



The Trends in Gemstones 2017/18

Above: Emerald-cut watermelon Tourmaline from AGTA Member, Kimberly Collins Colored Gems

Right: Watermelon Tourmalines from AGTA Member, Vista Gems USA, Inc.

The 2017 AGTA GemFair™ at the JCK Las Vegas Show made me feel a little like Dorothy when her house landed in Technicolor in *The Wizard of Oz*. The overall trend from the show is towards vibrant and bold hues filled with an exuberance which moves away from the comfort zone of more tonal gradations, pastels and pops of color here and there. “Somewhere over the rainbow” doesn’t even begin to capture all the different shades and permutations we are seeing for 2017/2018.

This feeling began a few seasons ago, but is now moving into a whole new realm of multi-color gems in often unexpected combinations. This has resulted in three major directions:

MIXING IT UP

This trend focuses on a range of different combinations. One of the main directions features the bicolor natural occurrence in gems which takes place when they are formed in the earth. These include watermelon

Tourmalines (which have become more popular than ever) and the rugged, rose cut Tanzanites, which have an ombre blue/green effect. There are also the diverse palettes of Sapphires and Tourmalines, which are being mixed to the max. We are also seeing combinations of red Spinel with Mandarin Garnets, or effervescent contrasts like rubellite Tourmalines with Paraiba Tourmalines, or vibrant pink and yellow Sapphires with vivid Tanzanite. You can take these combinations even further, adding a total of five or six different hues to the palette. It’s an artistic time when it comes to gems—a time when we are looking at happy colors to liven our spirits. Other gems that fall into this category include Hessonite or spessartite Garnet with Peridot, Iolite or Amethyst and rhodolite Garnet. There is also a tendency to mix opaque and translucent stones such as Turquoise with Rubies, Lapis with pink, lavender or green Sapphires. The changing colors of fire Opals continue to enchant as does the magic of rainbow Moonstones and, of course, the rare changeability of Alexandrite.