

# Man's Enduring Passion for Gems

Schedule October 20 - 22, 2010

## Wednesday, October 20th

9:15 - 9:45 AM

Meet in Lobby of 589 5th Avenue

10:00 - 11:30

**Estate Jewelry: Study of Rare Masterpieces**  
with Lee Siegelson and Janet Zapata, Jewelry Historian

11:30 - 12:30

*Brunch in area - Walk to  
47th st*



12:30 - 4:00 PM

### **Rotating Workshops and Visits**

#### **Study 1**

**Gemstone Collection** - Benjamin Zucker  
**Special Diamond Cuts** - Kleinstein Brothers

#### **Study 2**

**Couture Jewelry Visit** - Award winning designer  
**Private Collection** - Rare 20th century collection

4:00 - 5:30

**Workshop on Couture Jewelry with Antwerp Designer** - Group 1

## Thursday, October 21st

9:00 - 10:30 AM **Workshop on Couture Jewelry with Antwerp Designer** - Group 2

10:30 - 12:30 **Rotating Workshops**

**Rare Stones and Unusual Emeralds, Sapphires and Rubies** with Jeffrey Bilgore

**Mastoloni Pearls - Distinguishing Variety and Quality in Pearls**

12:30 - 1:30 PM *Break - Lunch on own*

2:00 - 3:00 **Visit to John Hatlteberg** - Private collection and discussion on world's greatest diamonds

3:30 - 5:00 **Visit to Private Auction House**  
**Study of Jewelry** for Upcoming Auction with Joyce Jonas, Jewelry historian

## Friday, October 22nd

9:00 - 10:30 AM **Workshop on Couture Jewelry with Antwerp Designer** - Group 3

10:40 - 12:40 **Rotating Workshops**

1 hour each **Colored Diamonds** with Alan Bronstein

**Gemstone Cutting** - Demonstration at studio of Leading Gemstone Cutter

1:30 - 3:30 PM **Kara Ross Studio - Lunch hosted by Kara Ross**

Study with Kara Ross - Art Pieces, one of a kind limited editions and the Kara Ross collection

4:00 - 6:00 **Private Collection Visit - Cutting Edge 20th Century Adornment** - Courtesy of Collector  
**Presentation by Artist Thomas Gentile:** his work

**Champagne and canapés**

*Close*

## Wednesday October 20th

### Study of 19th and 20th Century Estate Jewelry - Lee Siegelson and Janet Zapata, Jewelry Historian

Two hundred years of jewelry history, each era marked only by its master jewelers, unfold before you in the collection of Lee Siegelson. For any lover of jewelry here is a snapshot of the development of jewelry over time, how shapes changed according to the taste of each period and how jewelry became increasingly refined with the introduction of new materials and technology. However, this collection is not only for the purpose of jewelry history study, it is the result of a passion for artistry, recognition of excellence and insatiable thirst for that which is unique. It also demonstrates the expert eye of Lee Siegelson.

Historian Janet Zapata will address the collection, focusing on masterpieces of the 19th and 20th century and rare art deco works



Art Deco Bracelet  
Courtesy of Lee Siegelson



### Collection Visit: Benjamin Zucker



Ben Zucker is the closest one can come to reimagining a 17th Century gemstone trader. This trader would have made use of sea routes opened by both the Dutch East India Company and British. His journey from Antwerp would encompass ports in Italy, Galconda, Ava, Persia, Hormus and Brazil through which he could source extraordinary stones and diamonds. This is the Benjamin Zucker who became a collector in the 20th Century. Lured by a 17th century Jewish marriage ring, he began a collection that encompasses today; rings from Roman times, medieval, the Renaissance and onward to the 20th Century. Benjamin Zucker will not need his rings though he will share those he keeps with him, to take participants on a 17th Century voyage. He will bring to life the places, societies, and civilisations involved in the gemstone trade.

### Visits to Ateliers - Master Jewelers and their Collections

The ability to establish yourself independently when most skilled craftsmen remain the unseen creators of great jewels for houses such as Tiffany or Cartier, is likewise today dependent on patronage. A discriminating audience stretching from Hollywood to Moscow, only follow a designer if his work demonstrates the extraordinary. To achieve this requires refined skill, imagination, unprecedented design along with the ability to engineer, facet and incorporate gemstones. Our visits to two couture designers, one of whom never sees the public, demonstrates talent, originality and excellence

*The visit to the Antwerp designer will rotate over three days for groups of five*



### Private Collection of Rare 20th Century Master Designers



It takes talent and connoisseurship to hunt unknown and unrecognised master jewelers and on discovering them buy up their entire collection making them inaccessible to anyone else. Our next visit is to a master jeweler, who because of his own expertise and craftsmanship as well as passion for the unusual began a collection 50 years ago. These works do not adhere to any style, period or movement. This collection has never been exhibited and these jewels are impossible to find today.

Thursday October 21st

## Study of a Rare Gemstone Collection - Jeffrey Bilgore



From Marco Polo in the 13th Century to Vasco da Gama in the 15th century, merchants and later day traders and eventually through jewelry exchanges worldwide, gems have been a means of trade and source of wealth.

Jeff Bilgore, a trader, and for sixteen years the hunter of unique stones for Oscar Heyman, has over time amassed a rare gem collection that surpasses many museums. He offers unprecedented entree to his collection.

## Mastoloni Pearls



Long before cultured pearls had become one of the most desirable adornments for twentieth century women, Frank Mastoloni, the founder of Mastoloni, became aware of the phenomenon of cultured saltwater pearls. Pearls, for centuries a coveted gem so rare and expensive that only royalty or the very wealthy could possess them, were about to be revolutionised. Mr. Mastoloni grew a business that by the 1950s was able to offer America extraordinary pearls. The Mastoloni name came to be identified with the highest quality of pearls.

Mastoloni have educated thousands on the unique nature of each pearl variety and how to appreciate pearls according to their colour, size and lustre. However they have never previously made their collection and expertise available for group study. Their generosity enables entrée in to the world of the pearl.

## Visit to Studio and Home of John Hatleberg

A visit to John's studio on the Upper East side allows us to see why he is included in Christie's book of 20th Century Jewelry, which acknowledges his role as an artist jeweller. John describes his collection as conceptual and it has been featured in Vogue, Paris Vogue and Town and Country amongst other leading publications.

This experience will explore the concept of jewels as crystal balls through which we project our imagination. John is the world expert in recreating - through his faceting skills - an exact map of a diamond and has made replicas of virtually every important diamond worldwide.



## Visit to Auction Warehouse with Joyce Jonas, Historian



We visit the warehouse of a unique auction establishment that reaches out to dealers across the country for online auctions. Invariably there is high quality jewelry which is always accompanied by a condition report and vetted by the Jewelry expert. Although the high estimates might be \$6000 for a diamond pendant, the hammer price is most likely to be around \$4000 as dealers drive the auction. Jewelry historian, Joyce Jonas, will discuss jewelry assembled for upcoming auctions and the prices they will most likely realise. We will explore how these differ from the major auction establishments.

Cartier Clip High Estimate  
\$4000

**Friday October 22nd**

## **Coloured Diamonds - Alan Bronstein**

This session is with world expert Alan Bronstein, owner of Aurora Gems creator of two monuments to the wonder of colored diamonds. Each covers the entire spectrum of colors that can be found - The Aurora Pyramid of Hope and The Aurora Butterfly of Peace.

Mr Bronstein has asked to set out his study himself:-

### **A Reverence for the Phenomena of Nature - Alan Bronstein**

30 years ago at a time when most of the world was conscious only of diamonds as colorless I stumbled into the alternate universe of colored diamonds. With no information, books, documentation or photographs of their existence my passion began as the journey to see and learn as much as possible of the natural spectrum of diamonds. I experienced the thrill of seeing something new for the first time, like a rainbow. And I did anticipate that once the world's society was aware of such beautiful, natural rarity, it would grow more valuable. The world is filled with endless surprise and revelation. Sometimes we need a guru for enlightenment. I am a guru for an experience in the mysterious world of colored diamonds and I will take you into it.



## **Visit to Master Gem Cutter**

A visit to one of New York's most prestigious and talented stone cutters shows how a stone can change according to the way it is cut and the role of the cutter in examining the stone and then realising its best qualities.



## **Kara Ross**



Kara Ross invites us to her studio, hosts a lunch and lets us enter a creative world rarely shown to the public. It presents a 21st century awareness of a planet that is being corroded. She shows us the preciousness of one of nature's humblest material - wood - by uplifting it to a jigsaw necklace finely inlaid with diamonds. Other handmade jewelry offset by precious and semi precious stones are rock, lava and crystal - each sensitively wrought. With Kara Ross the material dictates the art work, not the artist. Her responses are to earth's crust and what lies on it and beneath it.

The Kara Ross collection outside her couture work carries through the same passion for tactile materials, most often skin, subtly died. This collection has become the most desirable jewelry for every woman in America and is defined by geometric forms, bold statement pieces and belief in the handmade.

## **Private Collection Visit**



We enjoy a visit to a prominent private collection encompassing cutting edge jewelry internationally. Here one forgets the familiar perception of jewelry as an item of adornment in a traditional form and abandon any expectation of a particular material to perform this function. These are art piece often aimed at making political statements. Simultaneously they represent the highest degree of goldsmithing. The visit will include a personal appearance from Thomas Gentile, who has made an enormous contribution to art jewelry. Whether or not we are able to understand these works, this collection will allow us to see that there is a life after Cartier, Pomellato and Tiffany's.

# Registration For Programme Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd October

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The Fee for the entire programme is \$650 this includes all studies, lectures, two lunches and transport. The Programme is limited to 16 participants who will subdivide into smaller groups. Registration for the programme is by e-mail to [jessica@artstolife.com](mailto:jessica@artstolife.com) and subsequent payment by Paypal or American Express. Those wishing to pay by cheque should e-mail [jessica@artstolife.com](mailto:jessica@artstolife.com) to register and advise accordingly. Payment is due in full at time of registration. Cancellation will only be allowed if the space can be filled.

The Fee for a one day study is \$275.

On registration participants should include their full name, address, phone number and e-mail

For those requiring Hotel accommodation, we are holding a group booking at the Mansfield Boutique Hotel. Address:- 12 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. The fee per night is \$279 per room

For those requiring assistance with travel, we are working with Connie Greenspan Altour [cgreenspan@altour.com](mailto:cgreenspan@altour.com)

Cheques must payable in US dollars to Arts to Life Ltd and sent to Jessica Deutsch, Arts to Life, 602 Pacific Wharf, 165 Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5QF United Kingdom

There will be a local contact in New York for registered participants

If there are any further questions regarding the programme, please call Arts to Life at +442077403222 or e-mail Arts to life

**Responsibility** Arts to life acts only as agents to the participants and assumes no liability for injury, damage or any irregularity whatsoever. No refunds will be given for any absence or unused portion of the programme, the issuance of acceptance of registration shall be deemed to be consent of the conditions listed herein.

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