

## **AGTA Announces the 2021 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Winners**

**DALLAS, TX (UPDATED December 14, 2021)** – The American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) is happy to announce the much-anticipated winners of the 2021 AGTA Spectrum Awards™. The competition was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Dallas, Texas. The expert panel of judges included: Judy Evans, Judy Evans Design Studio; Amber Gustafson, Amber’s Designs Fine Jewelry; Tony Logan, Jay Dean Winchester; Kelly Mitchell, Kelly Mitchell Fine Jewelry; and Matthew Trent, Matthew Trent.

“After a year and a half of dealing with the fallout from the Covid pandemic, we are gratified that the colored gemstone and cultured pearl community responded with strong support for our Spectrum Awards competition,” said Douglas K. Hucker, AGTA, CEO. “The entries this year, once again, showcased the creativity and resilience of lapidarists, designers and manufacturers who participated in our industry’s premier design competition. We are very excited we will be able to showcase over sixty stunning works of art at AGTA GemFair™ Tucson, February 1 – 6, 2022. Additional accolades go to our incredibly generous and professional panel of judges”.

### **Winners of the 2021 AGTA Spectrum Awards™ are:**

#### **Best of... Awards**

##### **Best of Show**

Adam Neeley, Adam Neeley Fine Art Jewelry - 14K rose and white gold "Galassia" earrings featuring specialty-cut Tanzanites (24.84 ctw.) accented with Akoya cultured Pearls and Diamonds (4.04 ctw.).

##### **Best Use of Color**

Adam Neeley, Adam Neeley Fine Art Jewelry - Suite of specialty-cut green Tourmalines (47.80 ctw.) and Tanzanites (12.69 ctw.).

##### **Best Use of Pearls**

Michael Tope, Raintree, LLC - 18K yellow gold and platinum "Kalaimaia" earrings featuring black Tahitian cultured Pearls, green Tourmalines (6.30 ctw.), yellow Diamonds (.58 ctw.), white Diamonds (.40 ctw.) and Turquoise.

##### **Fashion Forward**

Stanislav Petrov, Stanislav Petrov Inc. - 18K yellow and white gold "Violet" ring with purple nano-ceramic coating featuring Amethysts (1.50 ctw.), yellow Sapphires (1.90 ctw.) and Diamonds (.02 ctw.).

##### **Best of Single Entries – Cutting Edge**

Misael Angel Rodriguez, Gem Arts International - 24-piece jewelry suite of cat's eye's Emerald cabochons (37.90 ctw.).

### **Best of Single Entries – Spectrum**

Scott Keating, Somewhere In The Rainbow - 18K yellow gold "Hot Scarab Nights" bracelet featuring specialty-cut blue Zircons (10.12 ctw.) and pink Tourmalines (5.66 ctw.) accented with Sapphire melee (1.50 ctw.) and Diamond melee (.32 ctw.).

### **Best Use of Platinum and Color**

Llyn Strelau, Somewhere In The Rainbow - Platinum "Dreamweaver" necklace featuring multicolored Akoya cultured Pearls with a removable platinum pendant with a specialty-cut Beryl suite; a 5.28 ct. Aquamarine, a 4.56 ct. Heliodor and a 2.86 ct. Morganite accented with Diamonds (.40 ctw.).

### **Best Use of Platinum Crown**

Lindsay Jane Chatham, K. Jons Jewelry Co. - Platinum "Love You Forever, Love You for Always" ring featuring a 7.47 ct. round yellow Zircon accented with Diamonds (1.04 ctw.) and lavender Sapphires (.90 ctw.).

## **AGTA Spectrum Awards™**

### **Bridal Wear**

#### **Bridal Wear - 1st Place and PGI Platinum Honors™**

Suna Bros., Suna Bros. - Platinum ring featuring a 9.18 ct. oval lavender Moonstone cabochon accented with lavender Sapphires (1.36 ctw.) and Diamonds (.56 ctw.).

#### **Bridal Wear - 2nd Place**

Susan Helmich, Somewhere in the Rainbow - Platinum and 18K yellow gold "Double Bubble" earrings featuring buff-top round Morganites (19.10 ctw.) and Diamonds (1.58 ctw.).

#### **Bridal Wear - 3rd Place and Manufacturing Honors**

Nikki Swift, Nicole Mera LLC - Platinum and 18K rose gold ring featuring a 3.58 ct. cushion-cut pink Spinel accented with round and baguette Diamonds (1.12 ctw.).

#### **Bridal Wear - Honorable Mention**

Benjamin Javaheri, Uneek Jewelry - 18K white gold "Mykonos" ring featuring a 6.19 ct. cushion blue Sapphire accented with trapezoid Diamonds (.90 ctw.).

#### **Bridal Wear - Honorable Mention**

Niveet Nagpal, Omi Privé - 18K white gold drop earrings featuring oval blue Sapphires (14.54 ctw.) and pear-shaped blue Sapphires (2.19 ctw.) accented with round blue Sapphires (.78 ctw.) and Diamonds (1.68 ctw.).

#### **Bridal Wear - Platinum Innovation™**

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry - Platinum "Organic Soul" ring featuring a .62 ct. round rose-cut yellow Diamond.

### **Bridal Wear – WJA Gem DIVA™ Award**

Sherry Bender, The Goldsmith Ltd., of Chicago - 18K yellow gold earrings featuring Moonstones (19.17 ctw.), Opals (2.96 ctw.), orange Sapphires (2.91 ctw) accented with Peridots (.87ctw.), cultured Pearls and spessartite Garnets. The earrings are detachable in two places for versatility.

### **Business/Day Wear**

#### **Business/Day Wear - 1st Place**

Niveet Nagpal, Omi Privé - Platinum pendant featuring an 8.12 ct. pear-shaped Moonstone cabochon accented with Paraiba- type Tourmalines (.86 ctw.) and Diamonds (.96 ctw.).

#### **Business/Day Wear - 2nd Place**

Stanislav Petrov, Stanislav Petrov Inc. - 18K yellow and white gold "Violet" ring with purple nano-ceramic coating featuring Amethysts (1.50 ctw.), yellow Sapphires (1.90 ctw.) and Diamonds (.02 ctw.).

#### **Business/Day Wear - 3rd Place**

Llyn Strelau, Somewhere In The Rainbow - Platinum "Dreamweaver" necklace featuring multicolored Akoya cultured Pearls with a removable platinum pendant with a specialty-cut Beryl suite; a 5.28 ct. Aquamarine, a 4.56 ct. Heliodor and a 2.86 ct. Morganite accented with Diamonds (.40 ctw.).

#### **Business/Day Wear - Honorable Mention**

Robin Callahan, Robin Callahan Designs, LLC - 14K white gold "Bubblelicious" ring featuring an 8.10 ct. custom-cut watermelon Tourmaline accented with pink and green Tourmalines and Diamonds.

#### **Business/Day Wear - Manufacturing Honors**

Timothy W Foster, T. Foster & Company - 18K yellow gold earrings featuring oval and pear-shaped Lapis Lazuli cabochons accented with Diamonds (1.34 ctw.). The pear-shaped Lapis Lazuli drops are removable.

#### **Business/Day Wear -PGI Platinum Honors™ and Platinum Innovation™**

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry - Platinum "True North" pendant featuring a .62 ct. trillion-cut Paraiba Tourmaline accented with a .19 ct. Diamond.

### **Business/Day Wear – WJA Gem DIVA™ Award**

Rosa Van Parys, Rosa Van Parys Jewelry - "Snow White" necklace featuring an 18K yellow, rose, white and black gold pendant with a 15.3mm white cultured Pearl accented with Rubies, tsavorite Garnets, pink Sapphires and multicolored Diamonds on a strand of 9.5mm-10mm white Akoya cultured Pearls.

### **Classical**

#### **Classical - 1st Place**

Llyn L. Strelau, Jewels by Design - 18K yellow gold "Luxuriant" Sautoir necklace featuring 18X16mm black and

white South Sea cultured Pearls and 12mm black and white South Sea cultured Pearls accented with Diamonds (3.50 ctw.) on strands of Japanese baroque Keshi cultured Pearls.

### **Classical - 2nd Place**

Raja Mehta, AG Gems & Jewelry, Inc. - Platinum "Magic-Wand" ring featuring a 3.03 ct. tsavorite Garnet accented with multi-cut Diamonds (2.14 ctw.).

### **Classical - 3rd Place**

Niveet Nagpal, Omi Privé - Platinum ring featuring a 10.62 ct. oval Alexandrite accented with round Alexandrites (.81 ctw.) and multi-cut Diamonds (2.56 ctw.).

### **Classical - Honorable Mention**

Joseph A. Murawski, Joden World Resources, LLC - Platinum ring featuring a 4.80 ct. Alexandrite accented with emerald-cut Diamonds (2.02 ctw.) and a burst of round Diamonds set beneath the center stone (.38 ctw.).

### **Classical – PGI Platinum Honors™**

Craig Slavens, Luxe Fine Jewelry - Platinum earrings featuring tricolored watermelon Tourmalines (59.67 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (1.91 ctw.).

### **Classical – WJA Gem DIVA™ Award**

Beatrix Laura Jessner, B & W Jewels, LLC - Platinum ring featuring a 20.49 ct. emerald-cut Aquamarine accented with Diamonds (8.31 ctw.).

## **Evening Wear**

### **Evening Wear - 1st Place**

Adam Neeley, Adam Neeley Fine Art Jewelry - 14K rose and white gold "Galassia" earrings featuring specialty-cut Tanzanites (24.84 ctw.) accented with Akoya cultured Pearls and Diamonds (4.04 ctw.).

### **Evening Wear - 2nd Place**

Leon Mege, Leon Mege, Inc. - 18K white gold "Mothra" cuff featuring Moonstones (29.57 ctw.), Diamonds (3.11 ctw.) and blue Sapphires (.87 ctw.) on a Jadeite cuff.

### **Evening Wear - 3rd Place**

Scott Keating, Somewhere In The Rainbow - 18K yellow gold "Hot Scarab Nights" bracelet featuring specialty-cut blue Zircons (10.12 ctw.) and pink Tourmalines (5.66 ctw.) accented with Sapphire melee (1.50 ctw.) and Diamond melee (.32 ctw.).

### **Evening Wear - Honorable Mention**

Paula Crevoshay, MELLIKA, Inc. - 18K yellow gold "Treasure of the Sea" bracelet featuring 11mm white cultured Pearls accented with Moonstones (8.62 ctw.), tsavorite Garnets (8.07 ctw.), Sapphires (9.88 ctw.) and Diamonds (6.09 ctw.).

### **Evening Wear - Honorable Mention**

Tariq Riaz, Tariq Riaz LLC - 18K white and rose gold "Lotus" ring featuring a 2.37 ct. Tanzanite accented with Diamonds (1.76 ctw.), Mother-of-Pearl and Rubies. When the Tanzanite is pushed, the surrounding gemstones change to Emerald, Ruby, pink and blue Sapphires.

### **Evening Wear - Manufacturing Honors**

Tariq Riaz, Tariq Riaz LLC - 18K white and yellow gold "Circle of Life" double-sided earrings featuring pink Sapphires (1.98 ctw.), tsavorite Garnets (1.95 ctw.) and Diamonds (1.54 ctw.). The earrings can be worn in different formations.

### **Evening Wear – PGI Platinum Honors™**

Robert Glenn, Geogem-USA - Platinum "Frozen" necklace featuring a 182.80 custom-cut blue Topaz accented with Diamonds.

### **Evening Wear – WJA Gem DIVA™ Award**

Caroline Chartouni, Caroline C - 18K white gold bracelet featuring nine oval Paraiba Tourmalines (29.56 ctw.) accented with Diamonds (11.16 ctw.) and Paraiba Tourmalines.

## **Men's Wear**

### **Men's Wear - 1st Place**

Rodney Rahmani, Brilliant Stars - 18K yellow gold and platinum ring featuring a 12.86 ct. cat's eye Chrysoberyl cabochon accented with Diamonds.

### **Men's Wear - 2nd Place**

Michael Endlich, Pave Fine Jewelry - 22K yellow gold "Solomon" ring featuring a black Opal cabochon accented with a .15 ct. Diamond.

### **Men's Wear - 3rd Place**

Gastón R. Rives, Gastón Jewelry Studio, Inc. - Platinum ring featuring a 10.58 ct. purple Garnet accented with blue Sapphires (3.81 ctw.) and Diamonds (2.76 ctw.).

### **Men's Wear - Honorable Mention**

Robert Pelliccia, J.R. Dunn Jewelers - 18K yellow gold "Oasis" ring featuring a 1.68 ct. emerald-cut green Tourmaline accented with trillion-cut Diamonds (.82 ctw.).

### **Men's Wear - Manufacturing Honors**

Llyn L. Strelau, Jewels by Design - Silver calcite and 24K yellow gold "Knotty" cufflinks featuring a .22 ct. Ruby, a .22 ct. Sapphire, a .19 ct. tsavorite Garnet and a .18 ct. Diamond.

## **Men's Wear – PGI Platinum Honors™**

Lindsay Jane Chatham, K. Jons Jewelry Co. - Platinum "De Oppresso Liber" ring featuring a 3.09 ct. step-cut teal Sapphire accented with Diamonds (.24 ctw.), Aquamarines (.30 ctw.), blue Sapphires (.38 ctw.) and teal Tourmalines (.50 ctw.).

## **AGTA Cutting Edge Awards™**

### **All Other Cut Gemstones**

#### **All Other Cut Gemstones - 1st Place**

Sailesh Lakhi, Sparkles and Colors USA, Inc. - 30.50 ct. oval, brilliant-cut untreated Mandarin Garnet.

#### **All Other Cut Gemstones - 2nd Place**

David Nassi, 100% Natural, Ltd. - 6.17 ct. pear-shaped untreated color-change Vietnamese Spinel.

#### **All Other Cut Gemstones - 3rd Place**

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp. - 21.10 ct. untreated cushion-cut Paraiba-type Tourmaline.

#### **All Other Cut Gemstones - Honorable Mention**

Kenneth Blount, 100% Natural, Ltd. - 152.69 ct. multicolored cushion-cut Tourmaline.

## **Carving**

#### **Carving - 1st Place**

Larry Woods, Gem Arts International - 67.75 ct. "Eye of the Dragon" bicolored Oregon Sunstone carving.

#### **Carving - 2nd Place**

Desmond Chan, Gem Arts International - 54.67 ct. Pezzottaite freeform carving, titled "Le Croissant."

#### **Carving - 3rd Place**

Meg Berry, Megagem - 59.60 ct. freeform carved Morganite, titled "Autumn Leaves."

#### **Carving – Honorable Mention**

Yanqing Zhang Asdurian, Yanqing Asdurian - Jadeite carving of a boot.

## **Classic Gemstones**

#### **Classic Gemstones - 1st Place**

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - 4.35 ct. round Mozambique Ruby.

### **Classic Gemstones - 2nd Place**

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp. - 6.90 ct. untreated emerald-cut Colombian Emerald.

### **Classic Gemstones - 3rd Place**

Allen Kleiman, A. Kleiman & Co. - 7.01 ct. unheated heart-shaped pink Madagascar Sapphire.

## **Innovative Faceting**

### **Innovative Faceting - 1st Place**

Larry Woods, Gem Arts International - 43.80 ct. specialty-cut green Tourmaline, titled "Celestial Compass Rose."

### **Innovative Faceting - 2nd Place**

Brett Kosnar, Dudley Blauwet Gems - 102.06 ct. specialty-cut bicolored Tourmaline.

### **Innovative Faceting - 3rd Place**

Dalan Hargrave, Robin Callahan Designs, LLC - 115.30 ct. specialty-cut bicolored Tourmaline.

### **Innovative Faceting - Honorable Mention**

John Burleyson, GemRite - 26.73 ct. specialty-cut Tanzanite, titled "Capt. Nemo's Porthole."

## **North American Mined Gemstones**

### **North American Mined Gemstones - 1st Place**

Brad Payne, Somewhere In The Rainbow - 12.86 ct. modified pear-cut Rhodochrosite from Sweet Home Mine, Colorado, titled "Colorado Candy Crush."

### **North American Mined Gemstones - 2nd Place**

Derek Katzenbach, Katzenbach Designs - 12.62 ct. round specialty-cut green Tourmaline from Newry, Maine.

### **North American Mined Gemstones - 3rd Place**

Joyce Wang, Obsessed Over Gems - 4.44 ct. custom-cut untreated violet Montana Sapphire.

### **North American Mined Gemstones - Honorable Mention**

Dalan Hargrave, Robin Callahan Designs, LLC - 42.51 ct. specialty-cut Sunstone, titled "Rebirth."

## **Objects of Art**

### **Objects of Art - 1st Place**

Yanqing Zhang Asdurian, Yanqing Asdurian - Jadeite carving of a boot.

### **Objects of Art - 2nd Place**

Christopher Wolfsberg, Christopher Wolfsberg - 30.64 ct. Quartz Opal with Amethyst and Chrysoprase, titled "Gem Burst."

### **Objects of Art - 3rd Place**

Sharon Khazzam, Sharon Khazzam Studio - Zebra Agate (87.75 ctw.) pin with yellow gold accented with Rubies (.64 ctw.), blue Sapphires (6.09 ctw.), Emeralds (1.05 ctw.) and Diamonds (.28 ctw.). Can be worn as a pin, pendant or when set on a disc of black Jadeite (103 ctw.), an object of art.

### **Objects of Art - Honorable Mention**

Dalan Hargrave, GemStarz Jewelry - 51.32 ct. "Floral" Tanzanite.

## **Pairs & Suites**

### **Pairs & Suites - 1st Place**

Hemant Phophaliya, A G Color, Inc. - Pair of almond-shaped Tanzanite drops (59.54 ctw.).

### **Pairs & Suites - 2nd Place**

Bryan Lichtenstein, 3090 Gems, LLC - Pair of color-change Zircons (15.84 ctw.).

### **Pairs & Suites - 3rd Place**

Adam Neeley, Adam Neeley Fine Art Jewelry - Suite of specialty-cut green Tourmalines (47.80 ctw.) and Tanzanites (12.69 ctw.).

### **Pairs & Suites - Honorable Mention**

Hemant Phophaliya, A G Color, Inc. - Pair of taper-cut Tanzanites (52.04 ctw.).

### **Pairs & Suites - Honorable Mention**

Joseph Ambalu, Amba Gem Corp. - Pair of untreated oval Colombian Emeralds (4.76 ctw.).

## **Phenomenal**

### **Phenomenal - 1st Place**

Misael Angel Rodriguez, Gem Arts International - 24-piece jewelry suite of cat's eye's Emerald cabochons (37.90 ctw.).

### **Phenomenal - 2nd Place**

David Nassi, 100% Natural, Ltd. - 86.57 ct. untreated blue Sri Lankan star Sapphire cabochon.

### **Phenomenal - 3rd Place**

Brett Kosnar, Dudley Blauwet Gems - 11.19 ct. specialty-cut color-change Garnet.



Professional photos of the winners are now published at [www.agta.org/spectrum](http://www.agta.org/spectrum). To request images, please contact [spectrum@agta.org](mailto:spectrum@agta.org).

**AGTA Spectrum Awards™** entries were judged based on overall beauty and wearability, innovative design, effective use of materials, quality of gemstones, and quality of workmanship, broad-based 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™**, sponsored by Platinum Guild International (PGI), recognized the outstanding use of platinum in colored gemstone and/or cultured pearl jewelry in the five Spectrum Awards categories and for the Platinum Honors Innovation Awards in Bridal Wear, Business/Day Wear, and Evening Wear. Platinum Innovation honors entries with a value under \$3,500, excluding the main gemstone. PGI also awards two "Best of" awards – Best Use of Platinum and Color and Best Use of Platinum Crown.

**WJA Gem DIVA™ Awards**, sponsored by the Womens Jewelry Association presented awards in the Bridal Wear, Evening Wear, Classical, and Business/Day Wear categories. All women who entered the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition were eligible for this category.

**Manufacturing Honors** recognizes outstanding use of colored gemstones and cultured pearls in jewelry appropriate to be manufactured in production quantities. All designs that qualify for judging in the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition will also automatically be qualified for Manufacturing Honors judging.

**Fashion Forward Honors** recognizes the outstanding use of colored gemstone and/or cultured pearl in artful, trend-setting jewelry. All designs that qualified for judging in the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition were eligible for Fashion Forward Honors judging.

For more information regarding the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ competition, please contact Kami Swinney at (800) 972-1162 or [spectrum@agta.org](mailto:spectrum@agta.org). For further information regarding the 2022 AGTA GemFair™ Tucson or the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Gala, please call (800) 972-1162 or visit our website at [www.agta.org](http://www.agta.org).

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

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