

AGTA PRISM

VOL 1 – 2016

The 2016 Leon Ritzler
Honorary Member Award

2016 – Rose Quartz and Serenity
are Pantone's Colors

FIRM PROFILE

Tracy Lindwall, Nomads

The AGTA Spectrum Awards™
Judging the Competition

2016 AGTA
Spectrum™ Awards

Golden Rutiled Quartz
from Bahia, Brazil

MEMBER PROFILE

Amber Gustafson – Amber's Designs

Alex Menesses

JEWELS OF THE

TRADE

Sooner or later, the world's most extraordinary gems will cross paths with

RAHUL KADAKIA.

Here, Christie's Senior VP, Head of Jewelry Americas, shares priceless insight into the jewelry business and the value of an expert education.

A master eye for gems ... born or made? Coming from four generations of jewelers undoubtedly piqued my interest in this great business. But one needs to constantly train their eye by looking at gems – the more you learn, the better you will be at identifying and pricing gems, as well as being an effective salesperson and well-rounded businessman.

Something most people don't know about you. GIA is what brought me to Christie's. After studying in Santa Monica, I attended a GIA Career Fair where I had my first interview with the company.

Ok. Definitely a story there? I started work when I was 17 and five years into it, I thought I knew pretty much everything there was to know ... until I enrolled at GIA. The Institute's meticulous training and high standards exposed me to a whole new world of expertise.

Ultimate sales edge ... emotion or expertise? Jewelry is an emotional shopping experience, but expertise plays a decisive role. It's wonderful to show people a brilliant diamond, but it means more when you can follow up with a skillful explanation of the 4Cs exemplified in that particular gem.

Lean economy. Less jewelry? At the nexus of the downturn in late 2008, we sold the Wittelsbach Blue Diamond for \$24 million, a world record price back then for any gem ever sold at auction. When you have great gems and jewels, the money makes itself available.

Any advice to the up and coming? Don't lose the passion that brought you to this business, and above all, keep learning every day.

GIA gratefully acknowledges those who use our resources to further world expertise in gems. Invest in your success at WWW.GIA.EDU



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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The American Gem Trade Association is a not-for-profit association of United States and Canadian gemstone professionals dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of natural colored gemstones and cultured pPearls.

Founded in 1981, the AGTA has over 1,200 members representing leading colored gemstone and cultured Pearl wholesalers, retailers, manufacturers, designers, colored Diamond dealers, estate dealers and industry professionals.

AGTA Members are proud to uphold the highest ethical standards, agreeing to the Association's strict Code of Ethics and full disclosure of gemstone enhancements.

Membership provides you with many exclusive benefits and services: Members are eligible to exhibit at some of the most important annual events in the gemstone and jewelry industry, including AGTA GemFair™ Tucson, AGTA GemFair™ at the JCK Las Vegas Show, and AGTA Pavilions at the JA New York Summer Show and The Smart Jewelry Show in Chicago.

Members are featured in the AGTA Source Directory, both the printed and online versions. This is a powerful tool that gives access to a valuable network of fellow gemstone professionals. Over 15,000 copies are distributed!

Members stay informed about the AGTA, hot topics surrounding our industry, gemstone & jewelry fashion with the quarterly *Prism* & weekly *ePrism*.

Members have access to leading industry programs. These programs include Bank of America Merchant Services, FedEx Express®, FedEx Declared Value, FedEx Office, Association Health Programs and car rentals with Avis and Budget.

Members can also access our AGTA Online Community and gain valuable knowledge from our AGTA GemFair™ Tucson Seminar USBs and eLearning Platform.

The professionalism of AGTA Members continues to set them apart from the competition. 🌈

Prism: For further information or to advertise, please contact:

American Gem Trade Association
3030 LBJ Frwy., Ste. 840, Dallas, TX 75234
T: 800-972-1162
F: 214-742-7334
info@agta.org
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COVER: Alex Meneses

Photographer - Andrew MacPherson. Production and Styling - Todd Hallman for Ivy Eleven. Hair - Steven Lewis for Exclusive Artist Management. Makeup - Agostina for Exclusive Artist Management. Manicurist - Jolene Brodeur for Ivy Eleven. Wardrobe - Anon: Vintage Black Strapless Gown (Available at Decades, Los Angeles). Earring: Bella Campbell, Campbellian - 18K yellow gold earrings featuring blue-green Tourmalines (17.05 ctw.) accented with Emeralds (4.14 ctw.). Necklace: Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs - 18K yellow gold necklace featuring strands of Turquoise beads (814 ctw.) with Diamond rondelles. Ring 1: Kim Hurlbert-Sarosi, Sarosi by Timeless Gems - 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 16.10 ct. Imperial Topaz accented with Diamonds (.56 ctw.). Ring 2: Ricardo Basta, E. Eichberg, Inc. - 18K yellow gold "Enchanted Frog" ring featuring Carnelian, tsavorite Garnets and Diamonds (.18 ctw.).

FROM THE PRESIDENT

RUBEN BINDRA



DEAR FRIENDS,

Four years ago, in February 2012, I was given an immense honor and was elected President of the American Gem Trade Association. As I write this letter for the last time as the President of AGTA, I cannot help but reflect on the four years that I have been in this position.

AGTA is an association of Gemstone, Cultured Pearls and Jewelry industry professionals who hold themselves to the highest ethical standards in the world. Our association is respected worldwide as we set standards in disclosure of all treatments. It has been an honor to represent such an elite and amazing group of professionals as their President.

When I took over the office in 2012, there was a petition representing more than half of our voting membership to make certain key changes to our constitution and bylaws. It was an amazing undertaking that was accomplished by rewriting the bylaws of our association for the first time in a very long time. I need to thank our Constitution Committee, led by Jeffrey Bilgore, and our legal counsel, Dale Henry, for their tremendous work and guidance.

I feel I am leaving AGTA in sound financial health. In a relatively short time we went from bleeding money to having a pretty handsome reserve which we call a rainy day fund. It was accomplished by cutting costs and being diligent with our finances. While adding to our bottom line every year, we cut our membership dues in half each year as well and I hope that the incoming President will fight for this cut as well.

The AGTA GemFair™ Tucson is the most important event that AGTA produces. Not long ago we had several empty booths in the main hall and it did not look good. With the hard work and focused vision of our Show Committee, led by Mr. Avi Raz, we were able to make key changes to fill every booth and now we have a waiting list for floor space. Once again, I thank every member who served on this committee for their help and focused work.

AGTA is on the forefront to address the transparency in the supply chain issue. Our members are held to the highest ethical standards in the world. Our members abide by all laws of our land and by the laws of any country where they conduct business. We sign an annual Code of Ethics document to retain our membership in our association. As I write this, a committee led by our past President, Mr. Ray Zajicek, is working to address this very important issue. In the very near future AGTA will announce our new Code of Ethics.

This last year has been challenging for all of us in this business. While the general feeling is that the economy has improved a lot since our great recession of 2008, I think our industry has had a rough year. Several key markets such as China, Japan and Europe have slowed down and that has affected our businesses as well. We live in a global economy today; and no wonder we all face consequences of a slowdown even half a globe away. But I stay very optimistic about the future of our industry. It is very encouraging to see the next generation of gemstone dealers. It gives me immense pleasure when I see youngsters joining the family business. The future is bright for these youngsters as the foundation built by us is deep and strong. I am so proud that both my kids, Dave and Sabrina, have joined our business and found passion in an amazing industry.

Once again I give my gratitude to God for giving me this amazing opportunity to serve our association as President and to all my fellow Board members who worked tirelessly to help achieve our success. My sincere thanks to our entire staff in Dallas for working hard and getting things done. 🌈

I wish all of you an amazing 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Bindra'.

Ruben Bindra
President



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RUBY

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FROM THE CEO

DOUGLAS K. HUCKER



AGTA'S ANNUAL FALL EVENT – THE AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™ IS MOVING TO SUMMER!

One of the industry's most highly anticipated events each year is our AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition. In the more than thirty years since its inaugural event in 1984, the Spectrum Awards have become the pinnacle of competition for the design community and remain the benchmark of achievement for designers using colored gemstones and cultured Pearls. Many designers who long ago established their credentials and achieved commercial success still see the Spectrum Awards as a true measure of their creative muse and they compete head-to-head with new young designers, eager to make their mark in the jewelry design world.

This year, AGTA will move the dates of the competition judging from October to July. Although the competition has been judged in the fall for nearly thirty years, there were a number of reasons we decided to try an earlier date for the event. One was the competition with international trade shows, primarily the September Hong Kong Show. Many designers and gemstone traders experienced difficulty getting their jewelry and gemstones back in time for the entry deadline in late September. The new summer dates will allow for more entries. It will also be judged in time to get the jewelry back in the hands of our designers well prior to the ever important selling season.

This year we had nearly 500 entries in the event, and our Editor's Event was attended by a galaxy of consumer fashion magazine editors, social media mavens, bloggers and style industry experts. The annual competition has become the go-to event for the fashion and jewelry industry media to see the design trends for the coming year. Each and every entry is previewed and our media attendees also select our Editor's Choice winner. Our judges, made up of seasoned industry veterans, select three winners in each of five categories, Evening Wear, Business/Daywear, Classical, Bridal and Menswear. We also select a winner for *Best Use of Color*, *Best Use of Pearl*, *Fashion Forward* and *Best of Show*. And we have winners in categories selected by our industry partners/sponsors. The Platinum Guild awards a winner in each of the five major categories to designers using platinum, along with a *Best Use of Platinum and Color* and *Platinum Innovation Awards*. The Silver Promotion Service gives awards to designers creating in silver in each of the five categories, and a *Best Use of Silver and Color Award*. The Women's Jewelry Association celebrates women designers with its *WJA Diva Awards* in four of the Spectrum categories. *The Knot*, the bridal industry's leading media organization, sponsors our Bridal Category in the competition.

After two full days of judging, followed by a full day of media exposure, the winning entries are whisked off to Los Angeles where they are photographed on celebrity actors by top fashion photographer Andrew MacPherson and styled by Tod Hallman. Past celebrities adorned by our jewelry include Taraji P. Henson (*Empire*), Morena Baccarin (*Gotham* and *Vanity Fair's* "Most Beautiful Woman in the World"), Ming-Na Wen (*Agents of Shield*) and Bellamy Young (*Scandal*). This year's celebrities were Alex Meneses (*Telenovela*) and Erika Christensen (*Wicked City*). Our celebrity actors, with social media followings that number in the millions, are helping the AGTA Spectrum Award™ winners get in front of the public eye.

The AGTA Spectrum Awards™ are a design institution. If you are a regular entrant, be sure to make plans for an earlier competition this year. If you have not yet entered the competition maybe this is the year that you do, and you may find out why many designers who have won say winning it can be a "life changing" experience. You may be reading this while you are shopping at the AGTA GemFair™ Tucson. If you are, step down on the GemHall Floor and visit the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ exhibit in aisle 1600 and see this year's winners.

Best wishes for a successful 2016! 🌈

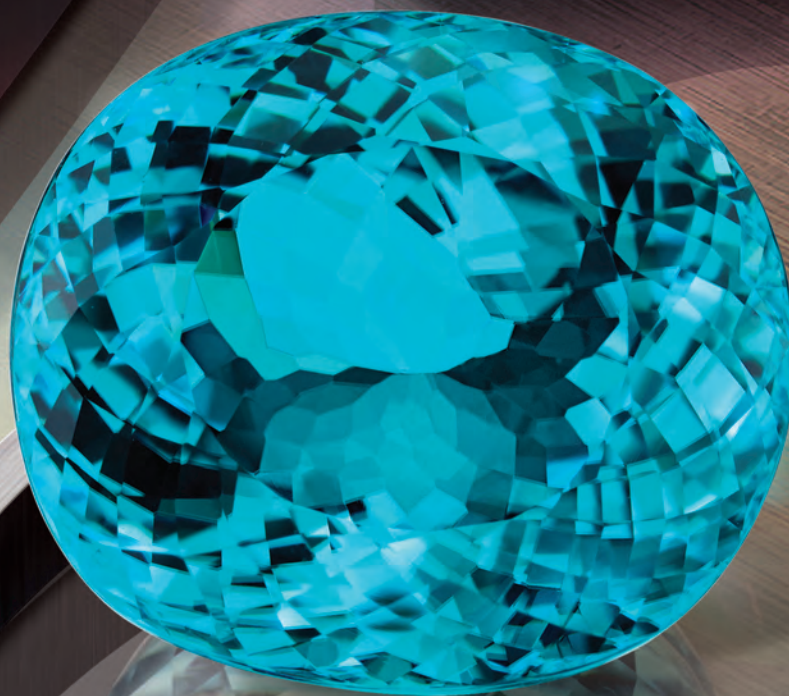
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DKH', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Douglas K. Hucker
Chief Executive Officer

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THE 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE LEON RITZLER HONORARY MEMBER AWARD: CHARLOTTE PRESTON

During its formation, when the AGTA defined the different Member classifications, they included an Honorary Member category. The Honorary Member could be any person selected by the Board of Directors who had made a meaningful contribution to the growth and/or improvement of the natural colored gemstone industry. Many illustrious names are on this list today, including Dr. Edward Gubelin, Richard Liddicoat, and Harold and Erica Van Pelt, to mention just a few.

In 2001, this award was re-named the Leon Ritzler Honorary Member Award in order to commemorate Leon Ritzler, the first president of our Association. The naming of this award forever honors his service to the AGTA and his dedication to promoting ethics in our industry.

It is never an easy task for the Board of Directors to decide on the most worthy individual, as our industry



has many well-deserving people who have made significant contributions. This year our choice was an easy one - we selected Charlotte Preston. We lost Charlotte this past October and while we mourn her passing we may still celebrate her life and how she touched all of ours.

Charlotte was a native of Sublette, Kansas. She received her undergraduate degree from Manhattan Bible College and a graduate degree in English from Kansas State University. Charlotte taught at Marymount College in Salina, Kansas and at the University of Southern California.


Her career in the jewelry industry began when she joined the staff of the American Gem Society, initially as Publications Manager and eventually rising to Assis-

tant Executive Director. It was through the AGS that I met Charlotte where she was deeply involved in the annual AGS Conclave, the Association's annual education conference. During her eight year tenure at the AGS she also served as Executive Director of the Jeweler's Education Foundation.

Together with her wife, Mary Kurth and their son Jake, Charlotte moved to Minnesota in 1993, and began her own business, Charlotte Preston Catalysts, Inc., and became a leading education and business consultant to the jewelry industry nationwide. Charlotte thrived in her business and was truly a catalyst for change and growth to a wide range of jewelry organizations and businesses including the AGS, JCK Shows, and

the Retail Jewelers Organization. She performed business planning and facilitated strategic planning meetings for numerous jewelry groups as well as individuals. Those of us at the AGTA knew Charlotte best as our seminar guru. Charlotte recruited speakers, planned schedules, coordinated logistics and produced the programs from start to finish. With over thirty unique seminars and panel presentations at the Gem-Fair each year, Charlotte built and nurtured the most comprehensive educational program offered at any jewelry industry event. Through her efforts, in this capacity alone, Charlotte was responsible for improving the business success of individuals.

Those of us who knew Charlotte well also knew her as a deeply spiritual person. Her life's work as an agent of change also encompassed individuals who benefitted from a laser-like focus, a mad scary intellect, and one of the most compassionate and empathetic people I have ever met.

Dedicated to community service, Charlotte was a past member of the White Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and was an active leader in her congregation, serving as President of White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church in Mahtomedi, and on the Board of Directors of the Mid-America Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.  By Douglas Hucker

"For though
some nature
bids us
all lament,
yet nature's
tears are
reason's
merriment."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Her career in the jewelry industry began when she joined the staff of the American Gem Society, initially as Publications Manager and eventually rising to Assis-

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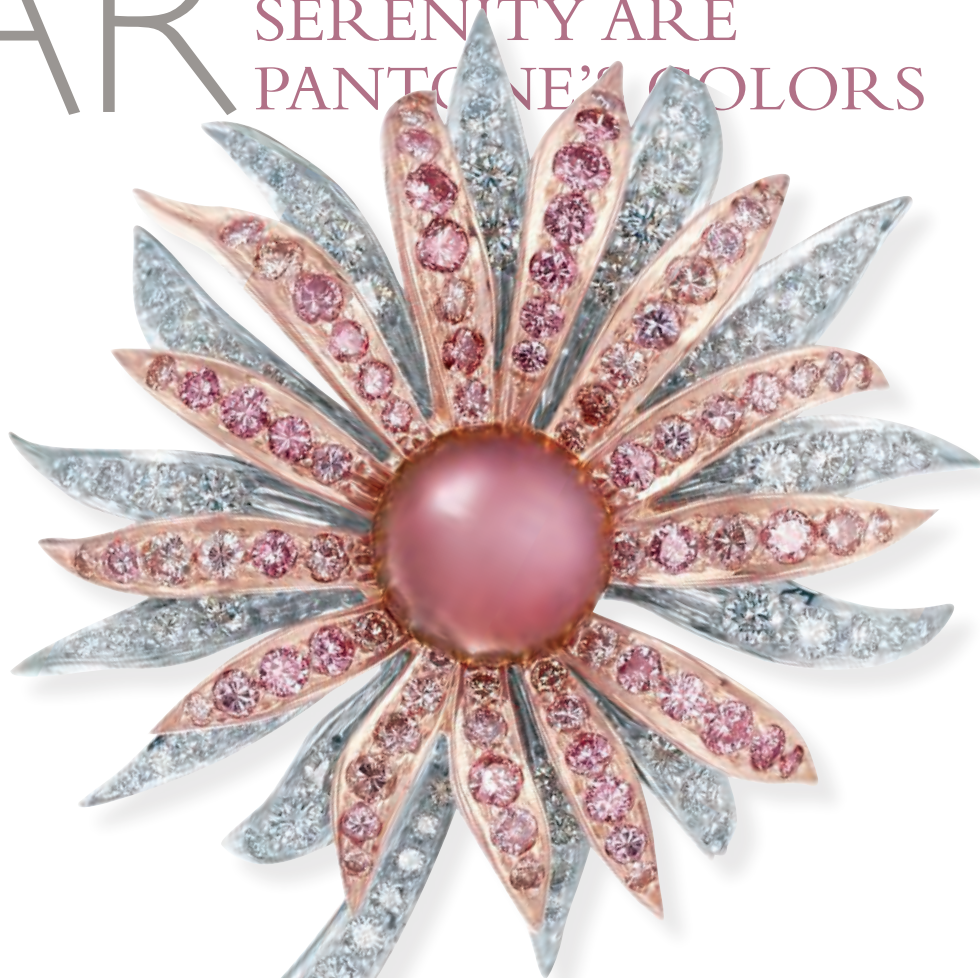
AGTA



COLOR OF THE YEAR

ROSE QUARTZ AND SERENITY ARE PANTONE'S COLORS

Right: Gumuchian
18K pink gold and
platinum brooch
featuring a 10.5-11mm
eggplant Pearl accented
with pink Diamonds
(2.80 ctw.) and white
Diamonds (2.50 ctw.).



Tranquility, inner peace and comfort are just a few of the feelings that gemstones will evoke this year. Pantone has named Rose Quartz and Serenity as its “Colors of the Year” for 2016 and the “harmonious pairing” of these two soft shades are meant to help ease the everyday stresses of modern life.

“We’re always looking at the mood of the society, so to speak, from a cultural stand point,” explains the Pantone Color Institute’s Executive Director, Leatrice Eiseman. “Because of the fact that well-being is something that people are using as an expression now – wanting to feel better about a lot of things psychologically as well as physically – the idea that there’s a

need for reassurance and security [are] outstanding reasons why people would look for a particular color that would represent those ideas,” Eiseman says. Rose Quartz has a sense of compassion and composure and a gentle strength while weightless and airy; Serenity is associated with calmness and tranquility and has a relaxed, serene feeling. Consumers are drawn to this combination because it’s strong, yet calming and subtly romantic, which makes it appealing for many products including cosmetics and accessories. Intriguingly, this is the first time Pantone has selected two shades as the “Colors of the Year.” “It’s the pairing of the two that really gives it that extra appeal and that’s why we headed in that direction,” said Eiseman. The decision is significant because it offers opportunities for designers, manufacturers, retailers or anyone who is



Far Left: Gumuchian
18K pink gold feather
brooch featuring natural
pink Sapphires (3.11
ctw.) and Diamonds
(.57 ctw.).

Left: Jane Taylor
Jewelry
18K gold one-of-a-kind
"Cirque Cloud" swing
ring featuring pink
Tourmalines and pink
Sapphires.

in the business of color to see the potential of mixing the two colors and the possibility "to really get their creative mojo going," says Eiseman.

In the world of fashion, Rose Quartz and Serenity were trending heavily on the runway for Spring for both men and women. In fact, Rose Quartz was the number one color appearing in over 20 percent of the collections and Serenity ranked a close third. Think notable designers such as Emilio Pucci, BCBGMAX-AZRIA, Leanne Marshall and Richard James. "When we're in the process of selecting the "Colors of the Year," in this case the 'Colors of the Year', obviously fashion is one area that we look to because fashion designers are more inclined to push the envelope a little bit to make a statement in the colors that they select," says Eiseman noting that Pantone also looks at the worlds of art,

entertainment, pop culture and interior design. Rose Quartz and Serenity are reflected in a variety of current fashion trends including soft, romantic looks and the loungewear trend that has emerged for Spring. Playful escapism was a theme in many collections with the colors appearing together in floral prints, patterns, stripes and plaids as well as color blocking. Pantone foresees this color combination to be popular throughout the year with variations in hues, textures and fabrications ranging from ethereal chiffons, lightweight linens and cottons for Spring, to plush, comforting wools and faux furs for Fall. The "Colors of the Year" also reflects the current non-gender trend or 'gender blur' happening in fashion and society, which is in turn challenging the more traditional perceptions around color association – think pink for men and blue for women as the 'new normal.'

Clockwise from Upper Right:

Dawes Design
Lifestyle Stack Ring
14K yellow and rose gold stackable rings featuring a lavender Sapphire and rhodolite Garnet accented with Diamonds.

Oscar Heyman
Aquamarine Pink and Sapphire Earrings
Platinum earrings featuring Aquamarines (6.60 ctw.) accented with pink Sapphires (2.78 ctw.) and Diamonds (.26 ctw.).

Omi Prive
18K rose gold earrings featuring pink Tourmalines (10.46 ctw.) accented with blue Sapphires (.17 ctw.) and Diamonds (.46 ctw.) by Omi Prive designed in collaboration with Rémy Rotenier.

Caroline C
18K yellow gold ring featuring a 13.01 ct. Aquamarine accented with Diamonds (1.05 ctw.).

Caroline C
18K yellow gold stud earrings featuring multicolored Sapphires (6.02 ctw.) and Diamonds (.24 ctw.).

When designing jewelry this season, it's important to think outside the box. "For anybody who's into the world of design particularly in jewelry and gemstones, I would think that this is a great opportunity to do something more unique to catch the consumer's eye," says Eiseman. While Rose Quartz and Serenity are beautiful paired together,



er, there are many possibilities including adding a third and unexpected gemstone such as Peridot or Amethyst as an accent. "We're seeing much more evidence of multi-colored gemstones being used together," says Eiseman, explaining that the idea is similar to color blocking in fashion. "I've seen evidence of that particularly in rings especially in some of the customized work that we were looking at. And in [the gem] world it's fabulous because it gives the opportunity to use it so graphically and so beautifully in a piece of jewelry." Rose Quartz and Serenity pair together well with mid-tones including cool greens, purples and all shades



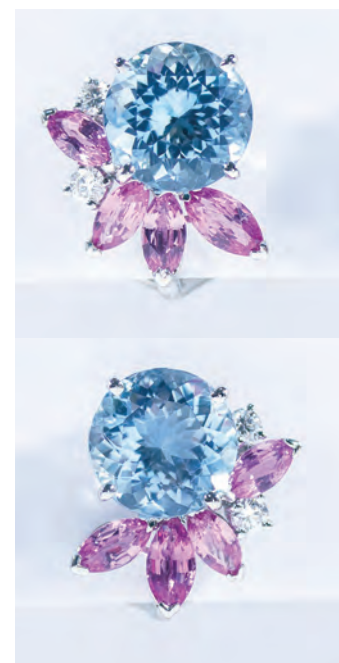
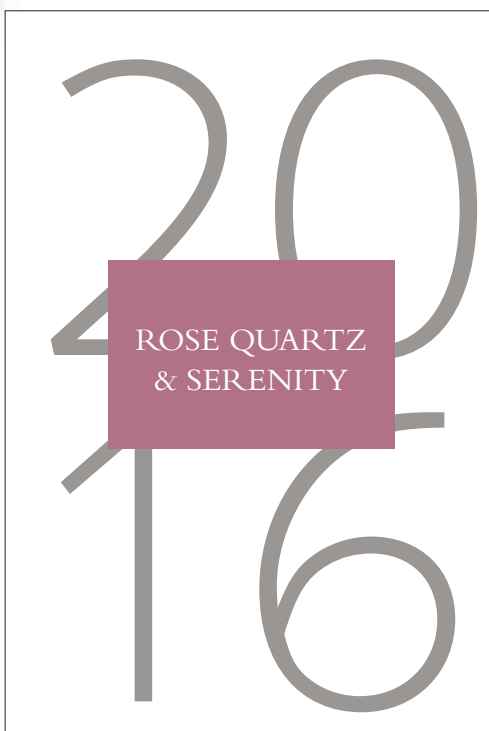
of yellow and pink as well as the unexpected combination of rich brown tones. "We know that in the last few years brown Diamonds have

gotten a lot of attention, and a gemstone like that in the brown family, in chocolate, being used with those two shades would be spectacular," says Eiseman. For metals, again it's utilizing a unique application rather than the expected. A cool metallic such as silver pairs beautifully with either color, but the juxtaposition of a warm metallic such as rose gold would be a more interesting direction.

A natural fit for this season's fashion trends, Rose Quartz and Serenity can be incorporated into many styles of jewelry. Rings are a given, Eiseman says, and there can be beautiful applications on brace-



could radiate a beautiful color," she explains. "Earrings, of course, are an obvious place as well." The red carpet may be the perfect opportunity for the "Colors of the Year" to shine during the upcoming award season. While many actresses choose to wear deep dramatic tones, according to Eiseman there has been more of an inclination to wear lighter, pastel tones in the last few



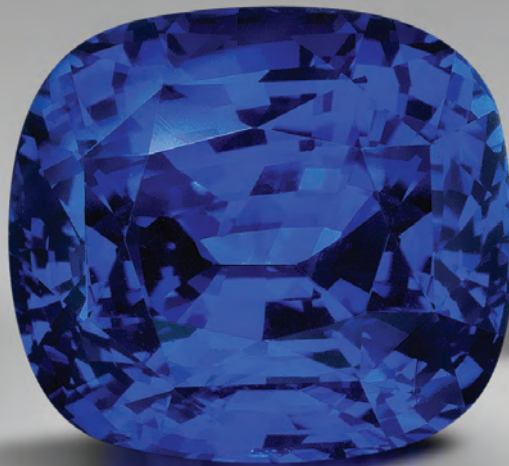
lets, watches, hair ornaments and brooches. Think Patricia Locke for a retro nostalgia look. While there's a more limited usage of gemstones for men, the colors could come into play for jewelry such as high school and college rings, watches, tie clips and cufflinks. One of the biggest opportunities for the "Colors of the Year" Eiseman says, is accessorizing or updating a solid color outfit such as a woman's dress by creatively integrating a mix of the gemstones in a necklace, bracelet or any kind of jewelry. "I think in terms first of something around the neck because the Rose Quartz in particular is such a flattering tone next to the skin that I think you would want to get it up close to the face where it

years. Both colors are very flattering against many skin tones accenting pink makeup, blue eyes or dresses in those shades. Visualize a cool, yet calm aura created by Serenity and a lighthearted, healthy glow reflected with Rose Quartz to create a soft and natural statement for the season. 🌈 By N. Jayne Seward





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MEMBER PROFILE

NOMAD'S, MEMBER OF RECORD: TRACY LINDWALL



While walking the AGTA GemFair Tucson™, you find many interesting, knowledgeable individuals. One of the many exceptional AGTA Firm Members you will find is Nomad's. The company thoughtfully represented by Member of Record, Tracy Lindwall. *Meet Tracy...*

Will you share about you, where you grew up, and your family today?

Aside from Chicago, where I grew up, I have lived in California, New Zealand, Bangkok and now New York. I guess you could say I've always been a bit of a nomad at heart. My family still lives in Chicago but my extended friend-family has grown over the years to include a wonderful group of people from all over the world. I feel really fortunate to be able to connect with so many different cultures while working in this industry.

Tell us the fascinating story of how you got your start in the colored gemstone business. I've always liked rocks and photography. My favorite courses in university were mineralogy, photography and physics. My dream was to travel the world exploring the outdoors looking at rocks and taking pictures. I knew little about Gemology until I heard it mentioned on a jewelry store commercial. As a result, I looked into where to take Gemology courses and naturally found GIA. A few months later I graduated from university with a B.S. in Earth Science and B.A. in Art and started working for The Vault Gallery in Santa Cruz. The team at The Vault was incredibly special and I was exposed not only to colored gemstones but also to wonderful jewelry designers from all over the world, some of whom I still have the opportunity to work with at Nomads.

While at The Vault, I took the GIA Graduate Diamonds course through distance education, but really wanted to take the Colored Stones course on campus in order to get more exposure to the exciting world of gems. After researching, I decided to go to the GIA Thailand campus to study so that I'd be closer to the heart of the colored stone market. This was the stepping stone to my involvement with Nomads.

Tell us more about the person who introduced you to the jewelry industry and about your love for colored gemstones?

My love of colored stones started as a young rock hound: Bornite (peacock ore) was my favorite. In university, I loved the mineralogy classes, especially when we were on field trips and collected samples for identification. Working at The Vault and then studying at GIA further developed my passion. By the time I moved to Bangkok, I already knew this was the industry I wanted to be in and tried to immerse myself in it as much as I could. Along the way there were so many amazing teachers, bosses, managers and co-workers that helped me to develop my knowledge and skill in this incredible industry.

Who were your early mentors in the colored gemstone trade?

The whole team at The Vault really was instrumental in shaping my jewelry career. That's the first place I learned about jewelry, gems, customer service and sales. We were an AGS store and one particular year I had the opportunity to go to the the American Gem Society Education-

al Conclave in Chicago. I attended a lecture on Field Gemology by Edward Boehm. This was inspiring because I love being out in the field, love gems, and who doesn't love a little adventure from time to time.

The lecture was, in fact, one of the reasons I sought out Vincent Pardieu (fieldgemology.org) when I arrived in Bangkok. I was very fortunate to travel with Vincent, who does field research for GIA, to explore mining areas in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Madagascar.

I appreciated his thirst for knowledge and the opportunity to meet people from his amazing global network of miners, gem dealers and researchers. It's through Vincent that I met the Nomads team, who are a magical group of people.

Who were your early mentors in life?

Artists have always been an inspiration for me. I grew up taking community art classes after school. Most of the time it didn't matter what discipline I signed up for, I just really liked making things. I was inspired to see how designer/artists ideas came to life.

What is your favorite gemstone?

This is always changing. When I was younger it was Opal because well... that seems like an obvious one: Opals are incredible. Then it was Tourmaline because I loved the variances in color depending on the elements available when the crystal grew. Now, it's Garnet for a similar reason. I like how different environments can have such a dramatic impact on the same basic structure of a gem.

Below: Rubellite Tourmalines.





AGTA Spec.Trum Award 2016 Winner



JCK/AGTA Las Vegas booth 130 | GJX booth 1223 | Hongkong AWE booth 8E08
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Caroline C

By Caroline Chartouni

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What attracted you to AGTA?

Having started in the industry at an AGS store that really emphasized the importance of education it seemed natural to join the AGTA community as a gem dealer.



During your involvement in colored gemstones, what way have you witnessed the industry changing? Also, how are you guiding your firm to meet today's challenges?

I started working retail in 2006 then traveled to mining areas for research and am now working with artists in the wholesale side of the industry so I've seen many aspects of the gem trade. Like most industries today, increased access to information across the world has started to change how people do business. We are, of course, more globally connected and this has helped to inform people about where gem material comes from. Jewelry clients want to know more about the products they are buying and Nomad's tries to provide that knowledge through technology via our website (gemsbynomads.com), Facebook and Instagram. Information is key especially in an industry as complicated and diverse as ours.

Please share your thoughts on social responsibility in the colored gemstone industry.

To start, I think consumers should have resources to help them understand all the different ways a gemstone can be mined. Most people I know outside of the industry assume colored stones are mined, sourced and brought into the trade the same way as Diamonds, which is not always the case. From large mining operations to small-scale co-ops to local farmers hoping to strike it rich in their backyards, colored gemstones can be unearthed in a multitude of ways. This can make industry-wide regulations

quite tricky to establish, but it's still important for us to come up with socially responsible solutions.

The colored stone market takes place in many parts of the world and can have a large impact on local communities so it's necessary to make sure the impact is a positive one. Gem deposits have potential to be a great resource of capital for local economies. I think more education and training where gemstones are found can help local communities by adding gemologists, cutters and jewelry designers closer to the source and further strengthen each country's industry.

Tell us about Nomad's today. Who likely to speak with when we call?

We are a very diverse team (2 Americans, 2 French, 3 Ukrainians, 1 Finn, 1 German-Peruvian, 1 Dane as well as incredible team of cutters and Thai staff) with three locations worldwide. You will find us at every trade show (Tucson, HK March, June, Sept, Vegas, Basel, and Idar-Oberstein) offering you a glass of port wine (after 4pm of course). You will be talking to an artist, an adventurer, a photographer, a sculptor, a dancer, a musician, a scientist, a storyteller and a philosopher.

What has your Membership with the AGTA meant for/to you?

It's great to be a part of a community focused on education, inspiration, and promotion of colored stones... also AGTA throws a great party.

What is your favorite colored gemstone "Tucson Story"?

It is hard to tell which Tucson story is my favorite. GemFair is the show I look forward to the most, not only for business and to see the incredible concentration of gems, minerals and



rocks; but because it is one of the only times the whole Nomads team is together, kind of like a family reunion. My favorite nights have been those when we come together to relax after a long show day. On the best evenings

there is a bonfire, home-cooked meal, a little wine, Tucson's famous starry sky and lots of stories brought from each team member's corner of the world.

Whom have you admired in the colored gemstone industry?

Andrew Sarosi. I had the opportu-

nity to meet him at a few tradeshow and also in his LA office; the guys had known him for many years. His passion and knowledge for gemstones was contagious. His honesty and modesty had always been a lighthouse for Nomad's in this sometimes murky water of life. Andrew Sarosi was a perfect embodiment of the "light side of the force" in the gem and jewelry industry and we still consider him our Jedi father today.

You are a citizen of the world. What is your favorite city? Chicago.

What is your favorite hotel?

A tent in the woods or on a mountain top.

What is your favorite restaurant?

As long as my feet are in the sand it's my favorite restaurant.

What was your best meal ever?

Hard to say, but it was probably spaghetti; I'm a sucker for spaghetti.

What is your favorite off-the-beaten-path destination?

Zion National Park in Southern Utah and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. I make an effort to get back there every year for a little hiking, camping and R&R. Thankfully, it's only a few hours outside of Vegas so I try and escape after the AGTA Vegas show for a few days.

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know.

I like country music! 🎵

By David Baker, GG,
AGTA Membership & Education
Manager



Left: Tracy in Sri Lanka.

Above: Nomad's Tourmalines.

Below: Nomad's spessartite Garnets.

emerald

nothing else even comes close

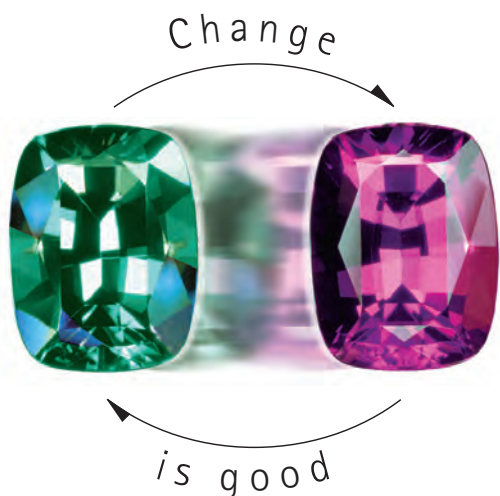


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THE AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™

JUDGING THE COMPETITION

In a large, airy, sun-kissed loft in lower Manhattan, the view from the patio overlooking the Hudson River is beautiful. Yet the view from inside the space is even more stunning, with hundreds of glittering gemstones and shiny jewels laid out row upon row, as far as the eye can see. Enter a group of five prestigious industry experts with varied backgrounds from cutting and design, to setting and selling; the group is faced with the somewhat daunting task of selecting the few standouts from the sparkling collection before them.

The judging process begins with a review of the procedures and an introduction to the judging application and then they are off! The competition begins in the Cutting Edge category, which features loose colored gemstones, carvings, specialty cuts and objects of art. Each judge begins their perusal of the individual categories by initially giving the entry a 'yes' or 'no' vote. The Yes/No rounds will eventually whittle the competition down to 10-15 gemstones in each category that will then be put through the rigorous scoring round, based on specific scoring criteria.

Once the scoring round is complete, the finalists are ranked in order of finish and then the real fun begins! This is the opportunity for the judges to talk about the entries, utilize their expertise, argue their opinions and share their passionate pleas as they discuss the merits of each finalist.

Judge Deirdre Featherstone, of Featherstone Design



Above: Judge Ronald Arends uses the penlight on a moonstone in the Phenomenal Category of the Cutting Edge competition. The judges have access to a variety of tools including lights, loupes, visors and a microscope.

Below: Judges Lauren Kulchinsky-Levinson, Ronald Arends, Stephen Avery and Deirdre Featherstone during the scoring round for the Cutting Edge Competition.



shared her thoughts on her experience, "The judging process was really collaborative. No one person could call the shots. That is good in some ways, but I had a few pieces that I would have loved to have seen go further. Every judge had their area of expertise and that caused the jewelry to be scrutinized in an intense manner. The winners had to hit about 5 requirements from each judge, making that about 25 requirements in total."

Once the Cutting Edge round is complete, the Spectrum rounds begins in the

same fashion. The Spectrum categories feature finished jewelry in Evening Wear, Business/Day Wear, Classical, Bridal and Men's Wear. Though the number of entries in Spectrum is significantly higher, the same care, thought and time is dedicated to each category of jewelry as well.

By the end of the first full day of judging, the judges narrow down the Spectrum categories to a point where the scoring rounds can begin on Day 2. And a much needed rest is given!

Day 2 of judging begins bright and early and the judges have had the

opportunity to sleep on their decisions thus far. A new day brings a fresh eye and an eagerness to get started on the day's tasks. The same process continues through the scoring rounds and the discussions on each category. This collaborative process takes the judges through the finalists for each category until the winners are determined. The last step for the Spectrum judges is the discussions for each of the "Best of" Awards –

		
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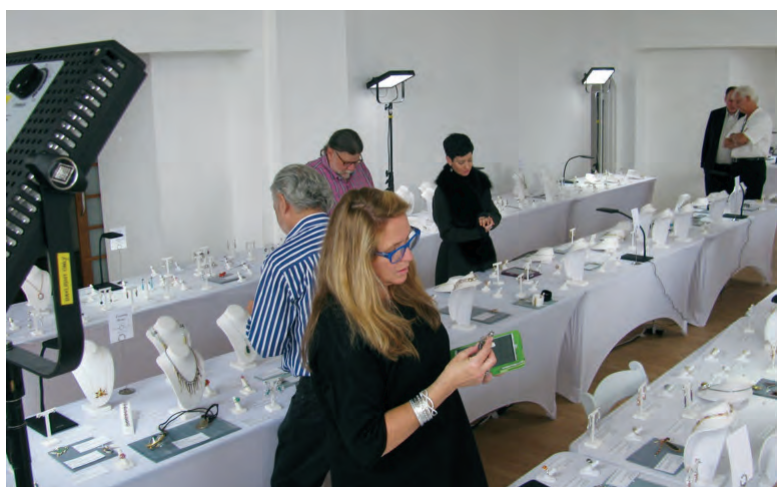
these are the “best of the best” – Best Use of Pearls, Fashion Forward, Best Use of Color and Best of Show. Interestingly, some of the choices are unanimous and immediate, and some of the choices take much more discussion and influence, as each judge’s unique perspective has the opportunity to shine. The result of the grueling two-day judging is best summed up by Spectrum judge Ronald Arends, “The AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition shines a spotlight on the best our industry has to offer in product and design and I look forward to seeing all that is yet to come.”

“What an honor it was to be a judge at the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ - it was equally terrifying, exhilarating, and emotional. I’ve been on the other side of the table for 20 years and now I know it is as hard to be a judge as it is to create something of beauty.”

Stephen M. Avery

The judges for the 2016 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ were Ronald W. Arends, of Aires Jewelers; Stephen M. Avery, of Stephen M. Avery, Inc.; Deirdre Featherstone, of Featherstone Design; Lauren Kulchinsky-Levison, of May-Fair Rocks; and Aron Suna, of Suna Bros.

The AGTA Spectrum Awards™ feature special sponsorship categories that are judged and awarded by those sponsors – Platinum Honors™ sponsored by Platinum Guild International, the Gem Diva Awards™ sponsored by the Women’s Jewelry Association, and the newest category, the Savor Silver Awards™ sponsored by the Silver Promotion Service. Each of these groups provided their own judges for their respective categories.



Top: Judges Aron Suna and Stephen Avery perusing the entries in the Spectrum categories.

Middle: The Spectrum judges hard at work!

Bottom: AGTA Spectrum Awards™ judges working on the Spectrum category finalists.



“Every single element was scrutinized for quality, harmonious use of gemstones, technical excellence and engineering. Respect was paid to the gemstones first and foremost, also the body and wearability. Pieces had to sit well...hang well. Both front and back had to be thoughtfully crafted. Every piece on those tables was very special; so many pieces were fantastic.”

Deirdre Featherstone

The AGTA Spectrum Awards™ is the world’s premier colored gemstone and Pearl jewelry design competition with categories in Evening Wear, Bridal Wear sponsored by *The Knot*, Business/Day Wear, Classical Wear and Men’s Wear. The AGTA Cutting Edge Awards™ honor loose colored gemstones in everything from Classic Gemstones to one-of-a-kind Carvings, Pairs and Suites to amazing Objects of Art. The competition is open to U.S. and Canadian designers and cutters. 🌈 By *Kami S. Swinney*

“The new and upcoming talent in our industry was obviously on display. There is no doubt that colored gemstone fashion and design will continue to make great strides in mainstream consumer awareness and influence their purchasing decisions.”

Ronald Arends

AGTA PRISM

2016 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™

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The 2016 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ and AGTA Cutting Edge Awards™ are a showcase of individual creativity featuring new and seasoned talent with an exciting mix of innovation and tradition.

These winners – and all our participants – help promote the beauty and appeal of colored gemstones and cultured pearls.

We are proud to present this year's winning entries – and extend our most sincere congratulations!



BEST OF SHOW

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co

Suite of Paraiba Tourmalines (58.07 ctw.) Nautilus shell carvings

A.
Best Use of Pearls
Naomi Sarna,
Naomi Sarna
Designs

Strand of freshwater baroque cultured Pearls with 18K white gold and Diamonds and a freshwater baroque cultured Pearl pendant.

B.
Best Use of Color
Bella Campbell
Campbellian

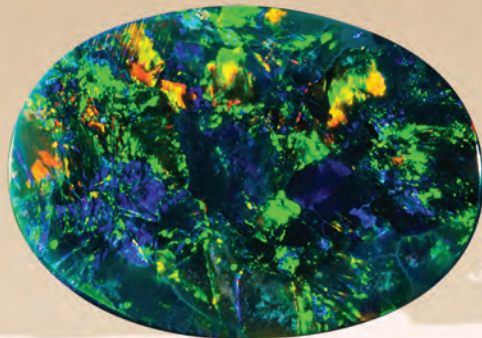
18K pink gold earrings featuring blue-green Tourmalines (17.05 ctw.) accented with Emeralds (4.14 ctw.).

C.
Editors' Choice
Eclat Jewels
Eclat Jewels, Inc.
 18K yellow gold and enamel cuff featuring a 105 ct. Aquamarine accented with Diamonds.



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D.
**Best Use of
 Platinum and Color**
Andrew Costen
Costen Catbalue

Platinum "Symphony of Colour" bracelet featuring a 3.85 ct. green Tourmaline, a 4.88 ct. yellow Zircon, a 4.68 ct. indicolite Tourmaline and a 3.52 ct. rubellite Tourmaline accented with Diamonds (.70 ctw.).



E.
Fashion Forward
Brian Cook
Nature's Geometry

24K yellow gold "Wheel of Light" numinous pendant featuring an 825 ct. Quartz, Paraiba Tourmaline, Hauyn, Ruby, spessartite Garnet, golden rutilated Quartz and Fire Agate beads.



F.
**Best Use of Silver
 and Color**
William Travis
Kukovich
William Travis
Jewelry

Oxidized silver and mixed gold pendant featuring a 4.74 ct. brown Diamond accented with rose cut Diamonds (.40 ctw.).



F.

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BRIDAL

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A.
1st Place
Tony Nemyer
Grimball Jewelers
 Platinum and 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 3.55 ct. round purple Spinel accented with Diamonds (.86 ctw.).

B.
2nd Place
Laurence Bruyninckx
Laurence Bruyninckx
 18K white gold earrings featuring blue Topaz, mint Tourmaline and Diamond tops with interchangeable dangles with Diamonds or mint Tourmalines, blue Topaz and Diamonds.

C.
3rd Place
Caroline Chartoui
Caroline C
 18K white gold earrings featuring Paraiba Tourmalines (12.07 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (10.62 ctw.)

D.
Platinum Honors
Kathy Kinev
Jewel Creations, Inc.
 Platinum "Chartres" ring featuring a 4.65 ct. blue Zircon accented with Diamonds (0.73 ctw.).



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BRIDAL

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E.
Gem Diva Award
Erica Courtney
Erica Courtney, Inc.
Platinum "Champagne Bubble" wedding ring set featuring a 5.54 ct. blue Sapphire cabochon accented with round blue Sapphires (1.0 ctw.) and Diamonds (2.58 ctw.).



F.
Platinum Innovation
Michael Endlich
Pave Fine Jewelry
Platinum "Sweetness" ring featuring a 1.65 ct. lavender oval Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.06 ctw.).



G.
Manufacturing Honors
Michael Jakubowski
Gem Fanatic
14K white and rose gold ring featuring a 2.58 ct. unheated pink Sapphire accented with white and pink Diamonds (.81 ctw.).



H.
Savor Silver Award
Hisano Shepherd
little h
Sterling silver cufflinks featuring sliced 12 x 13mm Tahitian baroque Pearls accented with black Diamonds (2.0 ctw.).





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Antonis Achilleos; Source: The Knot Jewelry & Engagement Study 2015

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BUSINESS/DAY WEAR

A.



A.

1st Place

Ricardo Basta

E. Eichberg, Inc.

18K yellow gold
"Enchanted Frog" ring
featuring Carnelian,
Tsavorite Garnets and
Diamonds (.18 ctw.).

B.

2nd Place

Heath London

Heath London

Jewelry

18K white gold earrings
featuring rock crystal
Quartz (31.18 ctw.) and
rubellite Tourmalines
(11.34 ctw.) accented
with Diamonds
(.91 ctw.).

B.



C.



C.

3rd Place

Kim Hurlbert-Sarosi

Sarosi by

Timeless Gems

18K yellow gold ring
featuring a 16.10 ct.
Imperial Topaz accented
with Diamonds
(.56 ctw.).

D.

Gem Diva Award

Gurmit

Kaur Campbell

SRW

18K yellow gold
"Betwixt and Between"
ring featuring a South Sea
cultured Pearl accented
with Diamonds.

D.





1



2



3



4



5

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6



7



8



9

Congratulations to the **2016 AGTA Spectrum Awards “Platinum Honors” Winners**. These exceptional designs beautifully demonstrate how well platinum, the world’s most precious white metal, complements brilliantly colored stones.

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“PLATINUM HONORS” 2016 WINNERS

1. ENTRY PLATINUM INNOVATION, CLASSICAL: LORENZO CHAVEZ, GEOGEM-USA
2. PLATINUM HONORS, BUSINESS/DAY WEAR: MICHAEL ENDLICH, PAVÉ FINE JEWELRY
3. PLATINUM HONORS, EVENING WEAR: EDDIE SAKAMOTO, SOMEWHERE IN THE RAINBOW
4. ENTRY PLATINUM INNOVATION, BRIDAL WEAR: MICHAEL ENDLICH, PAVÉ FINE JEWELRY
5. BEST USE OF PLATINUM AND COLOR, EVENING WEAR: ANDREW COSTEN, COSTEN CATBLUE
6. ENTRY PLATINUM INNOVATION, BUSINESS/DAY WEAR: HEENA CHHEDA-SHAH, VALANI
7. PLATINUM HONORS, BRIDAL WEAR: KATHY KINEV, JEWEL CREATIONS, INC.
8. PLATINUM HONORS, MENS WEAR: DAVID HINES, NVIT BLANCHE
9. PLATINUM HONORS, CLASSICAL: WICK & GREENE JEWELERS



PLATINUM

BUSINESS/DAY WEAR

E.
Savor Silver Award
Elizabeth Garvin
Elizabeth Garvin Fine
 Oxidized sterling silver and 18K yellow gold "Cyclone" cuff featuring Aquamarine and Heliodor (52.0 ctw.) in asymmetrical mirror cuts.

F.
Platinum Honors
Michael Endlich
Pave Fine Jewelry
 Platinum "Moon Beam" ring featuring a 3.58 ct. Moonstone cabochon accented with Diamonds (.30 ctw.).

G.
Manufacturing Honors
Stuller, Inc.,
Stuller, Inc.,
 Platinum ring featuring an 18mm pear-shaped Topaz.

H.
Honorable Mention
Heath London
Heath London Jewelry
 18K yellow gold "Rajasthani Dreams" earrings featuring Paraiba Tourmalines (24.51 ctw.) and pink Tourmalines (16.20 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.34 ctw.).

I.
Platinum Innovation
Heena Chneda-Sriah
VALANI
 Platinum "Rival" ring featuring two pear-shaped blue Sapphires (1.10 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.27 ctw.).

E.



F.



G.



H.



I.



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JEWELRY CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
KELIM JEWELRY DESIGN, JORGE REVILLA,
REPOUSSE JEWELRY, ED LEVIN.
CENTER BRACELET: ARIVA FINE JEWELRY

CLASSICAL

A.
1st Place
Brent Malgarin
Elegant Gems, Ltd.
 Platinum necklace featuring a 12.63mm natural Pearl and a 15.22mm natural Pearl accented with a 4.64 ct. blue Zircon accented with Diamonds (1.05 ctw.).

B.
2nd Place
Lindsay Jane
Ambassador Gems
 Platinum ring featuring a 6.26 ct. Padparadscha Sapphire accented with orange and pink Sapphires (.31 ctw.) and Diamonds (1.01 ctw.).

C.
3rd Place
Gil
Gil Int'l
 Platinum ring featuring a 3.24 ct. Alexandrite accented with Diamonds (1.11 ctw.).

D.
Savor Silver Award
William Travis
Kukovich
William Travis Jewelry
 Oxidized silver and 18K yellow and rose gold ring featuring a 20.98 ct. golden sheen Sapphire.

E.
Gem Diva Award
Naomi Sarna
Naomi Sarna Designs
 18K white gold petal brooch featuring white, yellow, pink, brown and green Diamonds accented with Amethysts and multicolored Sapphires.



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CLASSICAL

F.
Platinum Innovation
Lorenzo Chavez
Geogem-USA

Platinum and 18K yellow gold "BigSky" pendant featuring carved black Jade and a 5.63 ct. freeform faceted Sapphire accented with Diamonds (1.06 ctw.).

G.
Honorable Mention
Josette Patterson
Mark Patterson

18K white gold "Aura" earrings featuring pear-shaped rubellite Tourmalines (12.69 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.86 ctw.).

J.
Platinum Honors
Wick & Greene
Jewelers
Wick & Greene
Jewelers

Platinum fleur de lis pendant/pin featuring an unheated 2.66 ct. oval blue Sapphire.





Nomad's



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EVENING WEAR

**A.
1st Place**
Claudia Kretchmer
Somewhere in the Rainbow

Platinum and 24K crystallized gold "RockStar2" pendant featuring a 37.31 ct. color-shift blue Zircon accented with Diamonds (1.95 ctw.).

**B.
2nd Place**
Ricardo Basta
E. Eichberg, Inc.
18K rose gold ring featuring a 10.41 ct. rubellite Tourmaline accented with Diamonds (.23 ctw.) and Ruby melee (.05 ctw.).

**C.
3rd Place**
Randy Coffin
Somewhere in the Rainbow
Platinum ring featuring a 17.76 ct. bicolored Tourmaline accented with pink Sapphires (.38 ctw.), Paraiba Tourmalines (.29 ctw.) and Diamonds (.13 ctw.).

**D.
Savor Silver Award**
Priyanka Murthy
ARYA ESHA
Sterling silver ring featuring a 16.6 ct. blue Topaz accented with Diamonds (.70 ctw.).



BIG news



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American
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Association

EVENING WEAR

**E.
Manufacturing
Honors**

Troels Larsen
*Troels D. Larsen
Jewelry*

18K yellow and white
gold necklace featuring
a 10.75 ct. trillion-cut
Tanzanite and 23 round
Tanzanites (27.80 ctw.)
accented with
Diamonds (2.75 ctw.).

**F.
Platinum Honors**

Eddie Sakamoto
*Somewhere in
the Rainbow*

Platinum "Ice-Ice Baby"
bracelet featuring a 24.15
ct. Tanzanite accented with
Diamonds (6.50 ctw.).

**G.
Honorable Mention**

Alexia Connellan
*Alexia Connellan
Luxury Jewelry*

18K rose gold "Victoria"
bracelet featuring a 16.06
ct. purple-pink Tourmaline
accented with Diamonds
(1.51 ctw.) and purple
Sapphires (1.50 ctw.).

**H.
Gem Diva Award**

Lisa Linhardt
Linhardt Design

Oxidized sterling silver
"Tempest" sculptural
duster ring featuring yellow
Sapphires.





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MEN'S WEAR

A.
1st Place
Mark Schneider
Mark Schneider Design
 Platinum and 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 5.42 ct. Peridot and a pair of spessartite Garnets (3.66 ctw.) accented with tsavorite Garnets (.75 ctw.), white Diamonds (.38 ctw.) and a .16 ct. yellow Diamond.

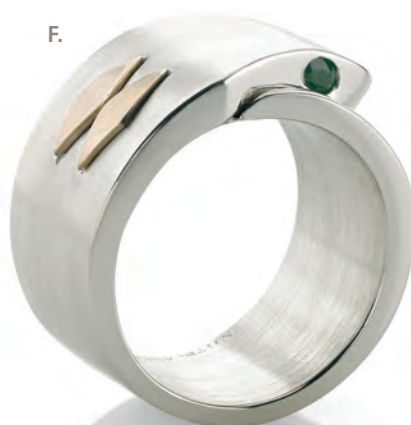
B.
2nd Place
Llyn Strelau
Jewels by Design
 18K yellow and 19K white gold "Paddle Your Own Canoe" reversible cufflinks featuring carved black Onyx and rock Crystal accented with black and white South Sea keshi Pearls and Diamonds (.24 ctw.).

C.
3rd Place
Mark Schneider
Mark Schneider Design
 Sterling silver men's ring featuring a 7.98 ct. freeform fire Opal accented with tsavorite Garnets (.66 ctw.), colored Diamonds (.14 ctw.) and white Diamonds (.06 ctw.).

D.
Manufacturing Honors
Craig Slavens
Studio 247
Fine Jewelry
 18K yellow gold and platinum ring featuring a 7.29 ct. unheated Sri Lankan color-change violet-blue Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.93 ctw.).

D.
Savor Silver Award
William Travis
Kukovich
William Travis Jewelry
 Oxidized silver and 18K yellow and rose gold ring featuring a 20.98 ct. golden sheen Sapphire.

E.
Platinum Honors
David Hines
Nvit Blanche
 Platinum with 18K white gold "Cobra" ring featuring Alexandrites (.25 ctw.).



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'Imperial Dragonfly' Jade Brooch
As Seen At The AGTA Spectrum Awards

AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS
CLASSIC CUT

A.
1st Place
Joseph Ambalu
Amba Gem Corp.
8.06 ct. unheated
Burmese Sapphire.



B.
2nd Place
David Nassi
100% Natural, Ltd.
22.73 ct. unheated
yellow Sapphire from
Sri Lanka.



C.
3rd Place
Sailesh Lakhi
Sparkles and Colors
USA, Inc.
13.28 ct. unheated
Burmese royal blue
Sapphire.

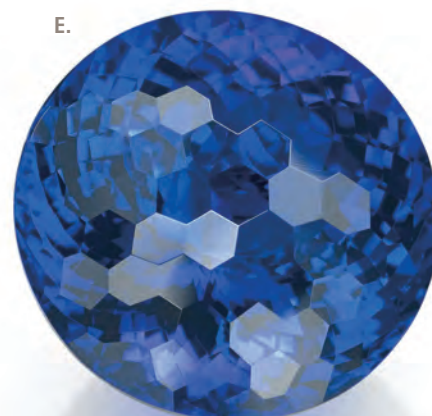


ALL OTHER FACETED

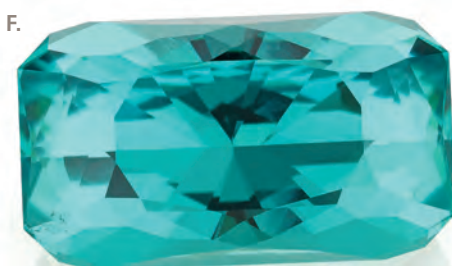
D.
1st Place
John Dyer
John Dyer & Co.
21.96 ct. multi-faceted
cushion-cut Imperial
Topaz.



E.
2nd Place
Hemant Phophaliya
A G Color, Inc.
40.58 ct. round
checkerboard Tanzanite.



F.
3rd Place
Darrell Jang
Darrell Jang
42.39 ct. cut-corner
octagon Tourmaline.



HKTDC Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show 2016 The world's largest jewellery marketplace

The demand for loose diamonds, quality gems, all varieties of pearls and jewellery are growing steadily, as trading at the 2015 show emphasised. March 2016 sees the return of an unrivalled trading platform for the jewellery industry when the 3rd edition of HKTDC Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show (1-5 March 2016) and the 33rd edition of HKTDC Hong Kong International Jewellery Show (3-7 March 2016), together create the world's largest jewellery marketplace with a total of more than 4,360 exhibitors from 52 countries and regions in 2015. The complementary events were visited by more than 76,000 buyers from 140 countries and regions, a record-breaking number in the last edition.

A continuous and complimentary bus service allows buyers to commute between the two venues on the overlapping days.

Strengths of the two fairs

The Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show is a highly specialised trading platform which concentrates on raw materials. Buyers are able to source loose diamonds, precious gems, semi-precious stones and pearls in a professional environment.

The volume and variety on offer gives buyers a wide range of choice. Despite this large volume, buyers can easily locate appropriate suppliers as goods are well organised into key product categories.

Hall of Fine Diamonds is for exhibitors of all kinds of quality diamonds in carat sizes and cuts and including fancy colours.

Treasures of Nature showcases precious gemstones from many different origins.

Treasures of Ocean gathers together quality pearls from Tahiti, the South Seas and other sources.

The iconic HKTDC Hong Kong International Jewellery Show completes the world's largest jewellery marketplace with thematic zones such as the Hall of Fame, World of Glamour, Designer Galleria, Hall of Extraordinary, Hall of Time, Antique & Vintage Jewellery Galleria, Hall of Jade Jewellery and Treasures of Craftsmanship.

Whirl of activity

The events of the fair are designed to assist exhibitors and buyers alike. Networking gatherings allow exhibitors to expand their contacts and consolidate relationships. Jewellery parades, seminars and other information sessions are a source of vital market intelligence and expert insights.

HKTDC offers exclusive incentive for first-time overseas buyers.

For enquiries, please contact Johannesburg Office on telephone 1-(212) 838 8688 or by email at new.york.office@hktcdc.org

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AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS
PHENOMENAL

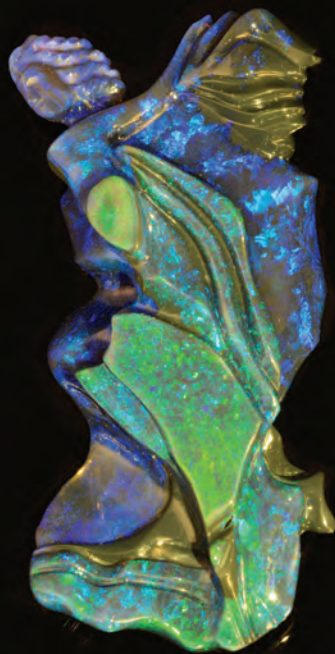
- A.**
1st Place
Robert Shapiro
Robert Shapiro
14.29 ct. oval
Australian Opal.
- B.**
2nd Place
Sailesh Lakhi
Sparkles and Colors
USA, Inc.
14.93 ct. Moonstone.
- C.**
3rd Place
Steve Wallner
Westview Gems
5.29 ct. green-blue
color-shift Sapphire.



PAIRS & SUITES

- D.**
1st Place
Allen Kleiman
A. Kleiman & Co.
Pair of unheated oval
Morganites from
Madagascar.
- E.**
2nd Place
Mikola Kukharuk
Nomad's
Suite of vintage pear-cut
grossular mint Garnets
(50.26 ctw.).
- F.**
3rd Place
Ajay Bansal
Best In Gems
Pair of matched
pear-shaped cabochon
Opals (84.63 ctw.).





2nd PLACE WINNER "Soul Angel"
Lightning Ridge Australian Black Opal
48.86 cts/ 50.5x24.x 11. mm

Lehrer

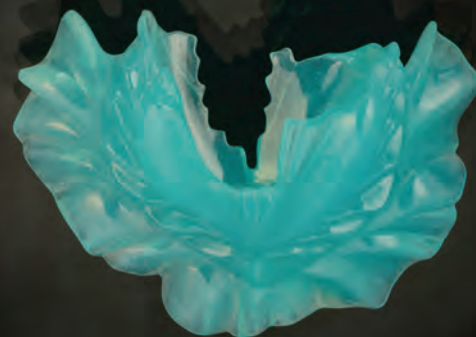
GLENN LEHRER G.G.

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Carver - Cutter Since 1976

AGTA 2016 SPECTRUM AWARD WINNER



Tanzanite Torus Ring 5.85 cts set with
Padparadcha Sapphire set in 18 k yg



HONORABLE MENTION "Georgia's Dream"
Gem Silica Chrysocolla
53.57 cts/ 48.x32x 12 mm

Tuscon AGTA: Gem 2000 Booth #911

glenn@lehrerdesigns.com

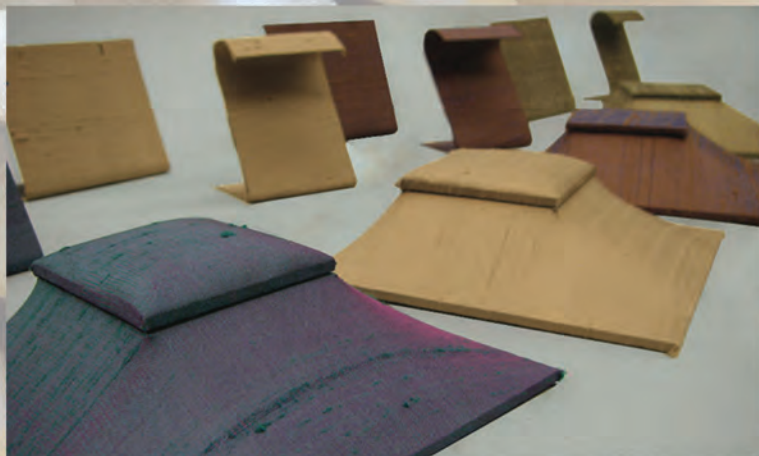
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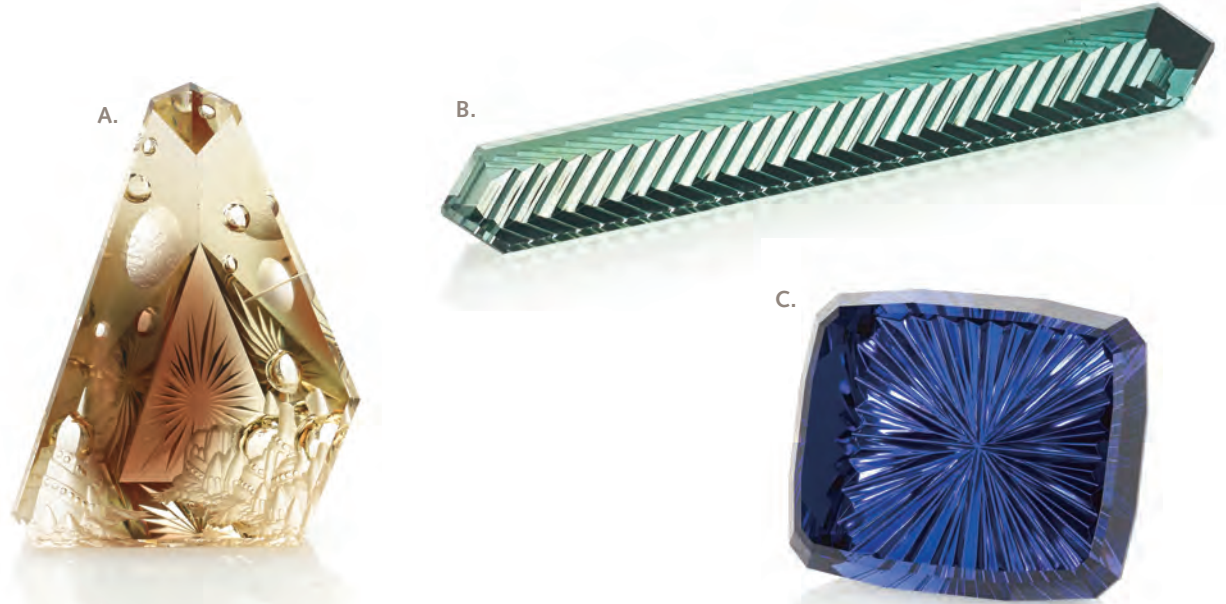
AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS

INNOVATIVE FACETING

A.
1st Place
Dalan Hargrave
Sunstone Butte
Mining
63.63 ct. "Celestial
City" Sunstone carving.

B.
2nd Place
Dalan Hargrave
B. Harju
22.45 ct. herringbone
cut Tourmaline.

C.
3rd Place
John Dyer
John Dyer & Co.
120.98 ct. "New Era"
Tanzanite, cut with
inverse facets.



CARVING

D.
1st Place
Allen Kleiman
A. Kleiman & Co.
Suite of Paraiba
Tourmalines
(58.07 ctw.)
Nautilus shell carvings.

E.
2nd Place
Glenn Lehrer
Lehrer Designs, Inc.
48.86 ct. "Soul Angel"
Opal carving.

F.
3rd Place
Rodney Rahmani
Brilliant Stars
67.11 ct. carved
unheated Burmese
Sapphire.

G.
**Honorable
Mention**
Glenn Lehrer
Lehrer Designs, Inc.
53.57 ct. "Georgia's
Dream" transparent
gem silica Chrysocolla
carving.



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AGTA GemFair™ Tuscon Booth #1622

AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS

OBJECTS OF ART

A.
1st Place
Ziad Noshie
Almaza Jewelers
 The "Hanging Panda"
 featuring Mother-of-
 Pearl with 18K rose
 gold. The panda is
 made of 18K white gold
 with black and white
 Diamonds (3.69 ctw.).
 The bamboo is made
 of white Diamonds
 (.20 ctw.) and tsavorite
 Garnets (.28 ctw.).
 It sits on a silver stand.



B.
2nd Place
Ralph Wobito
Wobito Gems, Ltd.
 Perfume bottle featuring
 colorless Topaz
 (109.61 ctw.) and
 Diaspore (36.78 ctw.).



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Kathryn Kinev





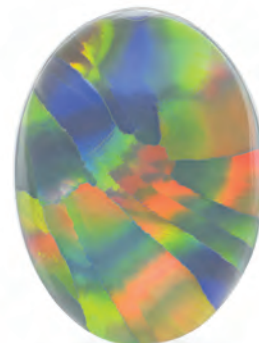
Robert Shapiro

AGTA GemFair™ Tucson

Booth # 429

(608) 233 -0044

Robert@boulderopal.com



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AGTA Spectrum Award™ Winner

2016 1st Place Phenomenal
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Above: Will the natural capital of rutilated Quartz from this remote land enhance the community? Remedios, a Baroque period prospectors outpost in the heart of the mountains where this resource is located.

GOLDEN RUTILATED QUARTZ FROM BAHIA, BRAZIL

FOR MANY YEARS GEMOLOGISTS HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO the golden needles seen in a transparent variety of Quartz known as rutilated Quartz. We hope to bring clarity to the future of what has been a favorite gemstone among designers and gemologists that is mesmerizing and exhilarating at the same time. This exotic variety of Quartz is famed for its brilliant golden flashes and the epitaxial stars associated with hematite.

Rutile as an inclusion in Quartz occurs scattered across earth. However, the commercial quantities of rutile are predominantly from Brazil and Madagascar. The golden rutile associated with hematite is very nearly exclusive to the Serra Mangabeira mountains in Bahia, Brazil. The Quartz is predominantly smoky, from a very light hint of smoke to deep morion, and amber honey smoky. The rutile can be 'hair'; thin, long and wispy, needles, or blades. The color is golden and can appear in hues reminiscent of 10–24 ct gold.

As a host material, the often transparent, colorless Quartz acts as a wonderful crystalline medium that can be cut, carved and polished. The gemstones are presented in many cutting forms, from traditional calibrated cuts by innovative, talented artists. They are inspired by the unique dynamics of the interplay with light.

The Quartz is found within an isolated mountain range of ancient volcanic rocks at the far western edge of the Chapada Diamantina, in the state of Bahia, Brazil. Starting in the 1940s, optical grade Quartz was collected for various specialty uses while the rutilated material was tossed aside. This rutilated material was deemed as useless for optics. In the 1960s, the rutilated Quartz caught the attention of German buyers visiting Governador Valadares and Teófilo Otoni, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

To this day, mining is carried out by artisanal small scale mining methods. Legend has it that the local old time prospectors would 'mine' the rutilated Quartz by simply hiking the hills with sacks, and picking up crystals from the surface. Soon they found that by searching in the upper layers of the weathered land they could find the crystals gathered in groups – essentially colluvial. This type of 'mining' was done exclusively by local residents.

When co-author, Brian Cook, arrived in the area, the independent miners, known as garimpeiros, were already



Top and Middle:
23kg exceptional example of broad bladed golden rutile in Quartz. This material fetches top dollar as rough or specimen, and represents less than 0.05% of regional production. Brian Cook specimen.

Bottom: Hematite crystal with epitaxially oriented rutile in Quartz. Complete stars are highly collectable and rare. Stone by Nature's Geometry.

tunneling into the earth, distances from several metres up to 20 metres, in extremely laborious conditions. The garimpeiros were using hand tools, crawling on their bellies through tight holes lit only by candle light.

Other miners, from well outside the region, began to catch wind of this resource and soon began arriving. They arrived in a trickle at first, but by 2002, the 'rutile rush' began with more garimpeiros descending on the area to test their luck. Today, there are between 1,000 to 3,000 garimpeiros scattered across this mountainous area inhabiting the region.

As time passed, rutilated Quartz have consistently risen in popularity; values increased, and the tunnels became significantly deeper. As a result, the gemstones have become much more difficult to find. We see the influences of the modern world also slowly creeping into the local culture, .

In present day terms, how this significant resource will be developed will weigh heavily on the sustainability of the local culture, people, economic health and the environment of this exotic land. Co-author, Brian Cook admits that when he haphazardly arrived in 1983, it was the age of candles, gas lanterns, and the silence of no radio or television. With the arrival of electricity and energy came the modern technology of the early 1990s; a decade later along came cell phones. Today, just in the last two years, the internet has arrived.

Cook comments, "Observation and mapping of the mineralized structures in dozens of shafts over a broad area, along with the production results, we observe that a tremendous amount of Quartz and rutilated Quartz exists from near surface to deep layers underground." He continues, "There 'could' be enough Quartz to serve generations to come. Approximately 12,000 people are directly affected by the current artisanal, yet mostly still unformalized, mining activity."

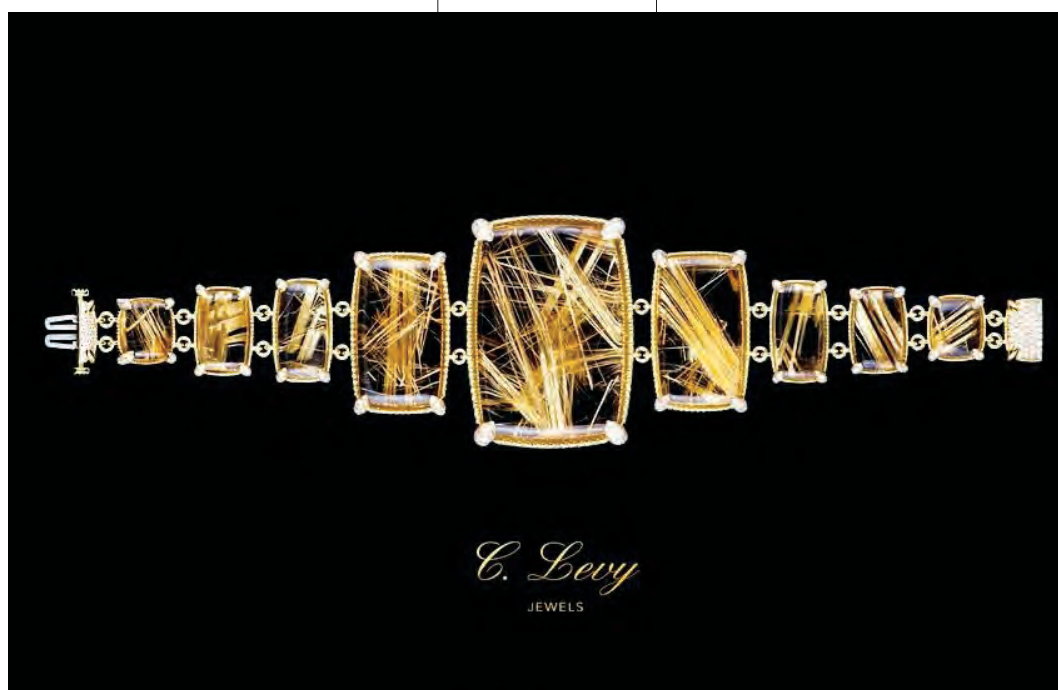
Three years ago, a miners' co-operative began. Today, there are two co-operatives, each with over 300 registered garimpeiros mining three areas with permission. There will be more areas to follow. "Change happens by example," Says Cook, "Collaborating with all the neces-

sary stakeholders including federal, state and municipal government to formalize the areas and the miners." He continues, "The miners become 'legal,' lest they be marginalized for an activity that is ingrained in Brazilian tradition for generations — the artisanal extraction of gems and minerals. We have found ways to simplify a very heavy bureaucratic process — another Brazilian tradition — and are achieving success and leading by example."

In general terms, the average monthly mine in production of Quartz is about 200 tons. This includes non-rutlated Quartz. The commercial grades of rutilated Quartz fall within the top 10% of

very slightly, considering the amount of time involved.

As recently as about 500 million years ago great tectonic forces generated mobile granites and solutions from deep underground. These lighter, hot, mineral masses naturally buoyed upward; the most volatile juices found their way higher, and as the older surface layers cracked and weakened from these rising forces, silica-rich solutions entered the old volcanic group (Rio Remedios Formation). Metallic elements of iron and titanium were sucked from the old volcanic rock adding spice to the hot pressurized silica solutions. Suddenly the fluids reached cracks in the cooler rocks and the solutions



production, approx. 2000 kg. of the rutilated Quartz, the top 5% (approx. 100 kg) represents high-quality gem material. There are occasionally exceptional specimens that fetch very high prices. Virtually everything mined is sold, as markets exist for all qualities of Quartz mined.

Approximately 1.7 billion years ago, there was a small volcanic range at the edge of a shallow sea. This range erupted over some eons and formed layers of different types of rock, including andesite, rhyolite, tuffs, ash; a normal but small evolving magma system. It eroded somewhat into the basin but essentially stayed as a group. Then, as is wont to happen over a billion years, the group moved, tilted, became buried and eventually felt the squeeze from neighboring rocks — albeit only

Above: 18K gold and diamond bracelet. Rutile Quartz suite by Nature's Geometry. Jewelry design and photo by C. Levy Jewels. Somewhere In The Rainbow Collection.

A similar article was printed in *Gems & Jewellery* (July 2015), published by The Gemmological Association of Great Britain. Portions reprinted with kind permission from The Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A), www.gem-a.com.

began to crystallize; iron with oxygen as hematite and titanium with oxygen as rutile.

The rutile oriented in alignment with the heavy hexagonal hematite (epitaxial), merged from within the hematite and burst forth on the hexagonal axis in long filaments or stout blades, as if metallic sun rays had been created. All the while the silica crystallized, capturing this synergy and this dance of elements. Frozen in light eternally to eventually erode from the rock and turn to sand and dust, or, to be retrieved by the recently arrived humans to be treasured. 🌈

By David Baker, GG, AGTA
Membership & Education Manager &
Brian Cook, Geologist, Nature's
Geometry, Tucson, AZ & Bahia, Brazil



*Naomi Sarna
Designs*



Booth 1628



18
AGTA Awards

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MEMBER PROFILE

AMBER GUSTAFSON — AMBER'S DESIGNS



Where did it all start for you – what drew you to designing jewelry?

I've always been drawn to creative ventures since I was a child. My favorite class in school was art and jewelry has always intrigued me. I remember making my first piece of jewelry when I was thirteen; I twisted red, blue and green telephone wires together to make earrings! I got my first job in a jewelry store at 17.

What was your first design?

At my first job, I designed a ring to hold a pear-shaped diamond – they allowed me to carve the wax, then cast in yellow gold and after I made the mold. It sold in a couple of months! I was excited to see my design be desired!

How do you go from sketches to finished product? What are your thoughts on CAD/CAM?

The most important thing is to get to know your customer – what are they looking for? What's going to make them feel good with what we design? We are in the business of helping them express their emotions. We are making memories to enjoy and pass down.

I prefer a little more personal touch; we hand-carve and fabricate most of our custom pieces. CAD certainly has its place; it can help certain designs by being more efficient with accuracy and consistency.

Social responsibility is a growing concern in all aspects of commerce. What are your thoughts on how it affects the jewelry industry and your business?

Of course I'm very concerned about the environment and the entire chain of supply. We need to make sure we are doing the best we can to support this. I like visiting mines and manufacturers of loose stones and jewelry to be sure they are staying responsible, too. You have to be very aware of what's going on in the

world – I make my stone purchases from sources I can trust. It can be difficult because in reality, we don't always know. We have to take care of our business from start to finish.

What brought you to AGTA?

What is your favorite AGTA memory?

I've been attending the AGTA GemFair™ Tucson since before I opened my store! The first time I was in Tucson and I saw the Spectrum winners, I got so excited, I teared up! I was amazed at the ideas and the craftsmanship and I knew that I could do that! I think when you see award-winning pieces in a magazine, it seems too far-reaching, but seeing them in person makes it seem possible, if you put your mind to it. The other essential thing about AGTA is the availability of the many important gemstones that some jewelers don't even realize are out there. Every time you walk onto the AGTA showroom floor, it's awe-inspiring.

What is your favorite jewelry piece you designed and created?

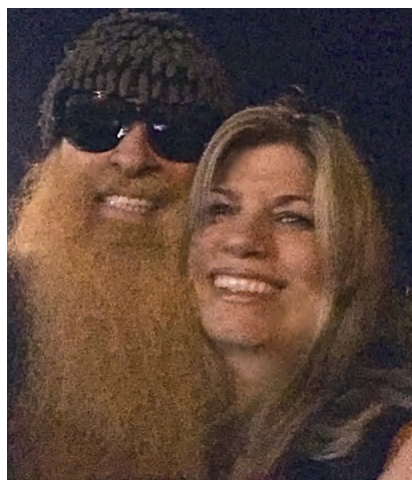
How am I supposed to answer that?? Each piece I design becomes my favorite in that moment.

What is your favorite colored gemstone? Why?

Another hard question! There can't possibly just be one! I love them all – tsavorite Garnet, Paraiba Tourmaline, Ruby – which was my first colored gemstone ring! You can just fall right into each colored gemstone; with the right cut and hue, it can be to die for!

"A
negative
mind will never
create
a
positive
result."

AMBER GUSTAFSON



Clockwise from Left: Amber and Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top.

White gold hand-carved ring featuring an AGTA-sourced tsavorite Garnet accented with baguette and round-cut Diamonds.

White gold hand-engraved wedding ring set featuring a cushion-cut Diamond accented with trillion and round cut Diamonds.

White gold hand-carved and engraved ring featuring an AGTA-sourced Australian Opal accented with Diamonds.

they come back and they're still in love with their piece of jewelry! That's rewarding. I am also inspired when I go to a show and see awesome gemstones!

What do you like to do for fun?
I love to go out with my girlfriends, see plays and travel. Every day I sit in my backyard with a cup of coffee or glass of wine and watch nature and enjoy the koi pond I built in my backyard. Grandkids are also great fun to have around. 🌈

By Megan Whitmire



Do you have a mentor/hero in the industry?

I would have to say everyone I've worked with – not just one particular mentor. I am a first generation jeweler, so I had to make my own path. I would find something I admired about an artist, a designer or a business – especially ones that were outside the box – and I would ask questions. I would look for people to admire in all avenues of the business and follow their leads and experience in finding my own success and ways to continue making it better. It's an ongoing process.

What is your best advice for upcoming designers?

Follow your passion and don't ever let anyone tell you that you "can't"! A negative mind will never create a positive result. Never stop being inspired. And if someone tells you no or puts up a wall, crumble that wall down and push forward.

What is your dream vacation destination?

I guess I don't really vacation, per se; all my trips revolve around gems! I suppose a world-wide trip including Australia for the Opal mines; Poland to see the Amber mines; Mumbai to watch the stone cutters, Madagascar for Sapphires!

Do you have celebrity clientele? If so, are their needs different than others?

Of course! I work a lot with Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top – he definitely orders more than the average client. He likes to order gifts for other celebrities; normally embellished skulls with Rubies. There's always a project on the bench for him that I am working on.

What inspires you when you design?

My customers! I get to work with customers on many of their pieces – from items they inherit, to redesigning from outdated designs, to new endeavors. I get impassioned from my customers and in turn, I create something that's unique to their personality. The best part is when



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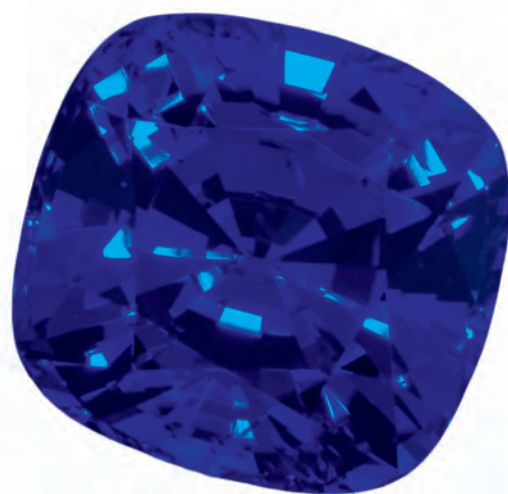
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