

Topics in Gemology

Topics in Gemology is a monthly column written by Diana Jarrett, GG, RMV, based on gemological questions posed to her over the years by beginners and experts alike. Contact her at dianajarrett.com.



Tutti Frutti!

It's So Much More Than a Song

Little Richard may have wailed, "Tutti Frutti, aw- rooty" in the mid 1955's but the House of Cartier was decades ahead of the flamboyant rhythm and blues singer.

Jacques Cartier originally created his luscious over-the-top jewelry design in the 1920's using richly hued sapphire, ruby and emerald, often accented with diamonds. This opulent combination became synonymous with the House of Cartier. Genuine tutti-frutti jewels of the era were set in platinum, as were all haute couture jewels of the day.

The gemstones were step-cut; baguette, square or princess cut, emerald cut, like many of the popular diamonds were of that era. But also he utilized cabochon cuts and some had leafy shapes, or other fanciful carvings added to them. The combination of stone colors and cuts were thrilling to jewelry collectors then and now.

Socialite Daizy Fellows commissioned an enormous tutti-frutti necklace from Cartier in 1936. Known as an elegant woman of taste, and possibly one with outrageous taste, the stand out piece was deliberately head-turning.

The term tutti-frutti is still occasionally used in reference to colorful jewelry today. But the iconic Cartier meant it to be one made of the trio of precious gemstones; ruby, sapphire and emerald, and possibly diamonds.



Out of the Blue Zircon

You don't need to know the complex details of zircon, like the fact that this mineral belongs to a group called nesosilicates. You also don't have to track its rich and ancient history. But Arabic, Persian and other far eastern cultures claim their language as the root for the modern word, zircon. It's that old.

This ubiquitous gem mineral is found in metamorphic and sedimentary rocks around the globe. From Australia to Java, or Norway to Pikes Peak, zircon can be found by rock hounds. But as plentiful as zircon is, its occurrence in large crystals is an uncommon treat. So flaunt those large zircon rings, pendants and dangling earrings. They are a rare treasure.

The gem can be naturally colored in pink or rosy red, yellow, called hyacinth, even inky black or completely colorless. Jewelry lovers are fond of blue zircon in particular. This stone can be cut to showcase its flamboyant dispersion, in part due to its hardness. But all hard stones don't cast a light show like zircon, and that makes it a showy sparkler; the reason its fans are loyal.

Your customers may have developed a fondness for colored diamonds lately. With all the press given to the brightly toned diamonds, they've nearly become household names - yet most households can't spring for a colorful diamond of any size whatsoever. Tempt your jewelry collectors with gorgeous zircon - and blue is a great and popular choice. The lively brilliance and scintillation is what drew fans to zircon - so show them how much 'bounce' these stones offer when well cut in larger carat sizes. Your customers should know they join ranks with a long line of zircon, or zargun, or zargoon lovers - however it was first called.



Blue zircon ring by Yael Designs

World's First Diamond Ring: 150 Carats Of Pure, Unadulterated Bling

By Laura Hibbard



If diamonds are a girl's best friend, this must be a girl's personal flying, cupcake-baking magical unicorn.

I mean, look at this ring.

Made by Swiss luxury jewelers Shawish, the makers are heralding it as the "world's first diamond ring."

Valued at approximately \$68 million and weighing in at 150 carats, the ring is made entirely out of a cut and finished diamond.

We thought Kim Kardashian's \$2 million dollar rock was huge, but clearly there's always a bigger fish.

But this still begs the question: Who could possibly be enough of a diva to rock such intense bling?

Looks like Snooki's already spoken for. But maybe this could serve as a heads up to Scott Disick in case he ever decides to propose to Kourtney Kardashian.

Source: The Huffington Post - March 22, 2012

From Mars to London, With a Few Stops Along the Way

By Kenneth Chang

A piece of Mars fell on Morocco in July. That was just the start of its travels on Earth.

The biggest chunk of the meteorite flew from Morocco to Paris to New York, where the collector who bought it bicycled around town with it in his backpack. Finally, it went to London.