

Winners Announced for AGTA's 2012 Spectrum Awards™ Competition

Dallas, TX - October 25, 2011: Winners have been named in the 2012 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition hosted by the American Gem Trade Association. This year marks the 28th anniversary of the competition.

The competition was judged October 22-23 in New York, NY. Judges for the 2012 competition were jeweler Klaus Burgel, Sylvain Chervin of Carvin French, Cindy Edelstein of the Jewelers Resource Bureau, Patricia Faber of Aaron Faber Gallery, and Clay Zava of Zava Master Cuts.

The annual AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Media Day was held October 24 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 and 22K yellow gold locket featuring blue Moonstones, grey Diamonds (24.51 ctw.), blue Sapphires (17.34 ctw.) and white Diamonds (5.10 ctw.) opening to reveal a 76.03 ct. Moldavite Buddha.

Best Use of Color:

Deirdre Featherstone, Featherstone Design
Platinum earrings featuring removable Opal enhancers (15.64 ctw.) accented with blue Zircons (3.27 ctw.), Tanzanites (3.53 ctw.), Paraiba Tourmalines (.40 ctw.) and Diamonds (5.79 ctw.).

Best Use of Platinum and Color:

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry
Platinum ring featuring a 19.05 ct. cushion-cut Aquamarine with pave-set Diamonds (.41 ctw.).

Best Use of Palladium & Color:

Dennis de Jonghe - Dennis de Jonghe
Palladium pendant featuring a 16.39 ct. Aquamarine accented with a 2.09 ct. Moonstone, Diamonds (.26 ctw.) and Pearls.

Best Use of Pearls:

Anil Maloo, Baggins, Inc.
18K white gold and black rhodium plated earrings encrusted with light cognac Diamonds (8.16 ctw.) and 13.3mm cultured South Sea Pearls.

Fashion Forward:

Belle Brooke Barer, Belle Brooke Designs, Inc.
Oxidized sterling necklace featuring an approximately 30 ct. blue Chalcedony cabochon accented with Diamonds (.55 ctw.).

Editors' Choice: (tie)

Todd Reed, Todd Reed, Inc.

Palladium and 22K yellow gold locket featuring blue Moonstones, grey Diamonds (24.51 ctw.), blue Sapphires (17.34 ctw.) and white Diamonds (5.10 ctw.) opening to reveal a 76.03 ct. Moldavite Buddha.

Manya Tessler, Manya & Roumen, LLC

18K yellow gold ring featuring a carved black Jade fish (38.0 ctw.) accented with fire Opals (.30 ctw.).

Category Winners:

Bridal Wear:

Bridal Wear - 1st Place

Maria Canale, Richard Krementz Gemstones - Platinum "Lace" ring featuring a 4.10 ct. blue Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.77 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - 2nd Place

Erica Courtney, Erica Courtney - 18K yellow gold earrings featuring Zultanite (2.99 ctw.), demantoid Garnets (2.71 ctw.) and Diamonds (2.81 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - 3rd Place

Craig Slavens, AuRTWORK Jewelry - Platinum and 18K yellow gold pendant featuring a 3.92 ct. rose-cut black Diamond accented with black and white Diamond melee (.52 ctw.) on an 18K white gold chain set with black and white Diamonds (.71 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Platinum Honors

James Currens, J.W. Currens, Inc. - Platinum ring featuring a 16.80 ct. sugarloaf Ruby accented with Diamonds (4.54 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Entry Platinum Innovation

Mark Schneider, Mark Schneider Design - Platinum ring featuring a 1.81 ct. round blue Sapphire accented with white Diamonds (.14 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Palladium Prestige Award

Mirjam Butz-Brown, Adorn Gallery - Palladium and 14K yellow gold earrings featuring Quartz and Mother-of-Pearl accented with Diamonds (.16 ctw.) with detachable mirror-cut Amethyst drops (21.50 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Mark Schneider, Mark Schneider Design - Platinum earrings featuring 12mm black Tahitian Pearls and 8mm cultured freshwater Pearls accented with white Diamonds (.99 ctw.) and black Diamonds (.53 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Honorable Mention

Leonard McCue, L.A.M. Goldsmiths - Platinum "Hearts and Arrows" ring featuring a 19.0 ct. pear-shaped Moonstone accented with Diamonds (2.37 ctw.).

Bridal Wear - Honorable Mention

Yehouda Sakethou, Yael Designs - 18K white gold "Baroness" earrings featuring trillion-cut Tanzanites (10.15 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (5.29 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear:

Business/Day Wear - 1st Place

Belle Brooke Barer, Belle Brooke Designs, Inc. - Oxidized sterling necklace featuring an approximately 30 ct. blue Chalcedony cabochon accented with Diamonds (.55 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - 2nd Place

Michele Mercaldo, Michele Mercaldo Contemporary Jewelry - Palladium ring featuring a 2.64 ct. pink Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.17 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - 3rd Place

Heather Moore, Heather B. Moore, Inc. - 14K yellow gold "I Love You More than the Moon, the Stars and the Sun" necklace featuring a 54.70 ct. rubellite Tourmaline cabochon accented with Diamonds (3.50 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Platinum Honors

Leon Mege, Leon Mege, Inc. - Platinum ring featuring a 16.76 ct. Paraiba Tourmaline cabochon accented with antique cushion-cut Diamonds and Diamond melee (3.10 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Entry Platinum Innovation

Susan Drake, Spectrum Art & Jewelry - Platinum and yellow gold ring featuring a 1.08 ct. emerald-cut red Spinel accented with Diamonds (.18 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Palladium Prestige Award

Dawn Muscio, D. Muscio Designs - Palladium and 14K rose gold "Isis" ring featuring a 19.98 ct. buff-top Chrysocolla accented with Peridots (.36 ctw.) and Diamonds (.11 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Norman Turgeon, Turgeon-Raine Jewellers - 18K rose gold earrings featuring "passion-flower"-cut Amethysts (6.92 ctw.) accented with chrome Tourmalines (.34 ctw.) and Diamonds (.40 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Honorable Mention

Pamela Froman, Pamela Froman Fine Jewelry - 18K yellow and pink gold "Crushed Frame" ring featuring a 14.11 ct. Opal accented with Diamond pave (.32 ctw.).

Business/Day Wear - Honorable Mention

Sylva Yepremian, Sylva & Cie. - 18K yellow gold necklace featuring a cross pendant of trapiche Emeralds (54.65 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (2.5 ctw.).

Classical:

Classical - 1st Place

James Currens, J.W. Currens, Inc. - Platinum ring featuring a 14.25 ct. unheated Ruby cabochon accented with Diamonds (7.97 ctw.).

Classical - 2nd Place

Ashok Sancheti, Pioneer Gems - Platinum earrings featuring Emerald cabochon drops (18.45 ctw.) accented with Emeralds (18.21 ctw.) and Diamonds (4.81 ctw.).

Classical - 3rd Place

Jeffrey Bilgore, Jeffrey Bilgore, LLC - Platinum pendant featuring an 11.80 ct. pear-shaped Morganite accented with fancy-colored and white Diamonds (7.09 ctw.).

Classical - Platinum Honors

Erica Courtney, Erica Courtney - Platinum ring featuring an 11.19 ct. Imperial pink Topaz accented with Diamonds.

Classical - Entry Platinum Innovation

Steph Farber, LeRoy Jewelers - Platinum "Waterfall" pendant featuring a 16.9 ct. carved rutilated Quartz and three rainbow Moonstones accented with Diamonds (.25 ctw.).

Classical - Palladium Prestige Award

Dennis de Jonghe, Dennis de Jonghe - Palladium ring featuring a 16.5mm white South Sea Pearl accented with round Diamonds (.71 ctw.).

Classical - Manufacturing Honors

Ricardo Basta, E. Eichberg, Inc. - 18K yellow gold and platinum tri-color eternity set bands featuring Rubies (0.34 ctw.), tsavorite Garnets (0.28 ctw.) and Sapphires (0.21 ctw.).

Classical - Honorable Mention

Frank Caballero, Frank Caballero - 18K white and yellow gold ring featuring a 9.11 ct. round Madeira Citrine accented with white round Diamonds (.62 ctw.).

Classical - Honorable Mention

Christo Kiffer, Sissy's Log Cabin - Platinum art-deco ring featuring a 4.84 ct. oval black Opal cabochon accented with Emeralds (1.0 ctw.), blue Sapphire melee (.88 ctw.) and Diamonds (.93 ctw.).

Evening Wear:

Evening Wear - 1st Place

Ion Ionescu, Ionescu Design, Inc. - Palladium and black rhodium "Pillow for Dreaming" ring featuring a 36 ct. carved Labradorite accented with paraiba Tourmalines (1.50 ctw.).

Evening Wear - 2nd Place

Adam Neeley, Adam Neeley Fine Art Jewelry - 14K black rhodium-plated white gold ring featuring an 11.54 ct. Peridot accented with blue Sapphires (12.01 ctw.).

Evening Wear - 3rd Place

Robert Pelliccia, J.R. Dunn Jewelers - 18K white gold dangle earrings featuring natural blue Jade accented with Sapphires (6.76 ctw.) and Diamonds (1.18 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Platinum Honors

Evelyn Clothier, Evelyn Clothier Jewelry - Platinum butterfly brooch featuring brown sapphire slices (104.42 ctw.) accented with a 5.06 ct. brown Diamond and white Diamonds (3.04 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Palladium Prestige Award

Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs - Palladium ring featuring a 35.0 ct. carved Topaz accented with Diamonds (.63 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Yehouda Saketkhou, Yael Designs - 18K white gold "Lave" ring featuring a 5.49 ct. Mexican fire Opal accented with Diamonds (0.90 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Honorable Mention

Colette Steckel, Colette Jewelry - 18K blackened yellow gold pendant featuring a 6.03 ct. blue checkerboard Moonstone accented with Diamonds (3.59 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Honorable Mention

Michael Hezar, Michael John IMAGE - 18K white gold bracelet featuring Aquamarines (37.0 ctw.) and Diamonds (9.75 ctw.).

Evening Wear - Honorable Mention

Lawrence Gordon, Aspire Designs, Ltd. - 18K white gold ring featuring a 17.62 ct. Moonstone cabochon accented with blue Sapphires (2.28 ctw.) and Diamonds (1.59 ctw.).

Men's Wear:

Men's Wear - 1st Place

Mark Schneider, Mark Schneider Design - Platinum engraved ring featuring channel-set Ruby melee (.59 ctw.) and yellow Diamonds (.115 ctw.).

Men's Wear - 2nd Place

Ryan Roberts, Ryan Roberts, Ltd. - 18K yellow gold and platinum ring featuring a 6.42 ct. Indicolite Tourmaline and a 0.59 ct. tsavorite Garnet accented with Diamonds (.19 ctw.).

Men's Wear - 3rd Place

Llyn Strelau, Jewels by Design - 19K white gold "Green Arrow" cufflinks featuring bezel-set black Onyx and Gibeon Meteorite carvings centered by tsavorite Garnets (.90 ctw.) and accented with black Diamonds (.15 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Platinum Honors

Mark Schneider, Mark Schneider Design - Platinum ring featuring a 15.0 ct. shield-cut rubellite Tourmaline accented with white Diamonds (.90 ctw.) and yellow Diamonds (.22 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Palladium Prestige Award

Evelyn Huang, evelynH. Jewelry, Inc. - Palladium "Zultan" ring featuring a 12.54 ct. color-change Zultanite accented with radiant-cut Diamonds (.43 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Manufacturing Honors

Ashleigh Branstetter, Ashleigh Branstetter - Sterling silver cufflinks featuring 10mm grey Tahitian Pearls and round blue Sapphires (1.34 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Honorable Mention

Link Wachler, Link Wachler Designs - Silver and 14K rose gold "Eye to Eye" ring featuring the fish versus the worm. The ring has a 4.5mm Pearl and is accented with Sapphires (.38 ctw.), Rubies (.22 ctw.) and Emeralds (.07 ctw.).

Men's Wear - Honorable Mention

Matt Conable, William Henry - Pocketknife with wave damascus blade. Frame is carved 22K yellow gold over sterling silver inlaid with fossil walrus Ivory accented with Rubies on the button lock and thumb stud.

CUTTING EDGE AWARDS

Classic Cut Gemstones:

Classic Gemstones- 1st Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - 30.04 ct. unheated oval yellow Sapphire.

Classic Gemstones - 2nd Place

Phillip Youngman, Richard Krementz Gemstones - 7.66 ct. cushion-cut blue Sapphire.

Classic Gemstones - 3rd Place,

Joseph Ambalu - Amba Gem Corp. - 6.07 ct. unheated Ruby.

Classic Gemstone - Honorable Mention

Richard Krementz Gemstones, Richard Krementz Gemstones - 19.18 ct. antique-cut yellow Sapphire.

Classic Gemstone - Honorable Mention

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp. - 8.06 ct. oval Padparadscha Sapphire.

All Other Faceted Gemstones - 1st Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - 10.07 ct. oval purple Spinel.

All Other Faceted Gemstones - 2nd Place

Roger L. Dery, Spectral Gems, Inc. - 8.77 ct. trillion, step-cut Merelani mint Garnet.

All Other Faceted Gemstones - 3rd Place

Phillip Youngman, Richard Krementz Gemstones - 15.20 ct. cushion-cut Sphene.

All Other Faceted Gemstones - Honorable Mention

Ben Kho, Kho International, Inc. - 18.80 ct. round Portuguese-cut Rhodochrosite.

Phenomenal Gemstones:

Phenomenal - 1st Place

Robyn Dufty, DuftyWeis Opals, Inc. - 27.30 ct. black Opal cat's eye.

Phenomenal - 2nd Place

Sailesh Lakhi, Sparkles and Colors, Inc. - 17.0 ct. oval Moonstone cabochon.

Phenomenal - 3rd Place

Joseph Ambalu - Amba Gem Corp. - 8.51 ct. oval Alexandrite.

Pairs & Suites:

Pairs & Suites - 1st Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - Pair of oval red Spinel (22.28 ctw.).

Pairs & Suites - 2nd Place

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - Cushion-cut mint Tourmaline suite (158.74 ctw.).

Pairs & Suites - 3rd Place

Aivan Pham, Commercial Mineral - Somewhere in the Rainbow - "My Fair Lady" pair of fan-cut rubellite Tourmalines (26.75 ctw.).

Pairs & Suites - Honorable Mention

Aivan Pham, Commercial Mineral - Somewhere in the Rainbow - "Razzle Dazzle" graduated suite of Asscher-cut rubellite Tourmalines (26.74 ctw.).

Innovative Faceting:

Innovative Faceting - 1st Place

Dalan Hargrave, Geogem-USA - 30.0 ct. "Hugs and Kisses" Morganite.

Innovative Faceting - 2nd Place

John Dyer, John Dyer & Co. - 63.57 ct. "Super Citrine" featuring flat facets and micro-grooving for brilliance.

Innovative Faceting - 3rd Place

Darrell Jang, Darrell Jang - 9-10 ct. elongated octagon and concave-cut Tourmaline.

Innovative Faceting - Honorable Mention

Richard P. Homer, Gems by Design, Inc. - 30.95 ct. rutilated Quartz with a single natural needle in the center.

Innovative Faceting - Honorable Mention

Darryl Alexander, Sunstone Butte Mining Co. - "Sea Foam and Sunset" 70.0 ct. bubble-cut Sunstone.

Carving:

Carving - 1st Place

Naomi Sarna, Naomi Sarna Designs - 368.50 ct. carved Amethyst.

Carving - 2nd Place

Darryl Alexander - Alexander's Jewelers - "Immortal Flight" carved Agate feather.

This year's AGTA Spectrum Awards™ will be presented during the 2012 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson to be held January 31 – February 5 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 4. Tickets for the gala are \$100 and cocktail attire is encouraged.

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

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

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.

Palladium Prestige Awards debuted at this year's Spectrum Awards with the support of Palladium Alliance International. All entries whose primary metal was palladium were eligible for these awards.

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 2012 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.