

AGTA SPECTRUM

VOL 3 – 2016

MEMBER PROFILE

Varouj Tabakian, Jewellery by Varouj

The AGTA Spectrum Awards™
Judging the Competition

Kaleidoscope of Colors:
2016 Summer AGTA Spectrum™ Awards

Funny Lady Alex Meneses
Gets Serious About Jewelry

Origin of Pink Diamonds

FIRM PROFILE

James Alger, James Alger Co.

Alex Meneses

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



GIA®



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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
www.agta.org
www.addmorecolortoyourlife.com



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. Dress: Kevan Hall - White Jersey Gown. **Necklace 1:** William Travis Kulkovich, William Travis Jewelry - Oxidized silver and mixed gold pendant featuring a 4.74 ct. brown Diamond accented with rose cut Diamonds (.40 ctw.). **Necklace 2(larger):** 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. **Earrings:** Jorge Adeler, Adeler Jewelers - 18K yellow gold earrings featuring frosted black Onyx drops (28.53 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (.92 ctw.). **Ring:** Lisa Linhardt, Linhardt Design - Oxidized sterling silver "Tempest" sculptural duster ring featuring yellow Sapphires.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

JEFFREY BILGORE



A SPECTRUM SUMMER 2016

With Labor Day and summer behind us, and the selling season before us I offer these thoughts. First, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with their families. These good times are well....more precious than rubies! I also hope that we all share a very successful selling season.

This summer we had a very successful change in the timing of the 2016 Summer AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Competition. This move had been long discussed by entrants and we finally addressed it. The motives and advantages are simple: 1) it allows entrants to submit their items out of the peak selling season; 2) it will encourage more entrants to enter and for them to enter even grander gems and jewelry; and 3) it will allow the Spectrum winners and the AGTA to promote the award-winning gems and jewelry for the selling season.

Obviously, any adjustment like this is a challenge for the first year. I thank all of the AGTA Staff, the Judges, the Committee and the entrants for rising to the challenge!

For the past 3 years, I have had the privilege to Chair the Spectrum Awards Committee. Any Chairman stands on the shoulders of all those who preceded them, and more on the shoulders of the AGTA Staff who actually do the hard work. Lastly, no Chairman acts alone; it is always the team effort of the Committee and the staff which makes the effort truly successful.

I am sure that the new Committee Chairman, Cynthia Renee', will continue and build upon the success.

This year ended with some very rewarding comments expressed by Lew Wackler. Thank you, Lew; your feelings brought all the efforts full circle. Lew was introduced as a suggested judge by Stephen Avery and described as a kind of a "Yoda in America's lapidary world." When asked to be a Spectrum judge, Lew accepted but expressed an old "war story" about a less than wonderful Spectrum Competition experience. His comments on leaving Manhattan after the judging and AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Editors' Event were....

"The competition is incredibly well-organized and executed. Judging was much harder than I expected, and the system is extremely fair to both the item and the entrant. I was very happy to see the range and quality of the gems and jewelry. It was also a great learning experience for me. I definitely encourage anyone, designer or cutter to enter the Competition. Winning is indeed, quite a meaningful accomplishment!"

These comments coming from a guy like Lew, especially after the introduction and seeing him work, were so very meaningful. For the past three years all of the judges have shared similar comments. They all say what a positive experience it is, incredibly hard work, a great learning experience and how fair the system/process is to all of the "anonymous numbers" on the table.

Beyond promotion, the goals these past three years have been: 1) to add to the structure and form of the rules and judging procedures; 2) to increase transparency by publishing the rules for everyone to see; and 3) to ensure an anonymous scoring system for the judges. Happily, all of these have been achieved.

For everyone, AGTA members in all areas, I echo Lew's encouragement to enter and participate in the AGTA Spectrum Awards™. Ask any winner how it helps their business, it is a huge boost to anyone's business and makes their family pretty proud, too!!!

32 years of success proves that - simply put - the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ is the most important gem and jewelry competition in the world.

Stayed tuned for information on the 2017 AGTA Spectrum Awards™! 🌈

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey B. Bilgore". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeffrey Bilgore
President

FROM THE PRESIDENT
A MOST SINCERE AND SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Douglas Hucker, CEO
David Baker, *Membership & Education Manager*
Melanie Mondoy, *Marketing Coordinator*
Charles Murrell, *CSR Representative*
Kami Swinney, *Operations Manager*
Megan Whitnire, *Marketing Manager*
AGTA Staff

THE JUDGES:

Diane Garmendia, *Retailer, 33 Jewels at El Paseo*
Gail Brett-Levine, *Appraiser,*
National Association of Appraisers
Jay Mednikow, *Retailer, J.H. Mednikow & Co., Inc.*
Victor Velyan, *Designer / Manufacturer,*
Victor-Christy Studios
Lew Wackler, *Lapidary, Lew Wackler Gem Co.*

2016 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Ronald W. Arends, *Retailer/Designer, Aires Jewelers*
Stephen M. Avery, *Lapidarist, Stephen M. Avery*
Dierdre Featherstone, *Designer, Featherstone Design*
Lauren Kulchinsky, *Retailer, Mayfair Rocks*
Aron Suna, *Manufacturer, Suna Bros.*

2015 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Jerrold Green, *Lapidarist, Reginald C. Miller*
Myriam Gumuchian, *Vice President & Director*
of Sales, Gumuchian
Joseph Mardkha, *Manufacturer, ColorMasters*
Precious Jewelry
Tim McClelland, *Master Jeweler and Designer,*
McTigue & McClelland
Larry Pelzel, *Retailer, Neiman Marcus*
Dr. Jeffrey E. Post, *Curator, U.S. National Gem &*
Mineral Collection, Smithsonian Institution

2014 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Jennifer McCurry, *Fine Jewelry Buyer/Retailer,*
Marissa Collections
Jennie Ma, *Fashion and Beauty Editor, The Knot*
Barbara Heinrich, *Manufacturer,*
Barbara Heinrich Studio
John Hatleberg, *Lapidarist, Big Gems*
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2016 SUMMER AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Jeffrey Bilgore and Cynthia Renee – *Co-Chairs*
Pramod Agrawal
Larry Woods

2016 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Jeffrey Bilgore – *Chair*
Pramod Agrawal
Cynthia Renee
Larry Woods

2015 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Jeffrey Bilgore – *Chair*
Ruben Bindra
Bruce Bridges
Sushil Goyal
Benjamin Hackman
Niveet Nagpal
Avi Raz
Simon Watt

2014 AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™:

Jeffrey Bilgore – *Chair*
Ruben Bindra
Bruce Bridges
Sushil Goyal
Benjamin Hackman
Niveet Nagpal
Avi Raz
Simon Watt

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FROM THE CEO

DOUGLAS K. HUCKER



HERE WE ARE AGAIN, just shaking off the grip of August with its numbing temperatures and sluggish business. Vacation is over, kids are back in school and the three-day Labor Day holiday is already dissolving into memory to be replaced by some serious days of labor. Just as the balmy days of summer seemed to crawl past like a lazy drift boat in a Mississippi backwater, you can bet that the final quarter of the year is going to come at us like Usain Bolt in the 100 meters. I am going to suggest that there are a few items that you can put on your to-do list that can positively impact your business.

EDUCATE Get your staff up to speed on the color gemstones in your inventory. All effective sales associates understand that a good measure of success involves product knowledge. This understanding includes the attributes of the product, what motivates customers to make purchases, and proper wear-and-care considerations. Our AGTA online eLearning course on colored gemstones and cultured Pearls is designed to provide easy-to-understand basics for improving colored gemstone sales. It is free for all of our members for up to five employees and is well worth the price of \$350 per year for non-members. If you want to immediately improve your employees' colored gemstone presentation skills, contact us and let us help get you and your people signed up today.

BE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE Start making your plans for GemFair Tucson now. If you have been coming to Tucson for the annual GemFair you know what an exceptional experience this trade show provides. Many of you (over 5,000 companies attend as buyers) know just how important attendance at AGTA GemFair™ can be to continued success in your colored gemstone and cultured Pearl departments. With the ongoing pressure on profit margins in other departments, colored gemstone jewelry represents a departure from the razor-thin profits generated elsewhere.

If you haven't yet experienced AGTA GemFair™ Tucson, you should make plans to attend now. There is no better place to get your finger on the pulse of what is happening in the colored gemstones marketplace and, if you are like most first-time attendees, your parting remark will probably be "If I had known this show was like this I would have been coming long ago."

A major feature of GemFair is obviously the sheer bounty of gemstones that you will see. Over 250 of our member companies display collectively the most extensive inventory of gemstones and cultured Pearls to be found anywhere in the world. If there are new sources of gemstones, or new varieties of gemstones discovered during the course of the year, they will be featured at GemFair. New cutting styles or inventive mounting techniques are always premiered at GemFair. But perhaps the most important asset you will discover at AGTA GemFair™ is the AGTA dealer members themselves. The collective knowledge of these experts is beyond value, and the conversations you will have with them, as you stroll from booth to booth, is an extraordinary opportunity to truly grow your understanding and broaden your expertise of gemstones.

Complementing this incredible assortment of gem materials are the dozens of custom designers and manufacturers who specialize in color and exhibit at GemFair to introduce their newest and most innovative designs. If the idea of loose gemstones seems daunting to you, just visit our CAD Pavilion where the designers will take your gemstone purchases and design a beautiful custom mounting for you on the spot! If you are comfortable making your own gemstone creations, visit the Tools and Technology Pavilion in the Ballroom to find the most up-to-date equipment and supplies you need.

Whether you are a seasoned veteran of AGTA GemFair™ Tucson, or considering coming for the first time, you will come away with an experience that enriches you and improves your bottom line. It's an incredibly focused show with an extensive educational seminar program, daily networking opportunities, and spectacular weather. Did I mention what 75 degrees and sunny feels like in February? And if you love to eat, Tucson is the only city in the United States designated a City of Gastronomy by UNESCO (go on, Google it).

I will see you online, and hopefully, in Tucson! 🌈

Sincerely,

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

Douglas K. Hucker

B & B

FINE GEMS

WINNER OF 4 2016 SUMMER
AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™



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MEMBER PROFILE

VAROUJ TABAKIAN : JEWELRY BY VAROUJ



I recently had the opportunity to question an exceptional jeweler, multi-award winner, and proud member of The American Gem Trade Association, Varouj Tabakian.

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

Born in Beirut, Lebanon to Armenian parents, I spent my childhood growing up in what was considered the “Jewel of the Middle East”. Life was wonderful there until at the age of eleven when my father passed away suddenly. Because of the difficulty understanding and accepting this as a child, I became an unruly young adolescent. Out of desperation, my mother, older brother and sister, enrolled me into the local monastery! After nine months I was rejected and the priests sent me home! So many years later, we’d laugh about this and it has become a favourite story for my family today – my wife Susan and two young adult children, Melissa and Justin.

Tell us the fascinating story of how you got your start in the jewelry industry.

I was fourteen when I was first introduced to jewellery, completely by accident. My Uncle was taking me to the beach one day and on route, picked up a friend who was a

well-known jewellery designer and manufacturer. At the shop where we met, there were several craftsmen who showed me what they were working on – filing, beating the gold, polishing, etc. It was the first time I laid eyes on the most beautiful gemstones and jewellery and it was love at first sight!

I decided to decline joining my Uncle and his friend at the beach and asked to stay at the workshop. I was mesmerized watching the designers and goldsmiths working at the bench. I asked if I could work there and to the delight of my family, I started the next day.

Tell us about your journey from your beginning in the jewelry business to today. Where you trained as a jeweler, etc. to today.

After six months of strictly observing, I was allowed to sit at the bench with the group and begin to learn hands-on the process of jewellery making. This only lasted a year, but it was long enough for me to know I wanted to pursue this career path. In 1965, when my family immigrated to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), I was sixteen and lucky enough to find the best workshop to begin my career. I was with the very best craftsmen and artisans. They were Swiss, Greek, German, Italian and South African – all masters of the trade. They took me under their wing and I began my apprenticeship. This is where my true love and passion of jewellery design began.

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

After my apprenticeship, at age 21, I started my own business working out of my Brother’s jewellery store in Salisbury, Rhodesia. Once I completed my National Service in the army at the age of 24, I decided to leave Rhodesia and go to Europe for a better future.

I worked briefly in Switzerland and Paris, before settling in London, England, where as a freelancer, I was welcomed by many prominent jewellery stores in Knightsbridge. A highlight for me was being commissioned to make a free-form 3 carat diamond ring for Sir Elton John, which I created from beginning to end.

After a few years, I decided once again to take a chance to further my career and provide me with the lifestyle I dreamed of and moved to Canada. While I initially worked for a well-known company in Toronto, it wasn’t long that my talent was being recognized and I was encouraged to open my own workshop, Jewellery by Varouj in 1978. I was on my own, free to design and explore all the beautiful coloured gemstones that I loved!

Who were your early mentors in the colored gemstone / jewelry trade?

I will be forever grateful to the handful of master craftsmen in Rhodesia, who took me as a young apprentice and trained me with the very best skills required in making beautiful, fine jewellery. It was a foundation that has lasted me a lifetime.

Below: Colored Gemstone Collection





OMI

We Are Proud & Honored to Announce
Our 2016 Summer AGTA Spectrum Award Winners!



1st place Classical



2nd place Classical



AGTA GemFair Tucson | AGTA GemFair Las Vegas
COUTURE Las Vegas | CENTURION Scottsdale

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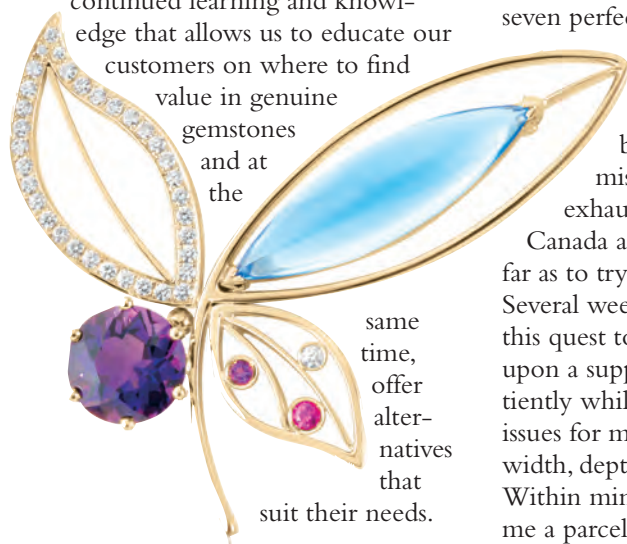
What initially attracted you to AGTA?
I was first introduced to AGTA at their booth in Tucson several years ago. I had always known of the association from a distance and it's integrity within the trade, but this was my first experience face to face with someone from the AGTA. What simply started as a friendly hello soon became a desire that I wanted to be a part of this great organization and benefit from the knowledge and support offered. I appreciate all that the AGTA stands for. I am proud to be a member with such an elite group of industry professionals.

What is your favorite colored gemstone? And why?

Although I see beauty in most coloured gemstones, I am most infatuated with Rhodolite Garnet. The rich warmth of its Bordeaux like colour, especially when custom cut, can cause me to stare at it for hours dreaming of my next creation. I also love that it is a unisex gemstone where the possibilities are endless.

During your activity and involvement in jewelry industry what changes to the trade have you witnessed? Also, how are you guiding your firm to meet today's challenges?

Colour enhanced stones and synthetic stones have been a game changer in the industry. It is through our continued learning and knowledge that allows us to educate our customers on where to find value in genuine gemstones and at the



same time, offer alternatives that suit their needs.

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

Trust is the foundation from which I have built my business. I have always sourced gemstones from the most ethical, reliable and responsible suppliers in the industry. Designing jewellery begins with a history that

most people are fascinated to hear. I am very proud to give my clients the story behind the creations in my collection or of their own special custom-made piece.

Tell us about Jewellery by Varouj today. Who works with you in your store?

I have always had, and continue to have the good fortune to be surrounded by amazing artisans and craftsmen who have worked with me over the years. They know my work ethic, my passion, my obsession with high quality workmanship and materials, and support me in every way. Then there's my dream team of my wife Susan and store manager Eldon, who have worked along side me for the past twenty years, keeping me totally grounded while always supporting my dreams.

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

My membership with the AGTA has provided my business with a backbone of knowledge along with a wealth of suppliers and industry professionals that I can rely on.

What is your favorite colored gemstone "Tucson Story"?

A few years ago, I was looking for seven perfectly matching emerald cut Blue Ceylon Sapphires for a spectacular diamond and sapphire bracelet that I was commissioned to make. I had exhausted every supplier in Canada and the US and went so far as to try to locate them in India. Several weeks later, I decided to take this quest to Tucson. Here, I came upon a supplier who listened patiently while I described the critical issues for me with matching height, width, depth and colour perfectly. Within minutes he was presenting me a parcel with exactly what I had been looking for! I grabbed both his

Below: 18k Black Drusy Onyx and Diamond Pendant



cheeks, kissed him and returned home happy and excited to start my new creation.

Whom have you admired in the colored gemstone industry?

I have the greatest admiration for stonecutters like Wobito Gems, John Dyer, or Munsteiner, who bring out the life and excitement in a gem.

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

I love travelling and have spent a lifetime seeing the world from Europe, to Africa, Australia, Japan and the United States and have experienced many beautiful cities, however, I am always grateful to be coming home to my favourite city, Toronto. The diversity here is ever changing, always interesting and with the added blessing of four distinct seasons, provides constant fuel for my imagination.

What is your favorite hotel?

My favourite stay was at Le Chateau Frontenac. It is the most beautiful, romantic hotel overlooking the historic St. Lawrence River and quaint streets of Old Quebec. A wonderful second honeymoon!

What is your favorite restaurant?

While touring the California coast, I absolutely love experiencing the many excellent Mexican restaurants we visited.

What was your best meal ever?

One of my most memorable meals was in Paris, when Susan and I had a fabulous dinner of Chateaubriand for two!

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

We took a side trip to Sedona one year after the Tucson show and I was fascinated by the glorious red rock!

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

I am a true romantic who is passionate about everything I do. I have a genuine love of life; love of my work; and my family is everything.

By David Baker, GG, AGTA Membership & Education Manager

Left: 18K Blue Topaz, Amethyst, Pink Sapphire and Diamond Brooch
Below: 18K Free-form Opal and 18K Diamond Cuff



Caroline

AGTA Spec.Trum Award Summer 2016 Winner



JCK/AGTA Las Vegas booth 130 | GJX booth 1223 | Hongkong AWE booth 8E08
Hongkong CEC booth 4R209 | Bahrain Jewellery Arabia | Qatar Doha DJWE



Caroline C

By Caroline Chartouni

212 997 7838 | bijoux@carolinec.com | www.carolinec.com

KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLORS: 2016 SUMMER AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™



The 2016 Summer AGTA Spectrum Awards™ collection sparked in a kaleidoscope of colors, as entrants presented their best and most colorful creations for consideration; the result – a stunning array of colors from pale and sweet, to bold and brilliant. The 2016 Summer AGTA Spectrum Awards™ winners truly represented the spectrum of color!

The competition was judged by an equally colorful group of experts – Diane Garmendia, 33 Jewels at El Paseo; Gail Brett Levine, Executive Director of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisals; Jay Mednikow, J.H. Mednikow & Co.; Victor Velyan, Victor-Christy Studios; and Lew Wackler, Lew Wackler Gem Company. This outstanding group worked tirelessly for two days, scoring and calculating, and eventually discussing their top choices for each of the categories, culminating in this year's winners. "Perhaps the most interesting part of the judging process is to listen to the judges select the 'Best of' Awards," said Douglas K. Hucker, AGTA CEO. "The 'Best of'

"It was a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the 2016 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ event. It was a daunting task to review a roomful of jewelry from talented designers with such a diverse approach to their craft in promoting the use of colored gemstones and pearls. Rings and necklaces abounded with technical skill combined with color sensitivity; precision cut unmounted gemstones vied for your attention - it was very difficult to decide with such bounty."

Gail Brett Levine

winners can be anything off the tables, whether category winners or not. There were a couple that were unanimously chosen from the get-go, and others that required much deliberation – hearing the different points of views from experts in their fields is fascinating and a learning experience for even the most seasoned industry veteran!"

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-based consumer appeal and potential to generate positive publicity for natural colored gemstones. The AGTA Cutting Edge Awards™ honor excellence and creativity in lapidary arts, including natural colored gemstones and cultured pearls, carvings and other gem materials and were judged on the basis of quality of lapidary work, technique, quality/rarity of gem material, overall beauty and originality of design.

Rounding out the weekend was the



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AGTA GemFair
JCK Las Vegas
Booth # 622

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High Quality Single Stones,
Matched Pairs, and Suites



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www.gem2000.com



AGTA



"As a fashion stylist for years diamonds were the preferred jewelry accessory. But as fashion is experiencing a big shift and women want to be able to wear their jewelry for work and pleasure, colored gemstones are quickly becoming the hot accessory of choice. With colored gemstone jewelry women have more versatility and options that can carry them from day to night."

Tod Hallman, THPFashion

annual AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Editors' Event where the entire collection was previewed by consumer and trade press, bloggers and stylists. "It was a great year with new faces attending the event! The editorial feedback we received was that the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ always delivers a stellar American gem designer trend snapshot," stated John Maroney, of John Maroney Public Relations & Marketing. "It is a luxury stop that is not to be missed!"

Many of the stunning winners were showcased in the AGTA Celebrity Photo Shoot featuring the stunning Holly Robinson Peete, and rising star Annie Ilonzeh. The pictures will debut in 2017 Volume 1 of Prism. "It's fascinating to see how the Spectrum winners for this year translate into the



trends in fashion and color that we'll see for the next year," said Hucker. "And what a fantastic way to showcase these beautiful designs, than on these two incredibly talented women!"

The 2016 Summer AGTA Spectrum Awards™ winners can be seen at the upcoming 2017 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson show, January 31 – February 5, at the Tucson Convention Center. Winners will be celebrated at the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Gala on February 4, 2017 at the Marriott University Park Hotel in Tucson. For more information regarding the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition, please contact Megan Whitmire at megan@agta.org or (800) 972-1162. 🌈

By Kami S. Swinney, Operations Manager

"As one of the five industry judges that had the pleasure to closely inspect near 450 wonderful entries from some of the best gems and jewelry craftsmen on this continent; I was honored and truly impressed with the overall quality of work. This contest is a must-do for multiple reasons whether you're a small studio shop or large jewelry firm to advertise and test your mettle."

Lew Wackler

AGTA PRISM

2016 SUMMER AGTA SPECTRUM AWARDS™

CELEBRATING COLOR...

The 2016 Summer 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!

1ST PLACE AND BEST OF SHOW

Ruben Bindra, B & B Fine Gems

Suite of round, brilliant Russian demantoid Garnets (24.67 ctw.).

Spectrum Photos taken by Brian Moghadam Photography

BEST OF...

A.
Best Use of Pearls
Judy Evans
Oliver & Espig
Gallery of Fine Arts
Platinum pendant
featuring a 13.44mm
golden South Sea
cultured Pearl accented
with Diamonds.

B.
Best Use of Color
Derek Katzenbach
Katzenbach Designs
14K white gold ring
featuring a 4.97 ct.
bicolored Tourmaline
accented with tsavorite
Garnets, Tourmalines
and Diamonds
(.69 ctw.).

C.
Editors' Choice
Ricardo Basta
E. Eichberg, Inc.
18K rose gold ring
featuring two sugarloaf
Tanzanites (23.26 ctw.)
accented with Opal,
tsavorite Garnets
(1.71 ctw.) and
Diamonds (.06 ctw.).

A.

B.

C.



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Jay Mednikow, J.H. Mednikow & Co., Inc.



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BEST OF...

D.

Fashion Forward

Lorenzo Chavez

Geogem-USA

Platinum and 18K
yellow and rose gold
"Gift From the Abyss"
pendant featuring a
124.73 ct. carved
Kunzite accented with
blue Zircons and
Diamonds (.82 ctw.).

E.

Best Use of

Platinum and Color

Kathy Kinev

**Jewel Creations,
Inc.**

Platinum "St. Chapelle"
ring featuring Rubies,
Sapphires, tsavorite
Garnets and blue and
white Diamonds.

D.

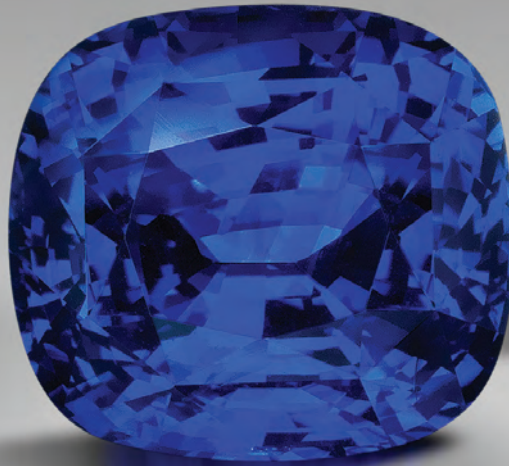


E.





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BRIDAL

SPONSORED BY THE KNOT

A.
1st Place and
Platinum Honors

Ricardo Basta

E. Eichberg, Inc.

Platinum "Royal Blue" ring featuring a 12.00 ct. blue Sapphire accented with Diamonds (2.59 ctw.). The ring features a detachable 18K yellow gold "Quilt" jacket featuring Turquoise accented with Diamonds (.43 ctw.) and tsavorite Garnets (.16 ctw.).



A.



B.
2nd Place

Alexia Connellan

Alexia Connellan

Luxury Jewelry

Platinum "Regency" earrings featuring mint Tourmalines (8.63 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (2.50 ctw.).



B.



C.
3rd Place

Caroline Chartouni

Caroline C

18K white gold earrings featuring red Spinel (2.21 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (5.01 ctw.).

C.





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BRIDAL

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D.
Gem Diva Award
Heena Chheda Shah
Real Gems, Inc.
18K white gold "Rosalyn" earrings featuring eight pear-shaped Emeralds (15.89 ctw.) accented with fancy and round Diamonds (3.49 ctw.).

E.
Honorable Mention
Samuel Sulimanov
Samuel Sylvio Designs
18K white gold earrings featuring Paraiba Tourmalines (3.0 ctw.) accented with Paraiba Tourmaline melee (.68 ctw.) and Diamonds.

F.
Honorable Mention
Jessica Neiwert
Jessica Nei
18K rose gold "Snow Blossom" convertible earrings featuring lavender Chalcedony (13.50 ctw.) accented with Moonstones (1.66 ctw.), pink Sapphires (.41 ctw.), Amethysts (.29 ctw.) and Diamonds (.54 ctw.).

G.
Manufacturing Honors
Dennis de Jonghe
deJonghe Original Jewelry
Platinum ring featuring a 2.20 ct. Aquamarine accented with Diamonds (0.40 ctw.).

H.
Platinum Innovation
William Travis
William Travis Jewelry
Platinum band featuring blue Sapphires (.54 ctw.), cognac Diamonds (.18 ctw.) and colorless Diamonds (.18 ctw.).





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BUSINESS/DAY WEAR

A.

1st Place

Ricardo Basta

E. Eichberg, Inc.

18K yellow gold and platinum "Honey" ring featuring a 13.58 ct. Heliodor accented with Sapphires (.82 ctw.) and Diamonds (.96 ctw.).

A.



B.

2nd Place

T. Foster & Co, Fine

Jewelers

T. Foster & Co, Fine

Jewelers

18K yellow gold and platinum ring featuring a 22.93 ct. orange Sapphire accented with Diamonds.

B.



C.

3rd Place

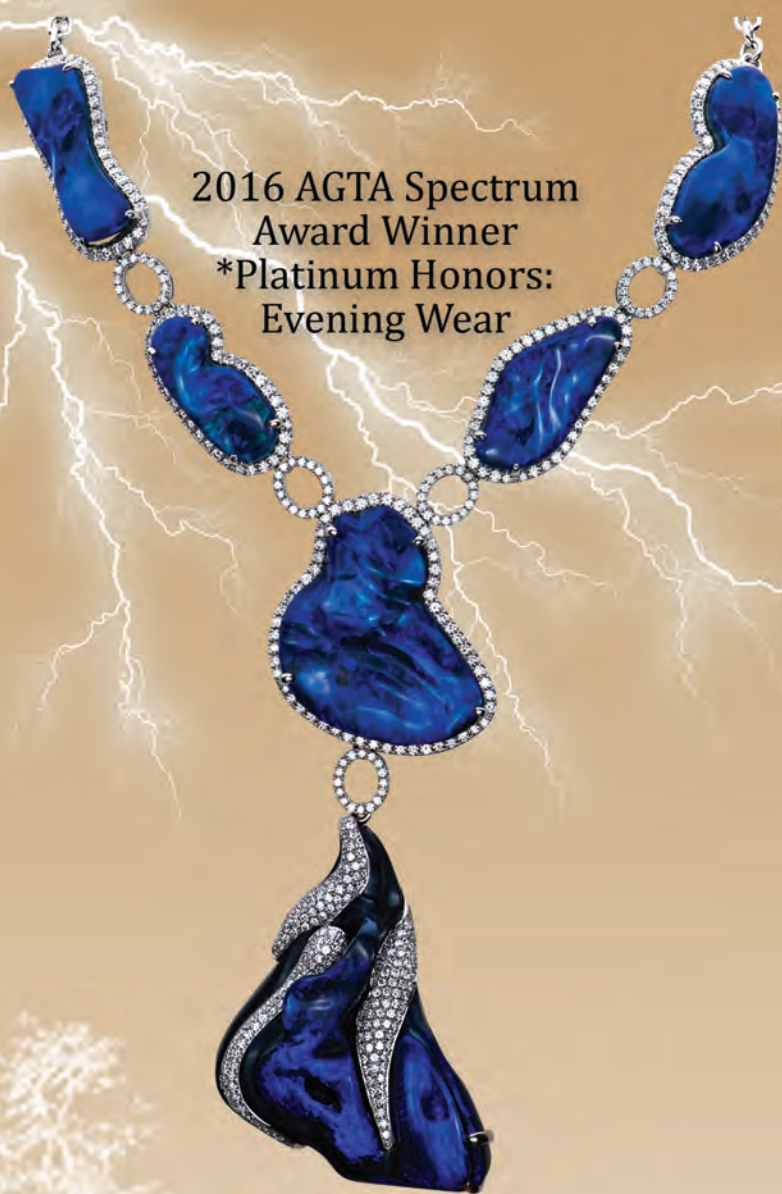
Zoltan David

Zoltan David, LLC

Palladium and 22K yellow gold ring featuring a 4.12 ct. Danburite accented with blue Sapphires (.42 ctw.).

C.



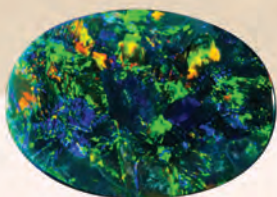


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BUSINESS/DAY WEAR

D.
Platinum Innovation

Jill Maurer
Jill Maurer

Platinum "Verge" ring
featuring a 11.19 ct.
golden Zircon accented
with natural colored
Diamonds (1.23 ctw.).

D.



E.
Gem Diva Award

Naomi Sarna
Naomi Sarna

Designs
18K palladium white
gold "Confetti Heart"
ring featuring multi-
colored Diamonds,
Sapphires, Rubies and
Amethysts.



E.



F.
Honorable Mention

Shuang Feng
Fon Shon Jewellery
Art & Design

14K white gold with
18K rose gold plating
ring featuring an oval
Morganite accented
with Diamonds.

F.



BUSINESS/DAY WEAR

G.



G.
Honorable Mention
Patrick King
Jewelsmith

14K white and yellow gold pendant featuring a 31.94 ct. lemon Quartz accented with a 2.96 ct. Opal and Diamonds (.15 ctw.).

H.
Manufacturing Honors

Llyn Strong
Llyn strong fine art jewelry

18K yellow gold earrings featuring bezel-set Rubies (1.56 ctw.).

H.



I.
Platinum Honors
John Ford
Lightning Ridge
Collection by
John Ford Platinum

"Mirror" ring featuring a 3.65 ct. black Opal accented with Diamonds (.69 ctw.).



I.



CLASSICAL

A.

1st Place

Niveet Nagpal
Omi Gems, Inc.

18K rose gold ring featuring a 4.01 ct. cushion-cut pink Spinel accented with Spinel melee (.52 ctw.), Diamond melee (.82 ctw.) and a .01 ct. Alexandrite.

A.



B.

2nd Place

Niveet Nagpal
Omi Gems, Inc.

Platinum and black rhodium ring featuring three Alexandrites (6.99 ctw.) accented with Alexandrite melee (1.64 ctw.) and Diamonds (.91 ctw.).

B.



C.

3rd Place

Alexia Connellan
Alexia Connellan
Luxury Jewelry

18K rose gold "Spiral" earrings featuring Morganites (9.50 ctw.) accented with Akoya cultured Pearls (8.02 ctw.), Sapphires (1.08 ctw.) and Diamonds (.85 ctw.).

C.



D.



D.

Manufacturing
Honors

Dominique Israileff
ASBA USA, INC.

14K rose gold pendant featuring a 13mm Tahitian cultured Pearl accented with Diamonds (.37 ctw.).

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AGTA
SPECTRUM
AWARDS

SUMMER 2016
PLATINUM INNOVATION
BUSINESS/DAY WEAR

CLASSICAL

**E.
Honorable
Mention and
Gem Diva Award
Heena Chheda Shah
Real Gems, Inc.**

18K white gold
"Bridget" ring featuring
a 3.08 ct. oval Ruby
accented with round
Rubies (.31 ctw.) and
round and pear
Diamonds (3.87 ctw.).

**F.
Platinum Honors
Zoltan David
Zoltan David, LLC**

Platinum pendant
featuring a 35.63 ct.
marquis Moonstone
cabochon set in blue
patina bronze on a
strand of cabochon
Moonstones (18.20
ctw.) and Diamonds
(1.20 ctw.).

**G.
Platinum
Innovation and
Honorable Mention
Lindsay Jane
Lindsay Jane Designs**

Platinum ring featuring a
7.77 ct. Moonstone
accented with purple
and blue Sapphires
(0.97 ctw.), and
Diamonds (0.52 ctw.).





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EVENING WEAR

A.
1st Place
David Gross
David Gross Group
 Platinum necklace
 featuring 21 unheated
 Mozambique Rubies
 (29.33 ctw.) accented
 with Diamonds (21.61
 ctw.).

B.
2nd Place
Phillip Dismuke
Jewelsmith
 18K yellow gold and
 platinum ring featuring
 a 13.53 ct. black Opal
 accented with Sap-
 phires (1.01 ctw.) and
 Diamonds (.07 ctw.).



EVENING WEAR



C.

C.

3rd Place

Robert Pelliccia

J.R. Dunn Jewelers

18K yellow and white gold pendant featuring a 23.94 ct. boulder Opal accented with blue and pink Sapphires (.58 ctw.) and Diamonds (.92 ctw.) on a black Diamond bead necklace.

D.

Gem Diva Award

Alexia Connellan

Alexia Connellan

Luxury Jewelry

Platinum "The Fringe" earrings featuring bicolored Tourmalines (20.32 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (1.50 ctw.).



D.

EVENING WEAR

E.
Platinum Honors
John Ford
Lightning Ridge
Collection by
John Ford
 Platinum "Electric Blue"
 necklace featuring black
 Opal (197.0 ctw.)
 accented with
 Diamonds (6.27 ctw.).

F.
Honorable Mention
Sinork Agdere
Lord Jewelry
 18K yellow gold and
 platinum "Ballerina"
 ring featuring a 65.0
 ct. specialty-cut lemon
 Citrine accented with
 Diamonds and enamel.

G.
Manufacturing
Honors
Llyn Strong
Ilyn strong fine art
jewelry
 18K rose gold "Calla
 Lily" ring featuring a
 5.17 ct. rose-cut green
 Tourmaline accented
 with Diamonds
 (0.03 ctw.).

H.
Honorable Mention
Erica Courtney
Erica Courtney, Inc.
 18K yellow gold "Easter
 Egg" ring featuring
 a 7.46 ct. Paraiba
 Tourmaline accented
 with Paraiba Tourmalines
 (1.09 ctw.) and Dia-
 monds (2.45 ctw.).

E.



G.



F.



H.



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MEN'S WEAR

**A.
1st Place and
Platinum Honors**

Mark Schneider

Mark Schneider Design

Platinum and 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 8.76 ct. Maw Sit Sit accented with black, white and yellow Diamonds (2.27 ctw.) and tsavorite Garnets (.93 ctw.).

A.



**B.
2nd Place**

William Travis

William Travis Jewelry

Silver and 18K yellow gold ring featuring 17.67 ct. carved Lapis Lazuli scarab beetle accented with orange Sapphires (.96 ctw.).

B.



**C.
3rd Place**

Craig Slavens

Studio 247 Fine Jewelry

Carbon fiber, platinum and 18K rose gold ring featuring a 4.52 ct. unheated Padparadscha Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.39 ctw.).

C.



**D.
Honorable Mention**

William Travis

William Travis Jewelry

Platinum band featuring blue Sapphires (.54 ctw.), cognac Diamonds (.18 ctw.) and colorless Diamonds (.18 ctw.).

D.



AGTA
SPECTRUM
AWARDS

— 2016 SUMMER —

BRIDAL WEAR

HONORABLE MENTION

IMAGE PROPERTY OF AGTA

PHOTOS TAKEN BY

BRIAN MOGHADAM PHOTOGRAPHY

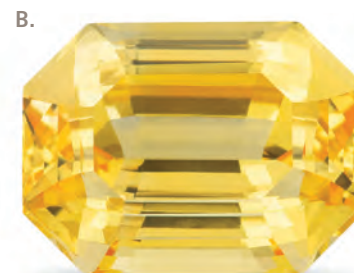
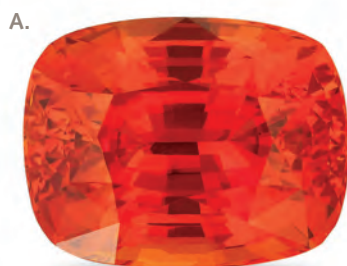


SAMUEL SYLVIO
DESIGNS

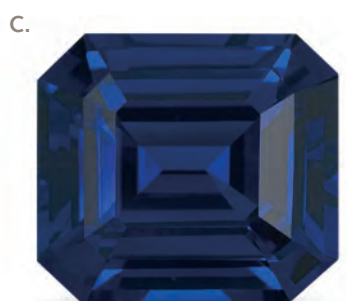
AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS

CLASSIC CUT

A.
1st Place
Ruben Bindra
B & B Fine Gems
 10.11 ct. Sri Lankan
 cushion-cut orange
 Sapphire.



B.
2nd Place
Allen Kleiman
A. Kleiman & Co.
 20.03 ct. unheated
 emerald-cut yellow
 Sapphire.

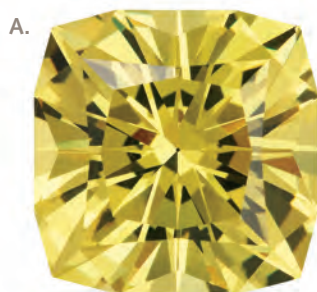


C.
3rd Place
Allen Kleiman
A. Kleiman & Co.
 15.01 ct. emerald-cut
 blue Sapphire.

D.
Honorable Mention
Ruben Bindra
B & B Fine Gems
 7.22 ct. cushion-cut
 Padparadscha Sapphire.

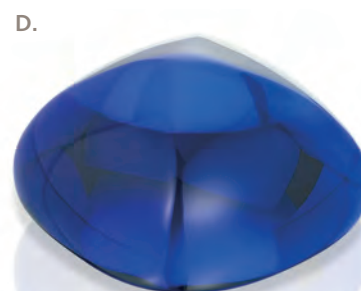
ALL OTHER FACETED

A.
1st Place
Jeffrey Hapeman
Earth's Treasury LLC
 42.47 ct. brilliant
 square cushion
 specialty-cut Apatite.



B.
2nd Place
Maxim Stepanov
Nomad's
 12.44 ct. square cushion
 tsavorite Garnet.

C.
3rd Place
Ambassador Gems
Ambassador Gems
 24.12 ct. cushion-cut
 blue Zircon.



D.
Honorable Mention
Hemant Phophaliya
A G Color, Inc.
 48.62 ct. sugarloaf
 Tanzanite



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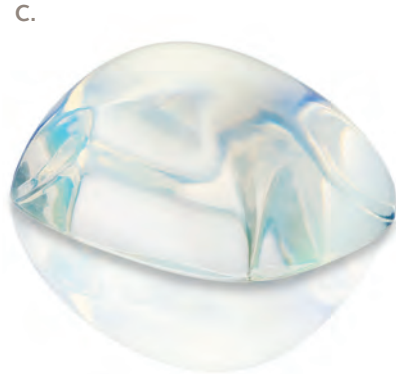
A.
1st Place
Gil
Gil Int'l
 5.56 ct. untreated
 Alexandrite.



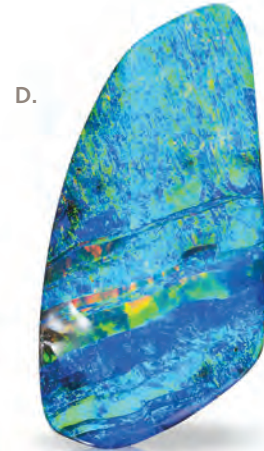
B.
2nd Place
Robert Shapiro
Robert Shapiro
 10.05 ct. oval boulder Opal.



C.
3rd Place
Manu Nichani
Blue Moon Ent.
 19.07 ct. royal blue
 rectangular, cushion-cut
 Moonstone.



D.
Honorable Mention
Robyn Duffy
DuffyWeis Opals, Inc.
 103.80 ct. cabochon
 boulder Opal.



AGTA
SPECTRUM
 AWARDS



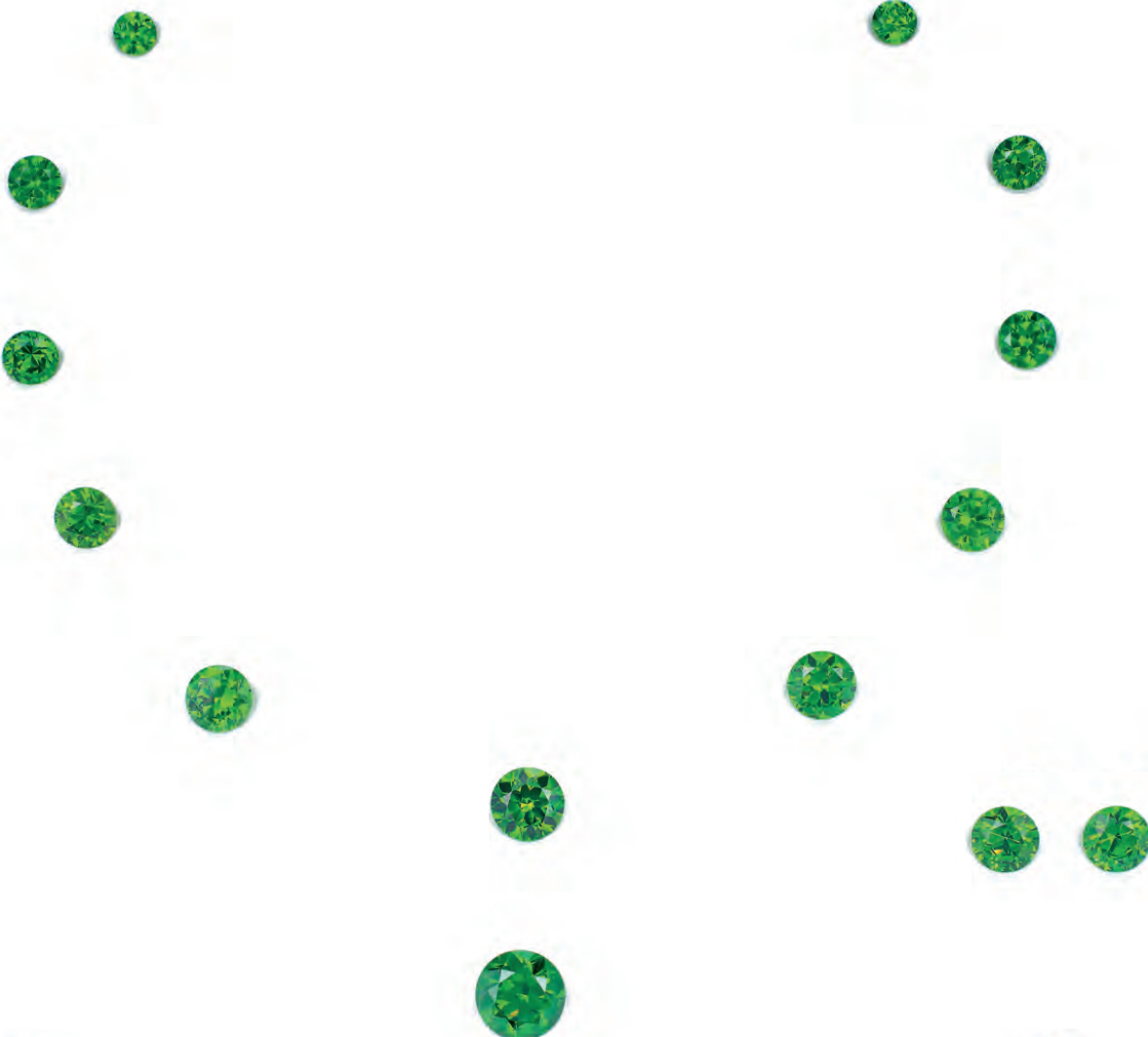
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 WITH CUSHION AND MARQUISE
 DIAMONDS (21.61 ctw)
 (GIA D-F / VVS-VS)

DG
 DAVID GROSS
 GROUP



PAIRS & SUITES

A.



A.

1st Place and Best of Show

Ruben Bindra

B & B Fine Gems

Suite of round, brilliant Russian demantoid Garnets (24.67 ctw.).

B.

2nd Place

Allen Kleiman

A. Kleiman & Co.

Suite of pear-shaped unheated Mozambique Rubies (18.77 ctw.).

C.

3rd Place

Ben Kho

Kho International, Ltd.

Suite of round Rhodochrosite (17.26 ctw.).

D.

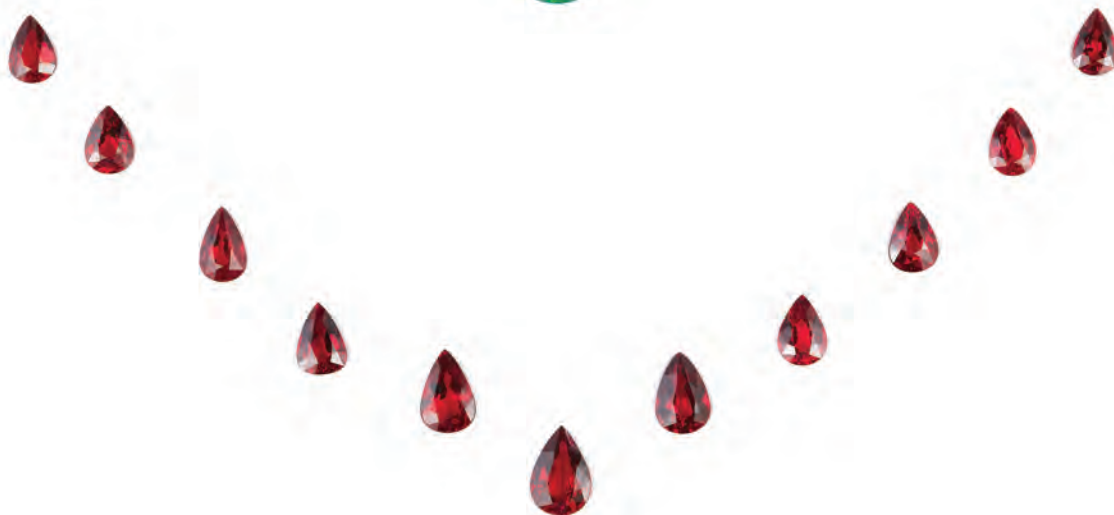
Honorable Mention

Allen Kleiman

A. Kleiman & Co.

Earring suite of oval pink and unheated purple Sapphires (17.23 ctw.).

B.



C.



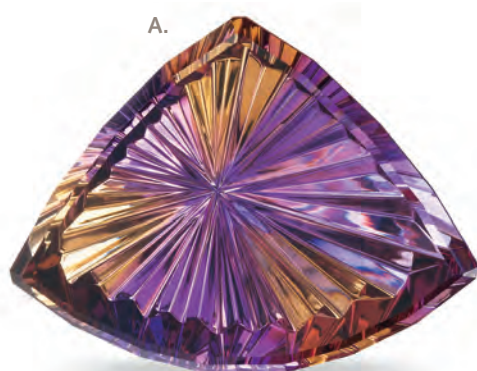
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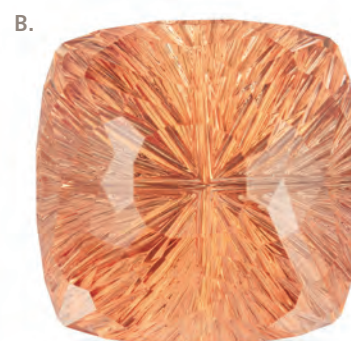
AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS

INNOVATIVE FACETING

A.
1st Place
John Dyer
John Dyer & Co.
80.29 ct. specialty-cut
Ametrine.



B.
2nd Place
John Dyer
John Dyer & Co.
175.37 ct. deep
concave cushion-cut
Morganite titled
"Mozambique Sunset."



C.
3rd Place
Ryan Joseph
Anderson
Ryan Joseph Gems
89.41 ct. Amethyst,
titled "Eforescence."

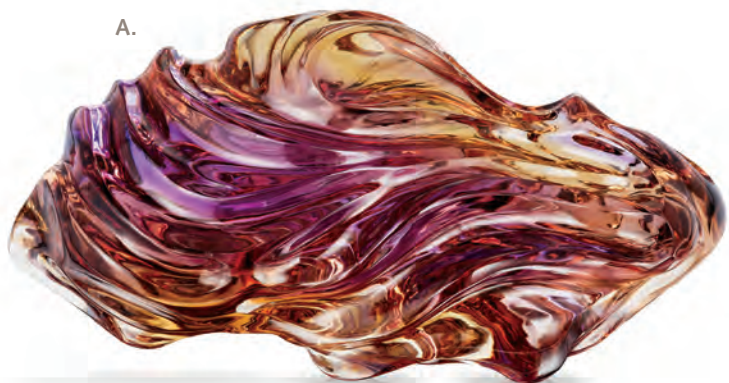


D.
Honorable Mention
Glenn Lehrer
Lehrer Designs, Inc.
30.79 ct. Danburite
and a 1.03 ct. Ruby
titled "KaleidosCut."
When placed together,
they create an
8-pointed star in the
Danburite.



CARVING

A.



A.

1st Place

Naomi Sarna

Naomi Sarna

Designs

Hand-carved Ametrine
(297 ctw.).

B.

2nd Place

John Dyer

John Dyer & Co.

Aquamarine carving
titled 'Sydney
Symphony'
(53.63 ctw.).

B.



C.

3rd Place

Meg Berry

Mega Gem

21.70 ct. pyrope Garnet
titled "Rooster."

C.



D.

Honorable Mention

Naomi Sarna

Naomi Sarna

Designs

Rutilated Quartz carving
(1375 ctw.).

D.



AGTA CUTTING EDGE™ AWARDS

OBJECTS OF ART

A.
Honorable Mention

Neda Behnam

Samuel B.

Collection

18K yellow gold
"Stallion" statue fea-
turing champagne
Diamonds (7.81 ctw.)
accented with tsavorite
Garnets and Mother-of-
Pearl on an Onyx base.



B.
Honorable Mention

Brenda Smith

Brenda Smith

Jewelry

"Light/My Fire"
object of art featuring
Opalized wood (250
ctw.) accented with a
hand-carved 75.0 ct.
Sunstone ame, 40.0 ct.
hand-carved Mexican
re Opal and Diamonds
(.20 ctw.).



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Alex Meneses recently starred as Isabela Santamaria on NBC's comedy Telenovela, an over-the-top, Spanish-language, soap opera diva, whose bitterness over being booted into the mother role of a younger leading lady is unleashed on her castmates. She's a hoot to play for the half-Mexican-American actress, especially when Isabela's antics are carried out in huge hair, 6-inch stilettos and a ladies-who-lunch wardrobe topped in showy jewelry. Her performance was critically acclaimed, and earned her a Best Supporting Actress nomination for an Imagen Award.

But unlike her comedic character, the down-to-earth Meneses, first embraced by audiences as Teresa Morales on Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, has a much more refined eye for jewelry, making her an ideal celebrity spokeswoman for the 2016 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Collection. Now in its 32nd year, the annual Spectrum competition, sponsored by the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA), is North America's premier fine-jewelry design-contest for natural colored gemstones and cultured Pearls.

"I'm a Pearl person," says the Chicago native, who earned American Comedy Award and ALMA Award nominations for her role as Robert Barone's luscious Italian love interest, Stefania Fogagnolo, on Everybody Loves Raymond, and starred opposite Greg Kinnear in Auto Focus,

a New York Film Critics Circle Award winner. "I have a string of Pearls that I've had forever and wear all the time. I even wore them as a teenager. I also had a double-strand necklace of gold Pearls with a Diamond clasp that I loved."

Perhaps that's why a Pearl necklace caught the former model's eye during her photo shoot with the collection. Designed by Naomi Sarna of New York City-based Naomi Sarna Designs, the necklace, which won "Best Use of Pearls" in the competition, features cultured freshwater baroque Pearls in warm hues of peach and pink, with a gold and Diamond clasp and matching pendant.

Meneses was equally as enthralled with the rest of the collection, telling the AGTA how astonished she was by the beauty of the colored gemstones and the innovativeness of the designs. She gushed about another of Sarna's pieces—a necklace composed of Turquoise-bead strands (814.0 ct.) intermingled with 18K yellow gold and Diamond rondelles—describing it as "face-brightening" and "feeling good to wear." She also mentioned the crescent-shaped pendant necklace created by William Travis Kukovich of William Travis Jewelry, Chapel Hill, NC, saying it's "so beautiful" and something she'd "never seen before." Spotlighting a 4.74-carat brown Diamond accented with rose-cut Diamonds (.40 ct.) set in oxidized

silver and mixed gold, the piece won "Best Use of Silver and Color."

Also special to Meneses were the magnificent earrings created by Bella Campbell of Campbellian, Morristown, NJ. Composed of blue-green Tourmalines (17.05 ct.) and Emeralds (4.14 ct.) set in 18K pink gold, the "Best Use of Color" winner showcases Meneses' favorite gemstone colors: green and blue. "They made me feel like a princess," Meneses says. "They were playful and beautiful."

Of all the green and blue gemstones, Emerald is the top choice for Meneses. She's such a fan, in fact, that her most memorable jewelry experience is buying herself a white gold ring set with a 12.0-carat emerald-cut Colombian Emerald, after thieves broke into her home and stole all of her jewels.

"Three years into my marriage, we were robbed," Meneses says. "They took all of my jewelry. The ring was a gift to myself [after the incident]. It was ginormous and fabulous, a favorite piece."

While Meneses' Emerald ring could surely captivate from across the room, the Friends, NCIS and Prison Break alum prefers a little less flash in her everyday wardrobe. She opts to wear maybe a few rings, and almost certainly a watch. A men's Rolex with Diamond accents and a leather strap is a favorite, as is a Harry Winston timepiece chock-full of Dia-

Funny Lady Alex Meneses Gets Serious About Jewelry

monds. "It's like a dessert," she says.

But when it comes to black-tie affairs, Meneses has a more "anything goes" attitude about jewelry. Perhaps that comes from dressing up in mom's jewelry as a little girl, something Meneses' young daughter now does with hers.

"We couldn't afford expensive jewelry when I was young," Meneses recalls. "But my mother was a model in the '50s, a real fashionista. She loved fashion jewelry, and I loved dressing up in it."

As a TV, film and stage actress, the president and founder of her own production company, and a tireless philanthropist dedicated to such causes as United Hope for Animals and the Children's Hospital Los Angeles—for which she's been a board member for 11 years and raised millions of dollars—Meneses has plenty of opportunities now to play dress up in real life, and does so in jewelry appropriate for the occasion.

"I tend to wear black to gala events, which I usually accent with Diamonds. That's dressy to me," Meneses says. "But the jewelry really depends on the event and the outfit. I just have fun with it."

For a woman who gives us so many laughs and brings joy to so many in need, we would expect nothing less. 🌈
By Jerilynn Kraus



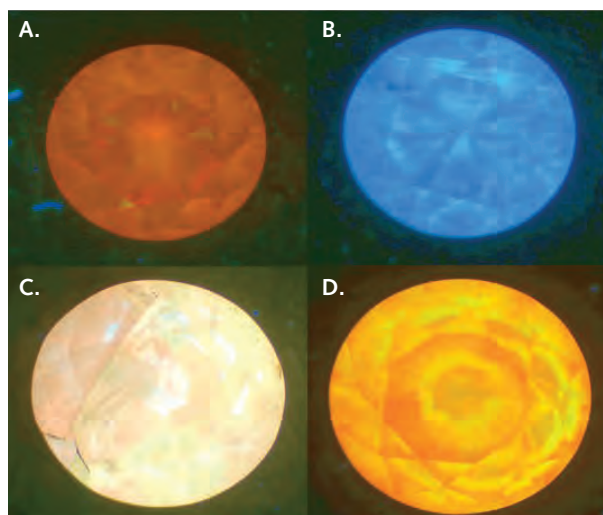
Photographer -
Andrew Macpherson
**Produced and
Styled by** Tod Hallman
for Ivy Eleven
Hair - Steven Lewis f
or Exclusive Artist
Management
Makeup - Agostina
for Exclusive Artist
Management
Manicurist - Jolene
Brodeur for Ivy Eleven
Dress: Herve Leger -
Navy Gown (Available f
at Saks Fifth Avenue)
Necklace: Naomi
Sarna, Naomi Sarna
Designs - Strand of
freshwater baroque
cultured Pearls with
18K white gold and
Diamonds and a
freshwater baroque
cultured Pearl pendant.

Origin of Pink Diamonds



Right (Figure 1):
Rare Fancy intense
Purplish Pink diamonds
from Argyle, Australia.
Courtesy of Rio Tinto
Diamonds, Perth

Are they from Argyle, Canada, Laboratory or Elsewhere?



Fancy coloured diamonds, especially reds and pinks, are breaking all records for price paid per carat at major auctions in 2016. More than 90 per cent of the world's supply of pink natural diamonds are mined from a single source – Rio Tinto's Argyle mine in North Western Australia. This mine has produced large quantities of diamonds since 1985, the majority of which are marketed as 'champagne' and 'cognac' brownish diamonds, and less than 0.1% of diamonds produced exhibit some pink coloration.

Operations at Argyle mine are currently underground and the mine's production life is expected to run until approximately 2020. This limitation, combined with the rarity of pink diamonds, is part of the reason for skyrocketing prices in last 5 years. At this time there is a 15 to 30 per cent premium on pink diamonds with proven Argyle origin (*Figure 1, page XX*) and efforts of CGL-GRS lab in Canada and GRS labs in Hong Kong and Bangkok are currently focused on establishing a means of confirming or establishing their original source.

North American jewelers are increasingly using small pinks in their designs (particularly in sizes ranging from 0.01 to 0.20 carats) and larger pink diamonds have gained popularity as an investment vehicle in world markets. In this article we will review screening and identification techniques for natural, treated and synthetic pink diamonds and present some preliminary research data on Australian and Canadian pink diamonds.

Identification of Pink Diamonds Processed or Made in a Laboratory

Because pink / red colored diamonds are among the rarest of all, many techniques have been developed to change the color of natural diamonds to pink or in some instances to grow diamonds in a laboratory and treat them to effect a pink coloration. Off-color natural or synthetic diamonds can be irradiated and heated to produce a pink color; HPHT (High Pressure High Temperature) process can also be used, either on its own or in combination with irradiation and annealing to create pink colored diamonds. The initial job of gemologists is to screen pink diamonds for natural, treated or synthetic origin using standard instruments:

Left (Figure 2):

Identification of small pink diamonds, natural, treated and synthetic with Photoluminescence method based on different reaction under LW UV Lamp.

A. HPHT synthetic, irradiated, annealed pink

B. Natural pink, natural colour from Argyle, Australia

C. Natural, HPHT treated, irradiated, annealed pink

D. Natural, irradiated and annealed pink

1. UV lamp – under LWUV light natural pink diamonds do either not fluoresce or show a blue reaction depending on whether it is a Canadian, Argyle or other type natural pink diamond. Treated pinks show orangy yellow to peach color and synthetic stones display reddish orange under both LWUV and SWUV light (Figure 2, page XX)

A new ‘PL inspector’ (mini UV lamp with magnifier) developed by Gemetrix (Australia) for checking fluorescence/phosphorescence reactions has proven to be a very useful tool to separate natural from treated and synthetic diamonds (pink, colored and colourless) (ref. 1).

2. Microscope – natural stones have natural crystals and pink graining lines, synthetic HPHT stones contain metallic inclusions and CVD synthetics have pinpoints in one plane or blackish “feathers” (ref. 1).

3. Cross Polarized Filters (CPF) or Portable Polariscope – while pink diamonds from India, Brazil, Lesotho, South Africa and Tanzania show a “tatami” cross pattern typical for type IIa diamonds, other sources of natural pink diamonds like Australia, Canada, Russia and Indonesia, Central Africa and Venezuela show a stronger pattern typical for type I diamonds. Synthetic HPHT pink diamonds will not show any pattern under CPF while CVD synthetics typically show “columnar pattern” though could also exhibit a type II pattern (ref. 1).

In 2014 GRS and CGL-GRS reported on a much more “natural looking” new generation of Orion PDC (Hong Kong) fancy pink CVD-grown diamonds of all sizes and higher clarity (VVS-VS) than were previously available on the market. Advanced spectroscopy is necessary to positively identify CVD diamonds rather than HPHT or treated natural. (ref. 2).

Sources of Pink Natural Diamonds in the World

In 2007, one of the authors began a research project in conjunction

with an international team on the characterization of pink diamonds of different origins (ref. 3). It found that Argyle stones exhibit typical strong blue fluorescence under LWUV lamp and a characteristic “fingerprint” in the infrared part of the spectra. While rare Golconda’s are Type IIa (without nitrogen impurities), Argyle pinks comprise nitrogen and typically more in ‘B’ form than ‘A,’ making them Type IaAB. In recent years GRS Gemresearch Swisslab (GRS) in Hong Kong in collaboration with CGL-GRS Swiss Canadian Gemlab Inc. (CGL-GRS) Canada has been



accumulating data on pink diamonds from different sources using standard gem instruments and advanced spectroscopy (UV-VIS, FTIR and PL) and other advanced techniques.

The following are sources of pink and purple Argyle and non-Argyle diamonds in historical order from all commercial sources * indicates examined in the last 3 years as part of research):

- *Indonesia (Borneo, Kalimantan)* – oldest diamond mining from rivers, starting in 16th century.
- *India (Golconda)* – from kimberlite in the 17th century.
- *Brazil* (Minas Gerais)* – from rivers in 18th century until present day.
- *South Africa* (Lace Mine)* – from kimberlite in late 19th century until present day.
- *Venezuela* (Santa Elena)* – diamonds founded in rivers in 1920’s until present day.
- *Tanzania (flawless 23.60-carat Williamson Pink diamond was*

presented to Queen Elizabeth II) – in 1947 from kimberlite.

- *Congo * (Katanga Province, Kasai)* – from rivers in mid-20th century until present day.
- *Russia * (Siberia, Mir mine)* – from kimberlites in 1950’s until present day.
- *Australia* (Argyle)* – from lamproite from 1985 until present day.
- *Canada* (Northwest Territories, Diavik mine and Northern Ontario, Victor mine)* – from kimberlites for last 15 years;
- *LESOTHO (KAO MINE)* – from kimberlite in 2014.

Today’s consumers are very conscious about the origin of products. In addition to demanding fair trade coffee and other relatively inexpensive products, it is reasonable to expect a similar interest in knowing where their expensive coloured diamond comes from. US and Canadian wholesalers and jewellers should be ready to provide the answer based on available information.

Purple - Pink Diamonds from Canada

Recently at CGL-GRS lab in Canada we had a chance to study 2 larger (0.96ct and 1.03ct) pink diamonds (Figure 3, page XX) from the “Canadian Diamond Exchange” and we found similar characteristics in this group of diamonds that fits with research data we collected with GRS labs in 2015 (ref. 4) as “Canadian fingerprint”.

Colours – ranges from faint pink to fancy brownish purplish pink.

Right (Figure 3)
0.96ct Faint pink and
1.03ct Fancy brownish
purplish Pink diamond
from Diavik mine, that
is laser inscribed with
Canada Mark to certify
Canadian origin.
*Photo courtesy of
CGL-GRS, Canada.*

Microscopy – Canadian diamonds are medium quality, in SI1 to VS2 clarity range sometimes with garnet inclusions, feathers and typical strong purple-pink graining lines.

Cross Polarized Filters – Canadian diamonds shows strong interference colors (type Ia) when observed in portable polariscope mounted on microscope.

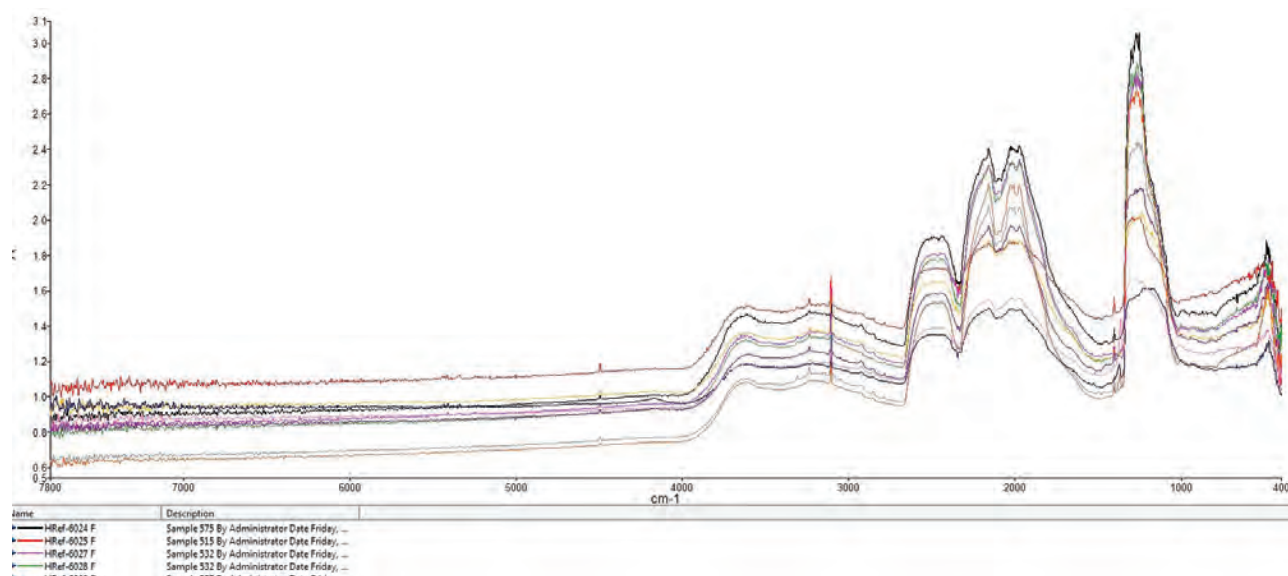
UV Fluorescence – all diamonds did not show any fluorescence under LW or SW light.

Advanced Spectroscopy – infrared spectroscopy revealed that Canadian diamonds are type IaAB with high amount of nitrogen present, typically more in ‘B’ form than ‘A’, (Figure 4, page XX). Diamonds are showing 415nm absorption related

major celebrities buying pink diamonds;

- Australia’s strict adherence to the Kimberley Process and proven “conflict free” Argyle origin
- Canadian strong certification of Canadian “colourless” diamonds and new discoveries of pink diamonds that will follow existing lasering and origin protocols;
- Rarity of pink diamonds and the strong likelihood that Argyle mine will be closed within 5 years.

CGL-GRS is currently working on an “Advanced Fancy Diamond Report” that will make reference



Left (Figure 4)
Infrared spectra of type IaAB pink diamond with high nitrogen is typical for Canadian diamonds, 10 presented here.
Courtesy of GRS Lab (Hong Kong) Ltd, Hong Kong, China

to nitrogen in visible spectra.

These diamonds from Canada have very similar characteristics to purple diamonds from Russia regarding colour (strong purple modifier of pink) and gemmological characteristics (no fluorescence, purple-pink graining, strong type Ia pattern under CPF), so other advanced techniques (UV-visible, infrared and photoluminescence spectroscopy and others) are needed to separate those sources.

Origin Certification of Pink Diamonds?

Over the last ten years, demand for pink diamonds has increased in part due to the following factors:

- Exposure in mainstream media, most often in the form of published results on record-breaking prices at major auctions, as well as

to diamond origin when test results are conclusive. Many of the Canadian pinks are laser inscribed with the “Canada Mark” logo (therefore originating from the Diavik mine, Northwest Territories, Canada). Rio Tinto diamonds in Australia and Canadian mining companies are following all protocols implemented by their respective governments regarding tracking of their diamonds, and consumers do not mind to paying an extra premium in order to ensure that their diamonds are coming from these conflict-free sources. ¹By Branko Deljanin¹, Dr. Adolf Peretti², Matthias Alessandri³

¹CGL-GRS Swiss Canadian Gemlab Inc, Canada, info@cglworld.ca; ²Dr. Peretti Co. Ltd, Thailand and GRS Laboratories, adolf@peretti.ch; ³GRS Lab (Hong Kong) Ltd, Hong Kong, China

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FIRM MEMBER PROFILE

JAMES ALGER : JAMES ALGER CO.



While walking the AGTA GemFair™ Tucson, you find so many knowledgeable firms with a willingness to share their colored gemstone knowledge and enthusiasm. One such firm is James Alger Company, Inc. The company is represented by Member of Record, James Alger.

James “Jim” Alger and his wife, Pat were living in Tucson in the early seventies where they attended their first gem show. At the show, Jim bought a small lapidary wheel along with a saw, and began cutting gems. “We both became fascinated with colored gemstones that continues to this day,” says Jim.

From that modest beginning, James Alger Co., Inc has become one of the most respected AGTA Firm members. Over the years, Jim has been dedicated to serving AGTA in a number of volunteer positions.

These elected appointments have included serving as Chairman of Membership, Chairman of Promotions Committee, and Spectrum Awards.

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

I grew up in New Hampshire on my grand parents farm where I have resided until recently. I spend summers on the NH coast with my wife, Pat. I’ve lived in Tucson, Colorado, (mainly to ski)

Tell us more about your love for colored gemstones?

Colored stones in their purest form are an amazing and mysterious expression of nature. I never tire of their beauty, diversity, and the feelings they invoke.

Who were your early mentors in the colored gemstone trade?

Andrew Sarosi, Joseph Stachura, and George Hartmann

What initially attracted you to AGTA?

In the early 80’s all shows were organized by promoters whose self interest was first. AGTA has given us a voice in the industry, great trade fairs, ethical guidelines and opportunities for promotion and education of colored gemstones.

What is your favorite colored gemstone?
Probably tourmaline, so many of it’s hues resonate with me.

During your activity and involvement in colored gemstones,

what changes to the trade have you have you witnessed? Also, how are you guiding your firm to meet today’s challenges?

Colored gemstones are by nature very rare and mysterious. No one really knows how they are formed. With the trend towards more treatment, there is an increasing tendency to make colored gemstones a commodity. We emphasize fine quality, untreated and service.

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

People at every level of the production chain have to be adequately compensated. Producing countries and their people have to share equally. he have to only work with suppliers who ensure their employees have safe working conditions and equitable pay.

Tell us about James Alger Company today. Who we are likely to speak with when we call?

My wife Pat manages the office. Our staff includes Annette (Noni) Kirby, Barbara Brown and Felicitas (Feli) Hermsdorf.

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

AGTA has given my colleagues and I a voice in the industry, a means to discuss, analyze and solve the ethical, logistics and economic challenges we all face. Also, excellent marketing opportunities.

Below: Garnets from James Alger Co.





Clockwise from left: Multicolored Beryl; cornflower blue Sapphire; Tourmaline crystals from James Alger Co.

What is your favorite colored gemstone “Tucson Story”?

For years we had a bicolor tourmaline carving of Elvis. I’m not even sure why we bought it! We finally put it in our closeouts. The folks from Urban Mining decided to purchase it at the show. As they were leaving the show, they stopped in the AGTA office and had them announce over the loud speaker “Elvis has left the building”. We were thrilled!

Whom have you admired in the colored gemstone industry?

Eric Braumwert of Columbia Gem. He has been a long time proponent of fair trade and responsible sourcing.

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

Trier, Germany, ancient city, home to Karl Marx.

What is your favorite hotel?

Peninsula in Bangkok

What is your favorite restaurant?

It’s one of my many favorites, and certainly one of the oldest. We’ve been going to Caruso’s in Tucson since 1973. In the seventies, it was the only restaurant in downtown that served pizza. And it still serves one of my favorite pizzas.

What was your best meal ever?

Ilili in New York. They serve Middle Eastern food. The pita bread comes hot out of the oven still puffed up. The cucumber mint lemonade is really refreshing. Small plates were

Brussels sprouts with fig, mint yogurt and walnuts, fries with sumac, parsley and garlic, and lamb dumplings.

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

Grand Targhee for powder skiing, surfing and yoga on the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica.

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

I originally went to college to study Optometry. I switched and got a degree in business. 🌈

By David Baker, GG, AGTA Membership & Education Manager



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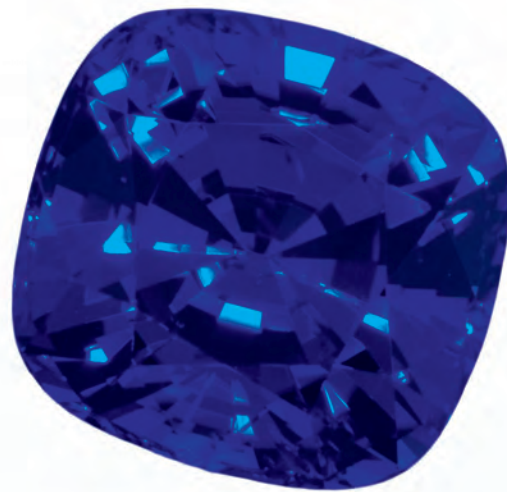
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