

Winners Announced for AGTA's 2011 Spectrum Awards™ Competition

Dallas, TX - October 25, 2010: Winners have been named in the 2011 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition hosted by the American Gem Trade Association. This year marks the 27th anniversary of the competition.

The competition was held October 23-24, in New York, NY at a penthouse studio in Greenwich Village. Judges for the 2011 competition included Tanya Dukes of *Elite Traveler* magazine, Jennifer Gandia of Greenwich Jewelers, Glenn Lehrer of Lehrer Designs, Mallary Marks of Mallary Marks, Inc., and Robin Rotenier of Rotenier, Ltd.

The annual AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Media Day was held October 25 and featured all of the jewelry and gemstone submissions. Attendees included top fashion/accessory editors from the trade and consumer press, stylists, and bloggers. Publications represented included *Vogue*, *W*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *InStyle*, *Women's Wear Daily*, *Marie Claire*, *Essence*, *Smart Money*, and many more.

SPECTRUM AWARDS

BEST OF CATEGORY Winners:

Best of Show:

Todd Reed, Todd Reed, Inc.
Palladium cuff bracelet featuring a 22.40 ct. Aquamarine accented with grey Diamonds (6.90 ctw.) and white Diamonds (2.20 ctw.).

Best Use of Color:

Martin Key, Martin Key Co.
22K yellow gold "Frame" ring featuring a 1.50 ct. blue Tourmaline accented with four Mexican fire Opal baguettes (1.82 ctw.).

Best Use of Platinum and Color:

Judy Evans, Omi Gems, Inc.
Platinum "Princess of Ratnapura" bracelet featuring nine round Sapphires (14.0 ctw.) and round Diamonds (8.48 ctw.).

Best Use of Pearls:

Llyn L. Strelau, Jewels by Design
Sculpture titled "Who Are You" featuring two-tone gold and silver with freshwater baroque Pearls, South Sea keshi Pearls, akoya seed Pearls, demantoid Garnets (.25 ctw.), .20 ct. Ruby and cognac Diamonds (.03 ctw.) on a crystal Quartz base (242 ctw.).

Fashion Forward:

Gregore Morin, Gregore Joailliers
18K white and yellow gold earrings featuring lemon Chrysoprase (22.0 ctw.) accented with Garnets (2.38 ctw.).

Editor's Choice:

Katey Brunini, K. Brunini Jewels
18K rose gold and silver ring featuring white Opal accented with blue Sapphires (3.26 ctw.), Diamonds (.13 ctw.) and Rubies (.06 ctw.).

Bridal Wear:

Bridal Wear - 1st Place

Niveet Nagpal, Omi Gems, Inc.: Platinum and 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 5.55 ct. oval tsavorite Garnet accented with fancy yellow Diamonds (.71 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - 2nd Place

Guilherme Ferreira, Vielle Jewelers, LLC: 18K yellow gold, palladium and titanium ring featuring a 3.14 ct. yellow Tourmaline accented with fancy-colored Diamonds (.74 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - 3rd Place

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry: Platinum ring featuring a 10.08 ct. cushion-cut Spinel accented with Diamond baguettes (1.09 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Honorable Mention

Ryan Roberts, Ryan Roberts, Ltd.: 18K white gold ring featuring a 3.02 ct. pink diamond, white diamonds (29.5 ctw.) and pink and brown diamonds (24.5 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Platinum Honors

Yehouda Saketkhou, Yael Designs: Platinum "Triad" ring featuring a 6.34 ct. unheated blue Sapphire accented with white Diamonds (1.03 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Entry Platinum Honors

Robert Pelliccia, J.R. Dunn Jewelers: Platinum ring featuring a 1.37 ct. round blue Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.46 ctw.) and blue Sapphires (.28 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Neda Benham, Diamonds For A Cure: 18K rose gold ring with a 3.80 ct. emerald-shaped, rough-cut pink Diamond and round Diamonds (0.88 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear:

Business/Day Wear - 1st Place and Best of Show

Todd Reed, Todd Reed, Inc.: Palladium cuff bracelet featuring a 22.40 ct. Aquamarine accented with grey Diamonds (6.90 ctw.) and white Diamonds (2.20 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - 2nd Place and Fashion Forward

Gregore Morin, Gregore Joailliers: 18K white and yellow gold earrings featuring lemon Chrysoprase (22.0 ctw.) accented with Garnets (2.38 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - 3rd Place and Best Use of Color

Martin Key, Martin Key Co.: 22K yellow gold "Frame" ring featuring a 1.50 ct. blue Tourmaline accented with four Mexican fire Opal baguettes (1.82 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Honorable Mention

Eva Cheng, Elite Import: 18K rose gold pendant/brooch featuring a freeform rose Quartz set with a .70 ct. round Diamond and accented with 178 Diamonds (1.20 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Platinum Honors

Maria Canale, Richard Krementz Gemstones: Platinum "Wave" pendant featuring a 2.18 ct. Paraiba Tourmaline accented with Diamonds (3.72 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear – Entry Platinum Honors

Ron Lodholz, Stonehaven Jewelry Gallery: Platinum ring featuring a 1.41 ct. Aquamarine accented with Diamonds (.06 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Alan Friedman, Alan Friedman: 14K white and rose gold ring featuring a 12.59 ct. emerald-cut Aquamarine.

Classical:

Classical - 1st Place

Samuel Getz, Samuel Getz Designs: Platinum and 18K yellow gold necklace featuring yellow Sapphires (68.77 ctw.), blue Sapphires (24.34 ctw.), red Spinels (24.20 ctw.) and Diamonds (22.38 ctw.).

Classical - 2nd Place

Sean Ryan, Schmitt Jewelers: 18K white and rose gold "Just Peachy" ring featuring a 4.50 ct. oval padparadscha Sapphire accented with white micropave Diamonds (1.13 ctw.).

Classical - 3rd Place

Patricia Van Wagoner, Beija Flor: 22K yellow gold necklace featuring a 17.17 ct. Rhodochrosite briolette and a 3.58 ct. Rhodochrosite kite accented with Paraiba Tourmalines (.45 ctw.).

Classical - Honorable Mention

Frederic Sage, Frederic Sage: 18K white gold "Modern Deco" cufflinks featuring seafoam green Tourmalines (4.48 ctw.) and Diamonds (.56 ctw.).

Classical - Platinum Honors

Christopher Olson, Molina Fine Jewelers: Platinum "Temple of the Sacred Heart" ring featuring a 10.05 ct. oval untreated Ruby accented with white Diamonds (7.18 ctw.) and Rubies (.22 ctw.).

Classical - Manufacturing Honors

Christopher Duquet, Christopher Duquet Fine Jewelry Design : 14K white gold ring featuring a 12.5mm South Sea black Pearl.

Evening Wear:

Evening Wear - 1st Place

Cynthia Renee Zava, Cynthia Renee, Inc.: Palladium necklace featuring a suite of green Tourmalines (75.89 ctw.).

Evening Wear - 2nd Place

Evelyn Clothier, Evelyn Clothier Jewelry: 18K yellow gold earrings featuring Aquamarine briolettes (50.95 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (9.29 ctw.).

Evening Wear - 3rd Place

Samuel Getz, Samuel Getz Designs: 18K white gold ring featuring a 43.05 ct. spherical black Opal accented with tsavorite Garnets (2.70 ctw.), blue Sapphires (2.51 ctw.), Iolites (1.53 ctw.), Paraiba Tourmalines (.71 ctw.) and Diamonds (.63 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Honorable Mention

Erica Courtney, Erica Courtney: 18K yellow gold earrings featuring Tanzanites (77.99 ctw.) and Diamonds (3.38 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Platinum Honors

Ralph Wobito, Zultanite Gems, LLC: Platinum earrings featuring Zultanite (Diaspore) briolettes (25.15 ctw.) accented with white Diamonds (0.95 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Laura Jackowski-Dickson, LJD Designs: 18K white gold cuff featuring two South Sea cultured Pearls (14.8mm and 11.3mm) and four freshwater pink cultured Pearls accented with Diamonds.

Men's Wear:

Men's Wear - 1st Place

Mark Lauer, Mark Michael Designs: 18K yellow gold cufflinks featuring Jasper Agate and Lapis Lazuli composite accented with 2mm spessartite Garnets and Sapphires.

Men's Wear – 2nd Place

Eddie Sakamoto, Schmitt Jewelers: Platinum "Suspense" ring featuring a 14.49 ct. blue star Sapphire accented with Diamond baguettes (3.60 ctw.).

Men's Wear - 3rd Place

Ron Lodholz, Stonehaven Jewelry Gallery: 18K yellow and rose gold cufflinks featuring cone-cut Garnets (10.96 ctw.) with platinum suspensions.

Men's Wear - Honorable Mention

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry: 22K yellow gold ring featuring an 8.01 ct. purple star Sapphire cabochon.

Men's Wear - Platinum Honors

Alan Friedman, Alan Friedman: Platinum ring with a cushion-cut purple Spinel (6.62 ct.).

Men's Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Oliver Smith, Oliver Smith Jeweler: Sterling silver and rose gold ring featuring Madagascar Ocean Jasper.

Cutting Edge Awards

Classic Cut Gemstones:

A1 - Open Category Classic Gemstone - 1st Place

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp.: 8.04 ct. pigeon blood Ruby.

A1 - Open Category Classic Gemstone - 2nd Place

Sailesh Lakhi, Lakhi Impex, Inc.: 43.42 ct. cushion-shape, brilliant step-cut blue Sapphire.

A1 - Open Category Classic Gemstone - 3rd Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co.: 6.55 ct. cushion-cut pink Sapphire.

A1 - Open Category Classic Gemstone - Honorable Mention

Gonen Abrahami, ABC Gems: 4.93 ct. emerald-cut Emerald.

A2 - Open Category All Other Faceted - 1st Place

Ruben Bindra, B & B Fine Gems: 9.59 ct. trillion-cut red Spinel.

A2 - Open Category All Other Faceted - 2nd Place

Ruben Bindra, B & B Fine Gems: 32.58 ct. oval-shape tsavorite Garnet.

A2 - Open Category All Other Faceted - 3rd Place

Ben Kho, Kho International, Inc.: 12.91 ct. princess-cut Rhodochrosite.

A2 - Open Category All Other Faceted - Honorable Mention

Ben Kho, Kho International, Inc.: 15.28 ct. ct. oval-cut Imperial Topaz.

A2 - Open Category All Other Faceted - Honorable Mention

Jeffrey Bilgore, Jeffrey Bilgore, LLC: 49.24 ct. Asscher-cut Aquamarine.

Phenomenal Gemstones

A3 - Open Category Phenomenal - 1st Place

Robyn Dufty, DuftyWeis Opals, Inc.: 36.73 ct. Mexican fire Opal cabochon.

A3 - Open Category Phenomenal - 2nd Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co.: Pair of oval Alexandrites (3.25 ctw.).

A3 - Open Category Phenomenal - 3rd Place

Jeffrey Bilgore, Jeffrey Bilgore, LLC: 15.0 ct. oval cat's eye Chrysoberyl.

Pairs & Suites

B - Pairs & Suites - 1st Place

Clay Zava, Zava Mastercuts: Suite of pastel Cuprian Tourmalines (127.40 ctw.).

B - Pairs & Suites - 2nd Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co.: 15-piece round blue Sapphire necklace layout (68.75 ctw.).

B - Pairs & Suites - 3rd Place

Hemant Phophaliya, AG Color, Inc.: Pair of pear-shaped cabochon Tanzanites (41.62 ctw.).

B - Pairs & Suites - Honorable Mention

Darrell Jang, Darrell Jang: Aspen-shaped leaves cut from a 15.09 ct. Peridot and a 11.15 ct. Heliodor

Faceting

C – Faceting - 1st Place

Jeff L. White, J.L. White Fine Gemstones: 48.83 ct. square, cushion-cut Morganite.

C – Faceting - 2nd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co.: 14.43 ct. cushion-cut pink Tourmaline.

C – Faceting - 3rd Place

Ben Kho, Kho International, Inc.: 13.78 ct. sunburst-cut Sphalerite.

C – Faceting - Honorable Mention

Ben Kho, Kho International, Inc.: 50.20 ct. kaleidoscope-cut Kunzite.

Carving

D – Carving - 1st Place

Joseph August Voss, Joseph August Voss: 220.30 ct. crystal Quartz carving.

D – Carving - 2nd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co.: 62.64 ct. "Golden Reflections" Beryl.

D – Carving - 3rd Place

Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs: Carved white Opal sculpture (149 grams).

Combination

E – Combination - 1st Place

Thomas Trozzo, Trozzo: 66.48 ct. square, dimple, concaved, scissor-cut Aquamarine.

E – Combination - 2nd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co.: 50.92 ct. trillion custom-cut Morganite.

E – Combination - 3rd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co.: 9.50 ct. Umbalite Garnet.

Objects of Art

F - Objects of Art - 1st Place

Gregore Morin, Gregore Joailliers: Kokeshi Princess featuring white Opal (83.98 ctw.), Basinite (36.29 ctw.), rubellite Tourmalines (2.91 ctw.) and Diamonds (.72 ctw.) with 18K white gold and platinum on a base of silver, brass and wood.

F - Objects of Art - 2nd Place and Best Use of Pearls

Llyn L. Strelau, Jewels by Design: Sculpture titled "Who Are You" featuring two-tone gold and silver with freshwater baroque Pearls, South Sea keshi Pearls, akoya seed Pearls, demantoid Garnets (.25 ctw.), .20 ct. Ruby and cognac Diamonds (.03 ctw.) on a crystal Quartz base (242 ctw.).

F - Objects of Art - 3rd Place

Tigran Lementsyan, Repair Restoration Center: "Dandelion" featuring Quartz and Diamonds (.36 ctw.) with silver, 18K yellow gold and gold-plated leaves.

F - Objects of Art - Honorable Mention

Darryl Alexander, Alexander's Jewelers: "Got Paint?"- opalized wood with a sterling frame in a black marble base. The paint is Sugilite, Mookite, Turquoise & Onyx, with Quartz dish & sterling tube with Coral. The brushes are Onyx, Agate, Hematite, Quartz and multiple woods.

This year's AGTA Spectrum Awards™ will be presented during the 2011 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson to be held February 1 - 6 at the Tucson Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona. Winning entries will be displayed during the show and AGTA Spectrum Awards™ recipients will be recognized during the AGTA Dinner Dance and Awards Gala. The event starts at 7:00 pm Saturday, February 5. Tickets for the gala are \$100 and cocktail attire is encouraged.

AGTA Spectrum Awards™ entries were judged on the basis of overall beauty and wearability, innovative design, effective use of materials, quality of gemstones, quality of workmanship, broad-base consumer appeal and potential to generate positive publicity for natural colored gemstones. Spectrum Award categories included Bridal, Business/Day Wear, Classical, Evening and Men's Wear.

AGTA Cutting Edge Awards honor excellence and creativity in lapidary arts, including natural colored gemstones and cultured pearls, carvings, other gem materials and objects of art. Categories included: Open Category - Classic Gemstone Division, Open Category – All Other Faceted Gemstones Division, Open Category – Phenomenal Gemstones Division, Pairs & Suites, Faceting, Carving, Combination and Objects of Art.

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

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

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

For further information on the 2011 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson or the AGTA Dinner Dance and Awards Gala, please call (800) 972-1162 or visit our website at www.agta.org. For inquiries regarding the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition, please contact Adam Graham at adam@agta.org or (800) 972-1162.

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