

The Loupe

GIA World News

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A Legacy of Learning

From one generation to the next, GIA helps families succeed in business

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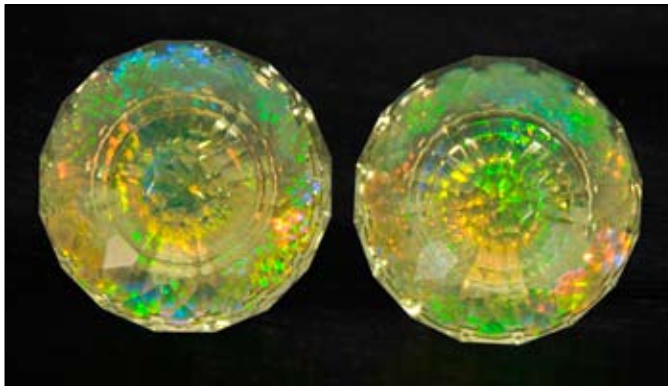
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Above: Carley McGee-Boehm's third place "Bridal Wear" design: palladium earrings incorporating cuprian tourmalines (18.09 carats) accented by black spinel and rock crystal quartz helioliths. McGee-Boehm, of Carley Jewels in Solana Beach, California, is a G.G. and A.J.P. diploma holder and has studied Jewelry Design, CAD/CAM and Comprehensive Wax Techniques at GIA. This is her third year in a row earning a Spectrum Award for her jewelry designs.



Above: This 80.25 ct oval color-change diaspre, which has come to be known as Zultanite, (shown here in both incandescent and natural light), was entered by Zultanite Gems LLC. It earned Stephen Kotlowski, G.G., C.S.M., of Uniquely -K- Custom Gems in Newburgh, New York, third place in the "Open Category for Phenomenal Gemstones."



Left: David Brackna, a gem cutter of 32 years from Germantown, Maryland, holds a Diamonds certificate from GIA and earned a Cutting Edge Honorable Mention award in the "Pairs and Suites" category for this "carousel-cut" assembled opal, inlaid and surrounded by heliodor (17.58 carats). His stones have been honored several times in this competition throughout the past 20 years, he says.



Courtesy of Gregore Morin



Above: Joseph Ambalu, owner of Amba Gem Corp. in New York City, is a GIA Diamond Grading and Colored Stone Grading graduate. He won second place for a 6.05 ct emerald-cut natural blue sapphire (pictured) in the "Open Category for Classic Gemstones." He also earned second and third place in the "Open Category for All Other Faceted Gemstones" for a 10.45 ct natural elbaite tourmaline and an 8.62 ct oval-cut natural Paraiba tourmaline, respectively.

Above and right: Jennifer and Gregore Morin (above, right), designers from Santa Barbara, California, both placed in the competition. Jennifer Morin's second place "Business/Day Wear" 18K white gold ring (above) has a 38.67 ct star rose quartz cabochon, pink sapphires (7.19 carats) and diamonds (1.04 carats). Gregore Morin's 18K white and yellow gold frog brooch (right), featuring opals (2.32 carats), moonstone (1.08 carats) and pink sapphires (0.03 carats), took first in the "Classical" category.



Above: Ashleigh Branstetter, of Ashleigh Branstetter, LLC, in New Orleans, Louisiana, won third place in "Business/Day Wear" for this 18K yellow gold ring featuring a 32.10 ct pink tourmaline and 0.58 carats of accent diamonds. She attended GIA for several Colored Stone and Diamond courses, as well as Gem Identification.

All gem and jewelry photos by Robert and Orasa Weldon.