

AGTA Announces Winners of 2015 AGTA Spectrum Awards™

Dallas, Texas, October 27, 2014 --The American Gem Trade Association announced the winners of the prestigious AGTA Spectrum Awards™ today. The design competition, in its 31st year, was held in New York, October 25th and 26th. The distinguished panel of judges were: Jerrold Green, of Reginald C. Miller; Myriam Gumuchian of Gumuchian; Joseph Mardkha of ColorMasters; Tim McClelland of McTiegue & McClellan; Larry Pelzel of Neiman Marcus; and Dr. Jeffrey Post, Smithsonian Institution.

“We were thrilled with the variety of entries at this year’s AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition,” enthused Douglas K. Hucker, CEO, AGTA. “I did not envy the decisions that our judges had to make, yet I was pleased to see how carefully they deliberated over each and every decision they made, resulting in this year’s amazing list of winners,”

And the winners are....

SPECTRUM AWARDS

Best of Category Winners:



Best of Show

Leon Mege, Leon Mege, Inc. - Platinum ring featuring a 4.71 ct. Paraiba Tourmaline accented with French-cut Diamonds (1.31 ctw.).



Best Use of Color

Paula Crevoshay, Crevoshay - 18K yellow gold "The Venus Bracelet" featuring freshwater baroque cultured Pearls (91.43 ctw.) accented with pink and green Tourmalines (29.32 ctw.).



Best Use of Platinum and Color

Deirdre Featherstone, Featherstone Design - Platinum "Anemone" earrings featuring Tanzanites (5.37 ctw.) accented with blue Zircons (2.88 ctw.), purple Sapphires (3.72 ctw.), tsavorite Garnets (1.67 ctw.), indigo Tourmalines (.40 ctw.) Paraiba Tourmalines (.26 ctw.) and Diamonds (.16 ctw.).



Best Use of Pearls

Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs - 18K rose gold necklace featuring white cultured Pearls accented with pink Diamonds.



Fashion Forward

Ion Ionescu, Ionescu Design, Inc. - 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 36 ct. Turquoise accented with a 9.2mm Tahitian silver cultured Pearl, Paraiba Tourmalines (.32 ctw.) and Diamonds (.43 ctw.).



Editor's Choice:

Gregore Morin, Gregore Joailliers - 18K white gold "Sometime This Spring" earrings featuring Mexican fire Opals (68.88 ctw.) accented with round Diamonds (2.19 ctw.).

Category Winners

Bridal Wear Sponsored by The Knot:



Bridal Wear - 1st Place

Deirdre Featherstone, Featherstone Design - Platinum "Anemone" earrings featuring Tanzanites (5.37 ctw.) accented with blue Zircons (2.88 ctw.), purple Sapphires (3.72 ctw.), tsavorite Garnets (1.67 ctw.), indigo Tourmalines (.40 ctw.) Paraiba Tourmalines (.26 ctw.) and Diamonds (.16 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - 2nd Place and Manufacturing Honors

Laurence Bruyninckx, Laurence Bruyninckx - 18K rose and white gold ring featuring a .80 ct. golden Beryl accented with orange Citrines, orange Sapphires and Diamonds.

Bridal Wear - 3rd Place and Platinum Honors

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry - Platinum earrings featuring Diamond slices (7.07 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.67 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Platinum Honors

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry - Platinum earrings featuring Diamond slices (7.07 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.67 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Entry Platinum Innovation

Susan Drake, Spectrum Art & Jewelry - Platinum "Tilt-A-Whirl" ring featuring a 2.06 ct. Tanzanite accented with Diamonds (1.63 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Gem Diva Award

Suzanne Kalandjian, Suzanne Kalan - 18K white gold necklace featuring a 30mm white Topaz accented with white Diamonds (3.70 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Laurence Bruyninckx, Laurence Bruyninckx - 18K rose and white gold ring featuring a .80 ct. golden Beryl accented with orange Citrines, orange Sapphires and Diamonds.

Bridal Wear - Honorable Mention

Bella Campbell, Campbellian - Platinum earrings featuring Aquamarines (5.61 ctw.) and grossular Garnets (3.51 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.56 ctw.).

Business/ Day Wear:



Business/Day Wear - 1st Place

Jennifer Rabe Morin, Silverhorn - 18K rose gold ring featuring carved Turquoise (29.0 ctw.) accented with Amethyst cabochons (14.0 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - 2nd Place

Elizabeth Garvin, Elizabeth Garvin Fine - 18K gold and sterling silver "Jewel" ring featuring a 24.6 ct. green Quartz accented with Diamonds (.23 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - 3rd Place

Heath London, Heath London Jewelry - 18K yellow gold and copper "In The Swim" earrings featuring Paraiba Tourmalines (7.11 ctw.) accented with pink Tourmalines (2.23 ctw.) and Diamonds (.80 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Platinum Honors

Phillip Dismuke, Jewelsmith - Platinum "Blooming" ring featuring a 21.40 ct. Opal accented with spessartite Garnets (1.35 ctw.) and Diamonds.

Business/Day Wear - Gem Diva Award

Elizabeth Garvin, Elizabeth Garvin Fine - 18K gold and sterling silver "Jewel" ring featuring a 24.6 ct. green Quartz accented with Diamonds (.23 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Ryan Roberts, Ryan Roberts, Ltd. - 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 11.25 ct. Chrysocolla accented with tsavorite Garnets (.56 ctw.) and Diamonds (.62 ctw.).

Classical:



Classical - 1st Place

Leon Mege, Leon Mege, Inc. - Platinum ring featuring a 4.71 ct. Paraiba Tourmaline accented with French-cut Diamonds (1.31 ctw.).

Classical – 2nd Place

Heena Chheda, Real Gems, Inc. - 18K white gold "Ophion's Treasure" ring featuring Emeralds (6.74 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (2.19 ctw.).

Classical - 3rd Place

Evelyn Huang, China Art & Fine Jewelry, Inc. - 18K yellow and white gold "Midnight Kiss" ring featuring a 5.76 ct. unheated blue Sapphire accented with white and yellow Diamonds (1.18 ctw.), blue Sapphires (.91 ctw.) and tsavorite Garnets (.79 ctw.).

Classical - Platinum Honors

Rex McClure, Sohn & McClure Jewelers - Platinum ring featuring a 4.16 ct. Emerald accented with white Diamond baguettes (1.20 ctw.) and yellow Diamonds (.21 ctw.).

Classical - Entry Platinum Innovation

Mimi Favre, Mimi Favre Studio - Platinum "Etude d'Vert" earrings featuring tapered drops of shades of green Tourmalines (15.50 ctw.).

Classical - Gem Diva Award

Caroline Chartuni, Caroline C - 18K white gold "Astra" ring featuring a 24.16 ct. star Sapphire accented with Diamonds (8.08 ctw.).

Classical - Manufacturing Honors

Deirdre Featherstone, Featherstone Design - Platinum ring featuring a 5.81 ct. green Sapphire accented with Diamonds (3.87 ctw.).

Evening Wear:



Evening Wear - 1st Place

Maria Canale, Suna Bros. Inc. - Platinum and 20K pink gold bracelet featuring multi-colored natural Spinels (44.31 ctw.) accented with white Diamonds (6.80 ctw.) and pink Diamonds (1.00 ctw.).

Evening Wear - 2nd Place

Erica Courtney, Erica Courtney, Inc. - 18K yellow gold "Milky Way" earrings featuring Opal drops (46.06 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (1.98 ctw.) and Paraiba Tourmalines (2.03 ctw.).

Evening Wear - 3rd Place

Gil, Gil Int'l - Platinum ring featuring a 6.50 ct. Alexandrite accented with Diamonds.

Evening Wear - Platinum Honors

Cara Becker Lichtenstein, My Blue Heaven - Platinum bracelet featuring multicolored Tourmalines (7.26 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (1.29 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Gem Diva Award

Maria Canale, Suna Bros. Inc. - Platinum and 20K pink gold bracelet featuring multi-colored natural Spinels (44.31 ctw.) accented with white Diamonds (6.80 ctw.) and pink Diamonds (1.00 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Linda Quinn, Linda Quinn Designs - 14K white gold ring featuring a 6.11 ct. pink Tourmaline accented with Diamonds (1.24 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Honorable Mention

Wendy Brandes, Wendy Brandes Jewelry - 18K pink gold "Pink Elephant & Topsy Writer Maneater" ring featuring a pink Sapphire elephant (2.0 ctw.) accented with a Ruby and brown and white Diamonds (2.23 ctw.).

Men's Wear:



Men's Wear - 1st Place

Dawn Muscio, D. Muscio Fine Jewelry Studio - 18K red gold and stainless steel "Pink2" cufflinks featuring pillow cut Morganites (8.74 ctw.) accented with Rubies (.87 ctw.) and Diamonds (.60 ctw.).

Men's Wear - 2nd Place

Mark Schneider, Somewhere in the Rainbow - Platinum ring featuring a 16.73 ct. Tourmaline accented with yellow Diamonds (.67 ctw.) and tsavorite Garnets (1.02 ctw.).

Men's Wear - 3rd Place

Micheal Kanners, Michael Kanners - 18K blackened gold cufflinks featuring Tanzanites 20.06 ctw.) accented with tsavorite Garnet (6.5 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Platinum Honors

Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs - Platinum "His and His" rings featuring brown natural Diamonds (5.68 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Honorable Mention

William Travis, William Travis Jewelry - 18K yellow gold and sterling silver ring featuring a 13.17 ct. Citrine.

Classic Cut Gemstones:



Classic Gemstone - 1st Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - 20.24 ct. emerald-cut unheated yellow Sapphire.

Classic Gemstone - 2nd Place

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp. - 19.06 ct. brilliant, step-cut unheated blue Sapphire.

Classic Gemstone - 3rd Place

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp. - 5.00 ct. oval pink Sapphire.

Classic Gemstone - Honorable Mention

Alan Hackman, Intercolor - 38.06 ct. blue Sapphire.

All Other Faceted:



All Other Faceted - 1st Place

Hemant Phophaliya, AG Color, Inc. - 43.96 ct. oval cabochon Tanzanite.

All Other Faceted - 2nd Place

Mikola Kukharuk, Nomad's - 12.99 ct. oval mint grossular Garnet.

All Other Faceted - 3rd Place

Mikola Kukharuk, Nomad's - 28.21 ct. Imperial Topaz.

All Other Faceted - Honorable Mention

Mikola Kukharuk, Nomad's - 115.48 ct. emerald-cut Heliodor.

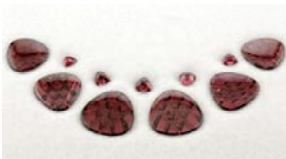
Phenomenal Gemstones:



Phenomenal - 1st Place

Robert Shapiro, Robert Shapiro - Natural split pair of boulder Opals (60.50 ctw.).

Pairs and Suites:



Pairs & Suites - 1st Place

Dalan Hargrave, Geogem-USA - Rhodolite Garnet suite (138.49 ctw.).

Pairs & Suites - 2nd Place

Mikola Kukharuk, Nomad's - Pair of Imperial Topaz (70.14 ctw.).

Pairs & Suites - 3rd Place

Hemant Phophaliya, A G Color, Inc. - Fancy pear-shaped Tanzanites (88.30 ctw.).

Pairs & Suites - Honorable Mention

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - Suite of pear-shaped unheated yellow Sapphires (57.73 ctw.).

Innovative Faceting:



Innovative Faceting - 1st Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co. - 63.19 ct. fancy round curprian Tourmaline.

Innovative Faceting - 2nd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co. - 67.92 ct. swirling "Nebula" Ametrine.

Innovative Faceting - 3rd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co. - 19.43 ct. "Royal Velvet" Tanzanite.

Carving:



Carving - 1st Place

Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs - "Rose de France" Amethyst carving (1015 ctw.).

Carving - 2nd Place

Bernie Benavidez, Master Jewelers - "The Eye of Genesis" Opal carving (260 ctw.).

Carving - 3rd Place

Darryl Alexander, Nirinjan - 102 ct. specialty-cut Sunstone.

Objects of Art:



Objects of Art - 1st Place

Robyn Dufty, DuftyWeis Opals, Inc. - Black Chalcedony perfume bottle with a carved Mexican fire Opal flower stopper (42.30 ctw.) accented with 18K yellow gold.

Objects of Art - 2nd Place

Darryl Alexander, Somewhere In The Rainbow - 18K yellow gold and sterling silver "Doctor's Orders" featuring black Jade accented with crystal Opal and mammoth Ivory.

Objects of Art - 3rd Place

Alishan Halebian, Alishan - 18K yellow gold and oxidized sterling silver letter opener / dagger featuring fossil walrus Ivory accented with Rubies (6.09 ctw.), Sapphires (3.98 ctw.), white Diamonds (.15 ctw.) and black Diamonds (.75 ctw.).

Objects of Art - Honorable Mention

Adam Ramseyer, Ramstar Designs - Sterling silver and 14K gold spacecraft pendant with docking station featuring a 30 ct. fantasy-cut Ametrine accented with Tourmalines, Emeralds, Alexandrites, Lazulites, tsavorite Garnets, Amethysts, Diamonds and Sapphires.

This year's AGTA Spectrum Awards™ will be presented during the 2015 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson to be held February 3 - 8 at the Tucson Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona. Winning entries will be displayed during the show and AGTA Spectrum Awards™ recipients will be recognized during the AGTA Dinner Dance and Awards Gala. The event starts at 7:00 pm Saturday, February 7. Tickets for the gala are \$100 and cocktail attire is encouraged.

AGTA Spectrum Awards™ entries were judged on the basis of overall beauty and wearability, innovative design, effective use of materials, quality of gemstones, quality of workmanship, broad-base consumer appeal and potential to generate positive publicity for natural colored gemstones.

AGTA Cutting Edge Awards™ honor excellence and creativity in lapidary arts, including natural colored gemstones and cultured pearls, carvings, and other gem materials.

Bridal Wear Sponsored by The Knot - Whether gracing the bridesmaids or donning the bride, herself, this category captures all looks coming down the aisle. Engagement rings, wedding bands, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and tiaras were considered.

Platinum Honors were once again awarded with the support of Platinum Guild International. All entries whose primary metal was platinum were eligible in this category.

WJA Gem Diva Awards is in its third year with the Spectrum Awards with the support of WJA, and were presented in the Bridal Wear, Evening Wear, Classical and Business/Day Wear categories. All women who entered the Spectrum Awards competition were eligible for this category simply by marking the check-box for Gem Diva on their entry form.

All designs that qualified for the Spectrum Awards competition were considered for **Manufacturing Honors**. This award celebrates outstanding use of colored gemstones and cultured pearls in jewelry appropriate to be manufactured in production quantities.

Fashion Forward Honors recognizes the outstanding use of colored gemstone and/or cultured pearl in artful, trend-setting jewelry. All necklaces, earrings, bracelets or other jewelry that qualified for judging in the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition automatically qualified for Fashion Forward Honors judging.

For further information on the 2015 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson or the AGTA Dinner Dance and Awards Gala, please call (800) 972-1162 or visit our website at www.agta.org. For inquiries regarding the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition, please contact Megan Whitmire at megan@agta.org or (800) 972-1162.

The American Gem Trade Association is a not-for-profit Association serving the natural colored gemstone and cultured pearl industry since 1981. The AGTA serves the industry as "The Authority In Color" and has its headquarter office in Dallas, Texas.

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