



Wisdom From the Bench

Earlier this year, one of our clients brought in a suite of jewellery that was passed down to her by her mother. She wished to remodel all the jewellery items into two special necklets she and her sister could wear and enjoy every day.

The suite included a ring, pendant, bracelet and earrings. Each piece was made up of a large cushion cut garnet and surrounded by a halo of white sapphires and cubic zirconias, all in white gold settings and backed with rose gold filigree patterned plates. I thought these plates were too good to hide.

'It was a very rewarding experience to create a new family heirloom...'

Following a meeting with Peter, Greg and the client, it was decided that the delicate filigree plates would be used as a feature alongside the garnets, not hidden away as backings.

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The suite of jewellery prior to remodelling

Highlight your favourite colour with a halo



The Principles of Integrity and Honesty set down by our forebears have laid the perfect foundation on which we can continue to build and further practise the ideals of 'Quality without Compromise'

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Wisdom from the Bench



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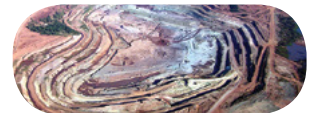
pp. 2-6 Just in time for Christmas!

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'...it was decided that the delicate filigree plates would be used as a feature alongside the garnets, not hidden away as backings.'

After Greg completed a quick sketch of the necklets, I began dismantling each of the items of jewellery, carefully removing the filigree sections and garnets, setting them aside for later use.

As part of the new design, each garnet setting would be fitted with a hinged mechanism that would allow the necklet to be attached to a variety of chains, omegas, silk cords and neoprene, thus allowing the necklets to be dressed up or down depending on the client's needs.

The laser welder was the preferred technique over the traditional method of soldering for constructing these necklets, as it allowed me to have perfect precision at every delicate join and removed all risks of damage to the fine filigree work when joining it to the 'pillow' backings.

This remodelling project really took me out of my comfort zone and pushed me to expand my usual construction methods. At times it was quite tricky and challenging, but after achieving two beautiful and unique items of jewellery, I was proud to stamp my hallmark on them. I hope our client is just as proud to wear them and hand them down through the family one day. It was a very rewarding experience to create a new family heirloom for someone that can be worn and enjoyed for many generations to come.

Eleanor Hawke
FGAA



Elements of the old and new coming together



The completed necklets

Gift Ideas



1



2



3

Pictured above, left to right:

1. 9 carat white gold diamond flower stud earrings \$625
2. 9 carat white gold diamond pendant* \$1,135
3. Platinum diamond full circle wedding ring \$3,175

*Chain not included

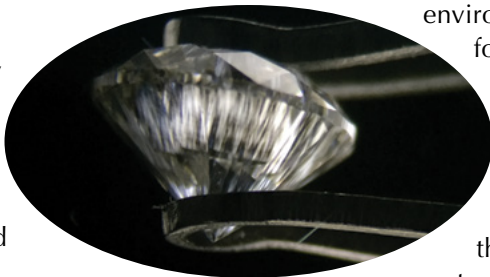


Synthetic Diamonds

Synthetic diamonds are quickly becoming a regular occurrence in the jewellery industry. As technology is becoming more advanced, synthetic diamonds are now being produced in sizes of up to 3 carats.

To the surprise of many, diamond company DeBeers, previously only trading in natural diamonds, now has a subsidiary company supplying a synthetic diamond jewellery range to the world.

It is essential the jewellery industry is educated about determining the difference between these types of diamonds, to ensure clients are not only educated about their purchases but are getting what they pay for and jewellery is valued accordingly.



required to ensure that the diamonds are of gem quality. By comparison, to create a piece of synthetic rough by machine takes approximately 2–3 weeks.

Synthetic diamonds are made by machine in two ways: one by CVD (chemical vapour deposition) in a vacuum using a gas phase carbon or by HTHP (high temperature high pressure) using carbon and mimicking the environment in which natural diamonds form with pressure and heat. All are technically a diamond (made from the same components as the natural). With an interest in these techniques, I recently partook in an advanced diamond grading course where I learnt the different ways to distinguish between natural and synthetics.

'To the untrained eye, synthetic diamonds can look as real as natural ones, creating a cause for concern.'

To the untrained eye, synthetic diamonds can look as real as natural ones, creating a cause for concern. The prices of synthetics are less than their natural counterparts, and predictions of synthetic prices dropping have been made as the technology becomes more advanced over time.

To produce natural diamonds takes millions of years. The vast majority of natural diamonds are low quality 'industrial grade' crystals. Specific temperatures, pressure and a suitable chemical and geological environment are

CVD and HTHP synthetics display different graining patterns to naturals, as seen here, as well as different reactions to ultraviolet light and colour or growth zoning. Separating such stones from natural diamonds requires the use of advanced spectroscopic techniques and certain gemmological equipment. After attending a workshop on detection of synthetics, Greg and Peter decided to invest in a digital spectrometer for our gem laboratory so that we could better protect our customers.

We can sadly no longer assume a diamond is of natural origin.

Kylie Beachley

FGAA Dip DT Regt Valuer RV348
Office Manager



4



5



6

Pictured above, left to right:

4. 9 carat yellow gold blue topaz and diamond ring \$390

5. 18 carat white and rose gold solitaire diamond pendant* \$1,850

6. 18 carat white gold princess cut ruby and diamond ring \$4,875

*Chain not included

Workshop Changes



Two months ago, Jarrad surprised us all by tendering his resignation for family reasons. He has been a valuable and well-liked member of our jewellery workshop for almost nine years. As always, Jarrad's motivation was pure and from the heart: he wanted to have more involvement with his kids in their early school years. We will miss his sense of humour, kindness and undoubted craftsmanship.

Coming up to our busiest time of the year, it was necessary to have another jeweller in the workshop. It was clear that Jarrad's shoes were going to

be hard to fill. We were delighted when Yuki Mathwin accepted our offer to join our team. Yuki commenced her apprenticeship in 2014 (the year after Eleanor) and, like Eleanor, was awarded 'Apprentice of the Year' in every year of her training. She has also had success in a pearl designing competition, winning top award in the apprentice category two years in a row.

When asked how she enjoyed her first week working at Abrecht Bird, she responded: 'I feel like I've won the lottery!' We look forward to offering Yuki the chance to further develop her natural skills and enthusiasm so that she can shine in the years ahead.



I feel like I've won the lottery!



Pictured above, clockwise from top left:

7. 9 carat white gold kunzite and diamond enhancer pendant* \$2,590 **8.** 18 carat white gold diamond channel set ring \$4,500

9. 9 carat yellow gold fluted hook earrings \$500 **10.** 18 carat white gold pink sapphire and diamond halo ring \$3,500

11. 18 carat white gold aquamarine and diamond three ring set POA **12.** 18 carat white gold black ceramic and diamond bracelet \$725

13. 18 carat rose gold white ceramic and cognac diamond bracelet \$710

*Chain not included



Gemmology Corner

Reflections on diamonds



Synthetic production VS Natural creation

General Electric Company produced synthetic diamonds almost 50 years ago. The unique attributes of these diamonds were required for very specific industrial applications and the enormous cost of their production seemed in those days to pose no threat to the jewellery industry. However nothing stands still and now we find that this precious gem can be produced commercially in laboratories at a lower cost than natural diamonds.

Since Kylie has discussed synthetic diamond production in this issue, I thought I should share my views. Diamonds created by nature are over one billion years old. Formed more than 150 kilometres beneath the earth's crust, they arrived at the surface via volcanic eruptions 300–400 million years ago, long before dinosaurs. Diamonds are the oldest thing that most of us will ever hold.

I have witnessed the invention of techniques to produce synthetic rubies, sapphires and emeralds. Frankly, I feared at the time for the future of these beautiful natural stones. The truth is that the value of the natural gems continued to rise, while the synthetic prices slumped as laboratories increased supplies while demand was limited.

Why is this so? After all, as Kylie has revealed, expert opinion is required to detect the difference between a synthetic product and a naturally formed diamond. It seems that consumers really value the genuine, authentic article over the mass production alternative.

For almost 50 years, I have had the delightful experience of examining diamonds and have witnessed improved cutting techniques that unlock and enhance their true beauty. Nothing can rival the natural product.

Case closed!

'Diamonds are the oldest thing that most of us will ever hold.'

Natural diamonds are hard to find – their recovery peaked in 2005, and unless new reserves are found, their production will continue to decline. On the other hand, demand for this precious gem grows – 2017 was the strongest year ever for sales of diamond jewellery.

Leon Corn
FGAA Dip DT



Showroom Spotlight

This salt and pepper diamond slice pendant creates a modern look with angular lines

18 carat yellow gold hexagonal diamond 'slice' pendant and chain \$2,735

Gift Ideas



Pictured above, clockwise from top left:

- 13.** 18 carat white gold diamond cluster ring \$13,200
- 14.** 18 carat white gold diamond and freshwater pearl drop earrings \$1,725
- 15.** Platinum pink, champagne and white diamond ring POA
- 16.** 9 carat white gold diamond halo stud earrings \$1,085
- 17.** 18 carat white gold yellow and white diamond cluster ring \$4,550
- 18.** 18 carat yellow and white gold emerald and diamond pendant* \$1,475
- 19.** 18 carat white gold purple sapphire and diamond ring \$3,990
- 20.** 9 carat white gold diamond circular drop earrings \$1,185
- 21.** 18 carat white gold princess and brilliant cut diamond ring \$2,400
- 22.** 9 carat three-tone diamond circle pendant* \$1,925

*Chain not included

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