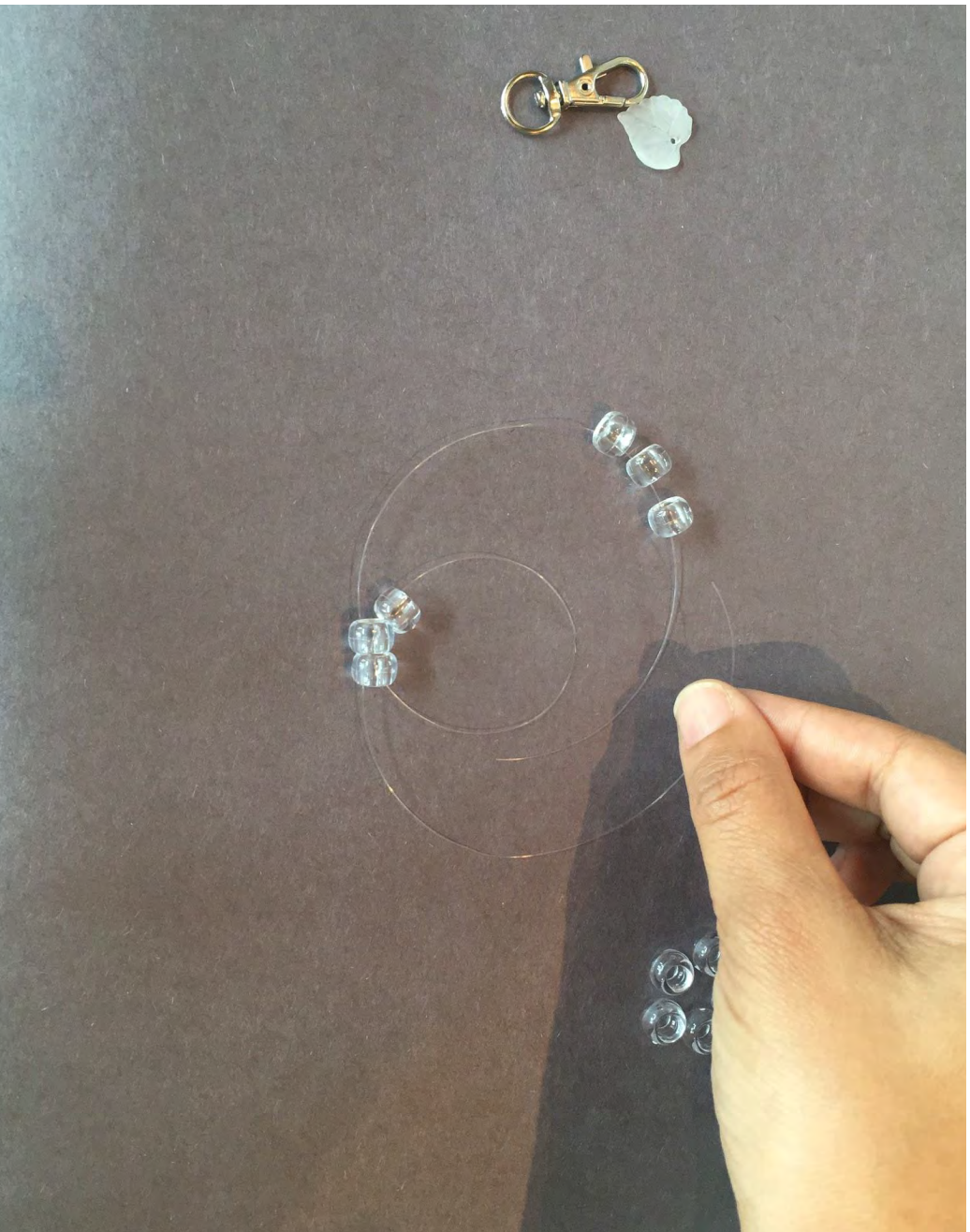
Step 4:

Pull both ends of the fishing line apart until the two beads sit on top of the first bead you added. The beads should form a triangle shape.



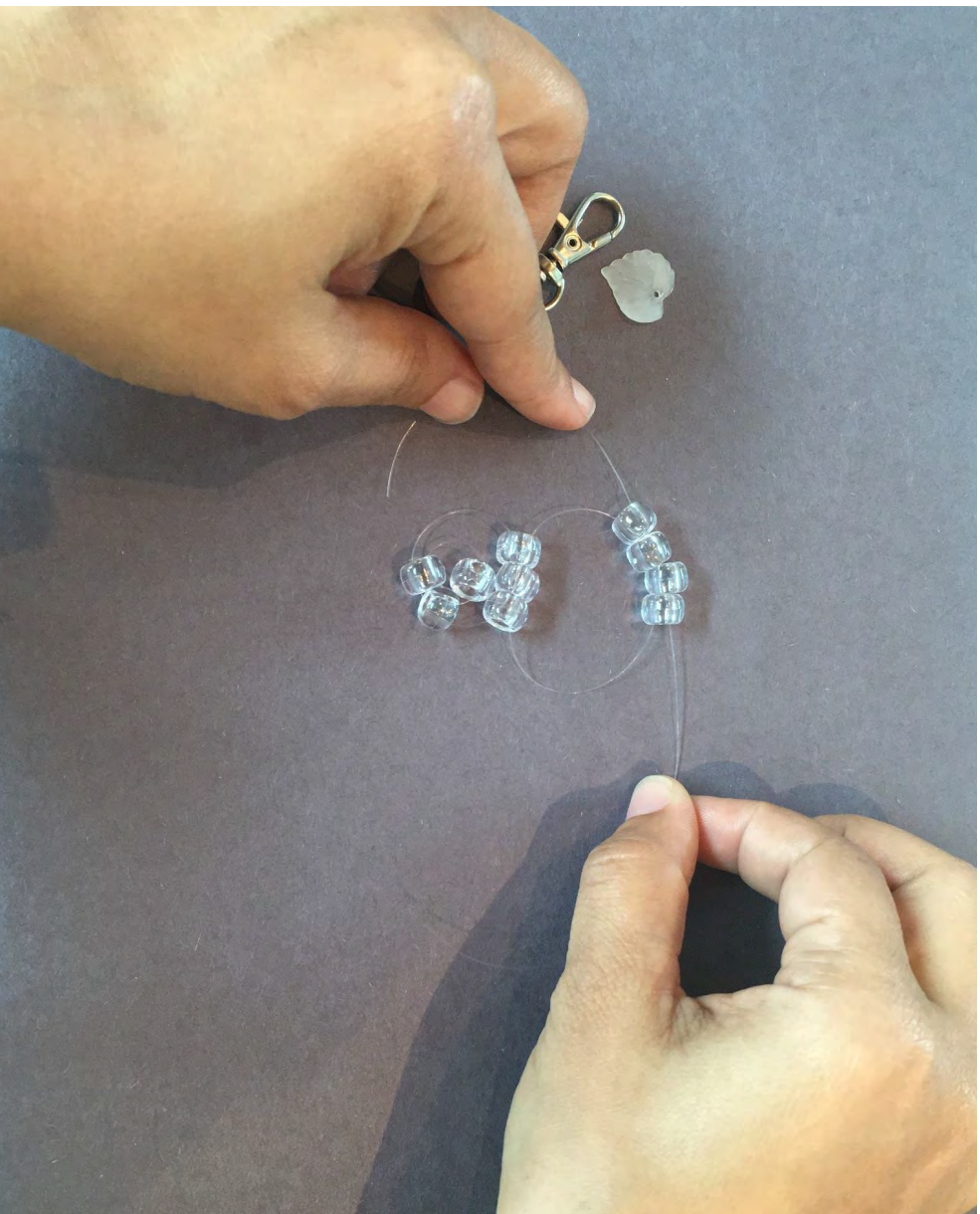
Step 5:

Add a new row of the triangle by threading each end of the fishing line in opposite directions through 3 more beads.



Step 6:

Use the same technique to add a row of 4 beads. The beads may not stay in straight rows—that's okay!



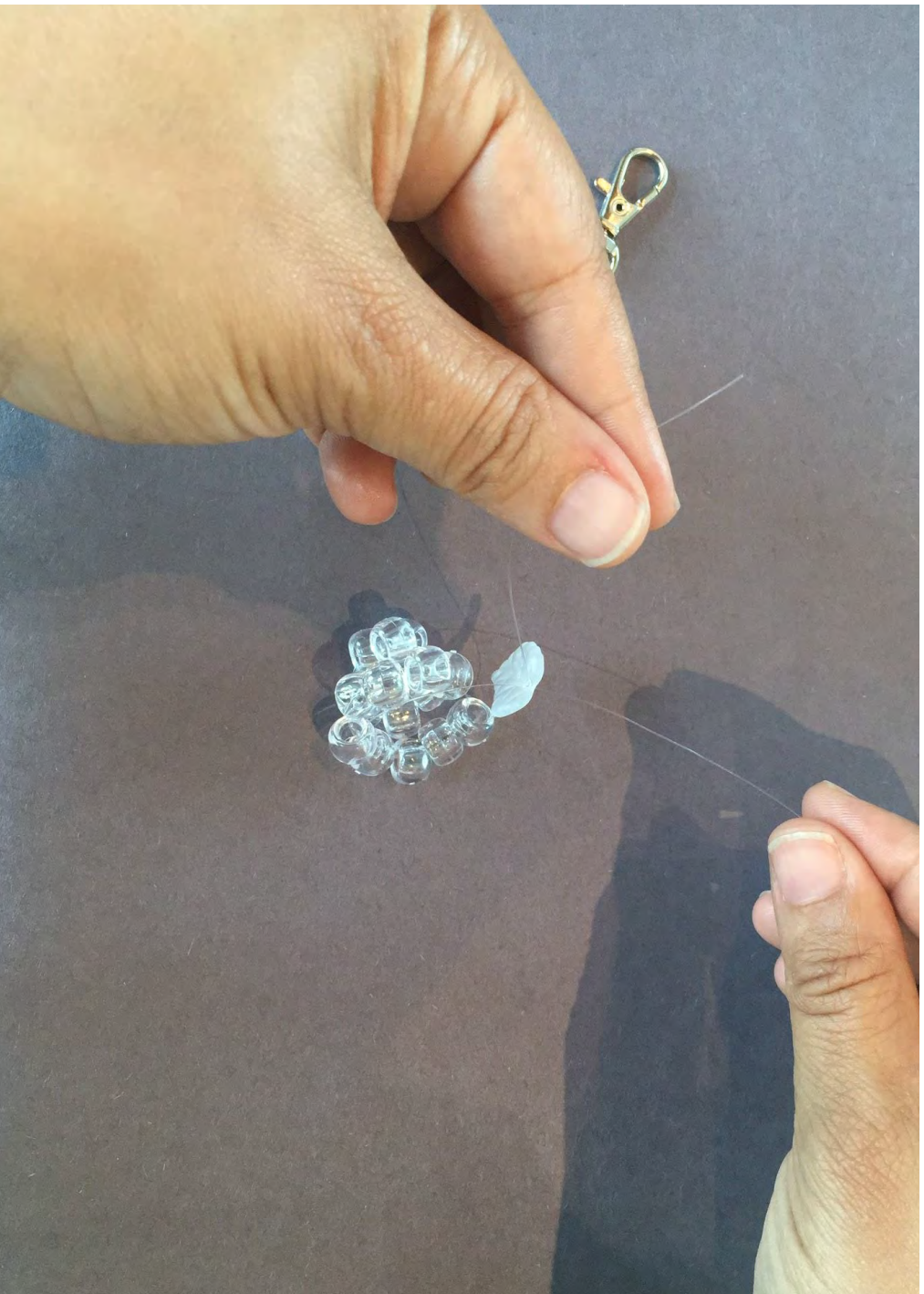
Step 7:

Repeat to add a row of 5 beads.



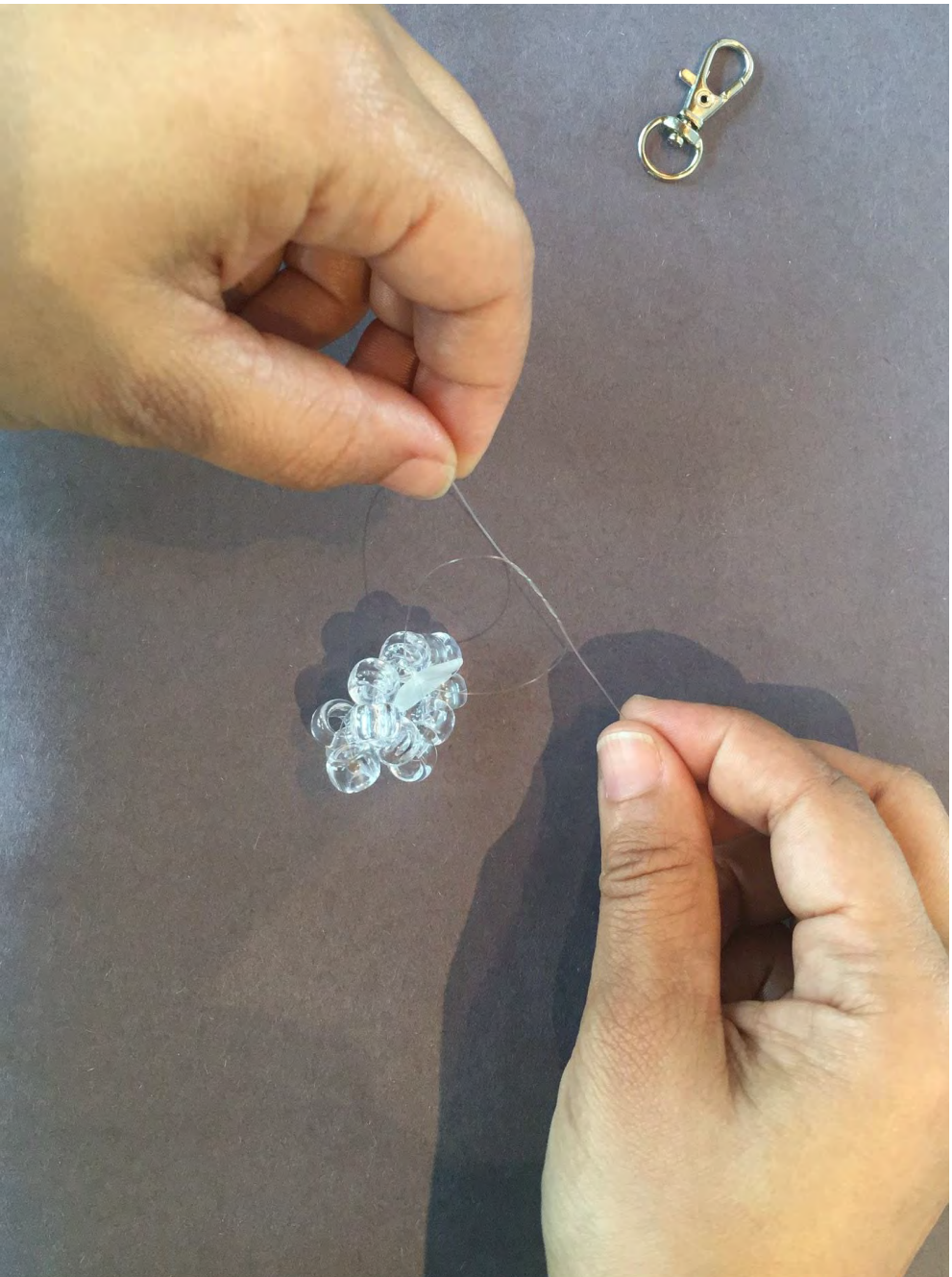
Step 8:

Use the same technique to add 1 leaf bead above the row of 5 beads. Pull tightly to collapse the shape into a more natural, grape-like appearance.



Step 9:

Tie the sides of the fishing line together in a surgeon's knot to secure the leaf onto your grapes.



Step 10:

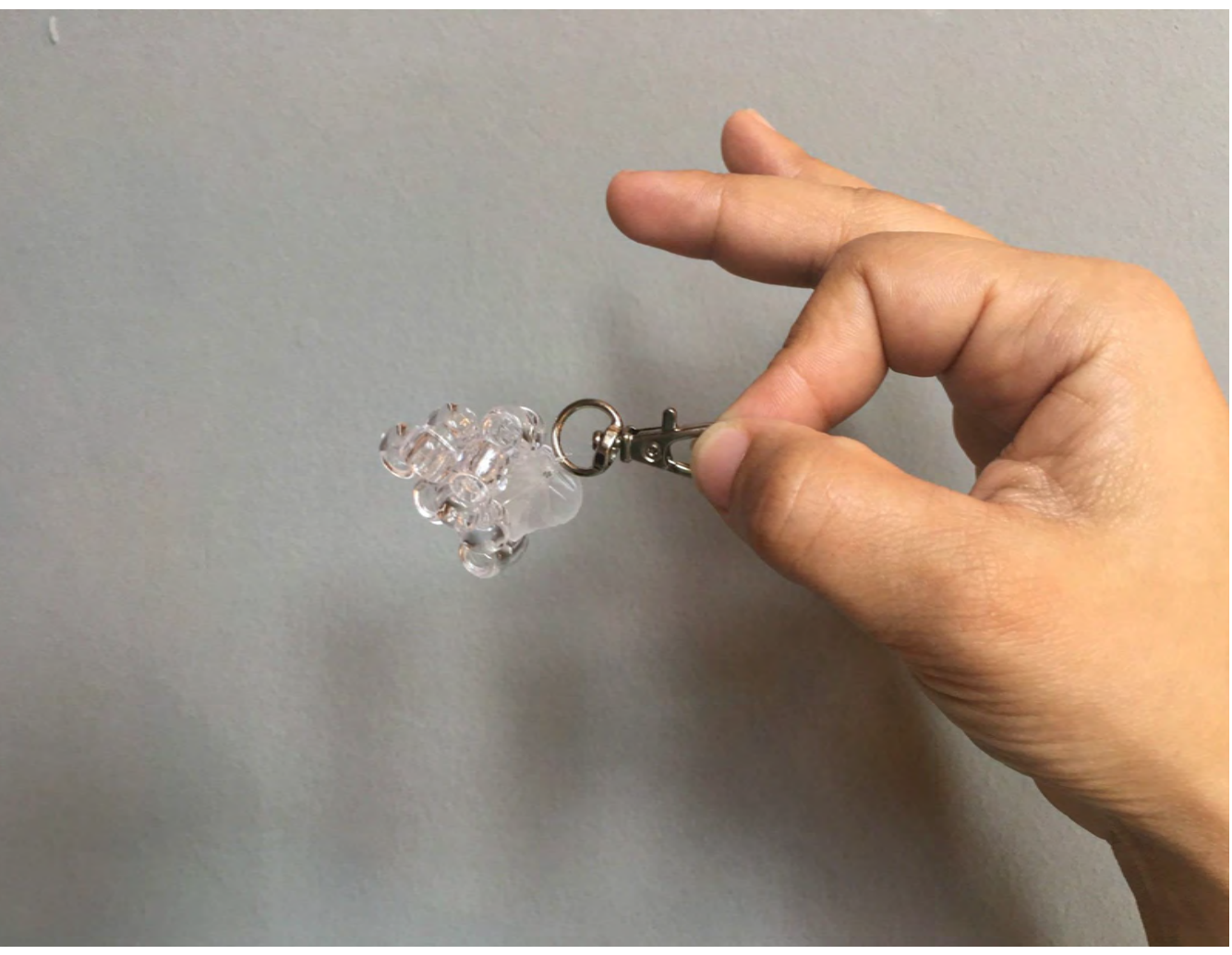
Tie a loop onto the keychain loop and finish with another surgeon's knot.



Done!

Optional:

- Add a bead of super glue to the knots for extra hold.
- Use beading wire instead of fishing line for a more structured charm. Twist wire instead of knotting.



Additional Resources

- www.bethlipman.com
- Watch an interview with Lipman about her work [here](#)
- Read [an article](#) on the hidden meanings of Dutch still life paintings
- Visit [108|Contemporary](#) for more information on upcoming events!