

NTQM FIELD TRIP Friday 5/17/19 to Dabl's African Bead Gallery ~ MBAD Museum

Spring was kind to us in May as we (with a few guests) trekked into Detroit for a visit to Dabl's African Bead Museum.

We always like to have a little of the unexpected on our excursions - a fire drill comes to mind! - and this time we arrived and Dabl didn't! We were worried that he had forgotten us - he had! plus he had a car repair to attend to - but his late arrival gave us plenty of time to explore the outside installations on this large corner in the city and get a sense of why this is a destination for visitors from all over the world.

It's hard to describe its scope and photos don't quite do it justice. Check YouTube for a guided tour by Dabl himself. Upon his arrival, the doors opened to our own trip to the Oz of Beads. They hang on the walls, from the ceilings, rest in cases (some of them 100s of years old!) and line narrow shelves filling found bottles and jars with colors, shapes and patterns that delight the eye and stimulate the imagination.

We brought some home!

As interesting as the installations and the beads was the amazing opportunity to listen to a bit of the history of this remarkable endeavor that Dabl has been working on for decades. And we only scratched a bit of the surface- there is so much more!

This excursion wrapped up with a delicious lunch at Green Dot Stables, prompting us to consider a name update to the Fiber & Food Excursion Group.

We haven't met a meal we didn't love.

Written by Kathy Bricker.

Photos by Karen Schaefer, Judy Loyd and Maria Wood's young friend, Keturah Godfrey

