

AGTA Cutting Edge Competition ***Judging Criteria and Procedures***

Summary of Rules and Judging Criteria

- The purpose of the Cutting Edge Competition is to celebrate the excellence and creativity of lapidary artists and colored gemstones.
- Entries may incorporate existing lapidary techniques; however entries in Pairs & Suites, Innovative Faceting, Carving and Objects of Art must reflect unique, new and innovative designs.
- Classic Gemstones will honor excellence in traditional cuts among Ruby, Emerald and Sapphire; Other Faceted Gemstones and Phenomenal Gemstones will also honor traditional cuts in these specific gemstones. The entries in this category will be evaluated on the following qualities:
 - 1) Quality of Lapidary Work
 - 2) Technique
 - 3) Quality/Rarity of Gem Material
 - 4) Overall Beauty
- Each entry in Pairs & Suites, Innovate Faceting, Carving and Objects of Art will be judged on the following qualities:
 - 1) Originality of Design
 - 2) Quality of Lapidary Work
 - 3) Technique
 - 4) Quality/Rarity of Gem Material
 - 5) Overall Beauty

Judging Procedures

- Elimination Round 1: All pieces will be reviewed independently by each judge. At this point all pieces that the judge does not feel should continue further in the competition will be marked “NO” on the judging form. All pieces that received a “NO” vote from all six judges will be removed from the competition.

Judges should review each remaining piece independently on its own merits.

- Elimination Round 2: All remaining pieces will be reviewed independently by each judge. At this point all pieces that the judge does not feel should continue further in the competition will be marked “NO” on the judging form. At this point judges should consider the competition within the category.

All pieces that have received a “NO” vote from all six judges will be removed from the competition.

Pieces that have received a “NO” vote from four of the six judges will be separated from the group, but not removed from the table.

- Scoring Round: **(IF NEEDED)** Each judge will review the remaining pieces and score each piece for the 5 judging points. The scores will range from 1 to 5; 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

The scores will be tallied and combined. The pieces will be placed on the tables in the order of their scores, highest to lowest.

- Placing Round: The six judges confer to determine the actual award winners. At this point all scores can be disregarded; items will be scored again individually and in relation to the remaining items. The judges exercise the right to select any first, second, and third place winner in each of the eight categories. Judges may select one honorable mention award per category.
- Cutting Edge winners may be considered for the Best of Show Award that will be presented to the best overall entry in the entire competition.