

The background is an abstract composition of vibrant, textured brushstrokes. The colors are primarily deep reds, oranges, and yellows in the lower half, transitioning into blues, greens, and purples in the upper half. The strokes are dynamic and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Bonhams

**The World  
of Opals**

Tuesday December 10, 2013  
Los Angeles



# **The World of Opals**

**Tuesday December 10, 2013 at 3pm**  
**Los Angeles**

**Bonhams**

7601 W. Sunset Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90046  
**bonhams.com**

**Preview**

Friday December 6, 12pm to 5pm  
Saturday December 7, 12pm to 5pm  
Sunday December 8, 12pm to 5pm  
Monday December 9, 12pm to 5pm

**Bids**

+1 (323) 850 7500  
+1 (323) 850 6090 fax

To bid via the internet please  
visit [www.bonhams.com](http://www.bonhams.com)

**Sale Number:** 21348

Lots 2001 - 2176

**Catalog:** \$35

**Inquiries**

Claudia Florian  
Co-Consulting Director  
[claudia.florian@bonhams.com](mailto:claudia.florian@bonhams.com)

Automated Results Service  
+1 (800) 223 2854

Online bidding will be available  
for this auction. For further  
information please visit:  
**[www.bonhams.com/21348](http://www.bonhams.com/21348)**

Please see pages 2 to 6  
for bidder information including  
Conditions of Sale, after-sale  
collection and shipment.

**Illustrations**

Front cover: Lot 2126  
Session page: Lot 2088  
Back cover: Lot 2100

**Bonhams**

220 San Bruno Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94103  
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Auctioneers Corp.; All rights reserved.  
Bond No. 57BSBGL0808

## OFFSITE SOLD PROPERTY STORAGE INFORMATION

Please note that all lots listed at the beginning of our printed catalog, if not removed immediately after the sale, will be transferred to a nearby storage facility. For the convenience of the successful bidder of one or more of these lots, all purchased lots will be transferred to our offsite storage together. Please read the Conditions of Sale regarding the removal of sold lots.

Bonhams' storage and logistics partner is Box Brothers, a well-known organization that specializes in crating, packaging and shipping.

Our storage and logistics partnership provides several beneficial services. The first being 5 days of free storage.

### Lots to be removed to storage:

2100  
2111  
2103

- During this auction, clients will be expected to pick up all property from Bonhams by 5pm on Monday December 16, 2013.
- All items listed at the beginning of our printed catalog, along with all other items purchased, if not removed immediately after the sale, will be transferred to Box Brothers warehouse. With an appointment made 24 hours in advance, clients can pick up their property at 220 W. Ivy Ave, Unit C in Inglewood.
- Box Brothers will charge an uplift fee to transport your items to their warehouse. Small items that can be handled easily by one person will be charged \$50. Larger items that can still be handled by one person will be charged \$85. Large items that require two people to handle will be charged \$100. Charges will be payable directly to Box Brothers. Should you choose to have Box Brothers ship or deliver your property, this uplift fee will be waived.
- Clients will have 5 days of free storage to retrieve their property or make arrangements with Box Brothers to pack and ship their property. Storage fees will begin to accrue on the 6th day of storage.
- Retrieval from the offsite warehouse is by appointment only. Clients must call 24 hours in advance. Clients can utilize the delivery services offered by Box Brothers or clients may make their own arrangements. Please call +1 (800) 474-7447.
- Box Brothers is available to ship internationally. They offer importing and exporting services. Clients can select either airfreight or ocean cargo delivery options, which range from door-to-port, door-to-airport with door-to-door service also available. Clients can ship one item, co-load or container load at a discounted rate through Box Brothers. Please call +1 (800) 474-7447 for more information.
- All purchases not designated for offsite storage will remain onsite at Bonhams for a period of 21 days beginning the date of the auction. During this 21 day period, clients may remove such property themselves, make arrangements with the Bonhams packaging and shipping department or provide their own shipper for removal of all property. If a client does not retrieve his/her property or finalize shipping arrangements within 21 days, the purchases will be removed to the offsite storage facility of Box Brothers. Again, uplift charges for packing and transport from our gallery to Box Brothers will be charged by Box Brothers.
- Payment of the hammer price, premium and any applicable sales taxes must be made directly to Bonhams prior to the release of property. Any removal, storage or other fees due to Box Brothers should be made directly to Box Brothers.
- Change of shipping address must be authorized by Bonhams Revenue Manager, Martin Romero, before Box Brothers will be permitted to re-route your purchases.

## CONDITIONS OF SALE

The following Conditions of Sale, as amended by any published or posted notices or verbal announcements during the sale, constitute the entire terms and conditions on which property listed in the catalog shall be offered for sale or sold by Bonhams & Butterfields Auctioneers Corp. and any consignor of such property for whom we act as agent. If live online bidding is available for the subject auction, additional terms and conditions of sale relating to online bidding will apply; see [www.bonhams.com/WebTerms](http://www.bonhams.com/WebTerms) for the supplemental terms. As used herein, "Bonhams," "we" and "us" refer to Bonhams & Butterfields Auctioneers Corp.

1. As used herein, the term "bid price" means the price at which a lot is successfully knocked down to the purchaser. The term "purchase price" means the aggregate of (a) the bid price, (b) a PREMIUM retained by us and payable by the purchaser EQUAL TO 25% OF THE FIRST \$100,000 OF THE BID PRICE, 20% OF THE AMOUNT OF THE BID PRICE ABOVE \$100,000 UP TO AND INCLUDING \$2,000,000, AND 12% OF THE AMOUNT OF THE BID PRICE OVER \$2,000,000, and (c) unless the purchaser is exempt by law from the payment thereof, any California, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, D.C., Washington state, or other state or local sales tax (or compensating use tax) and other applicable taxes.

2. On the fall of the auctioneer's hammer, the highest bidder shall have purchased the offered lot in accordance and subject to compliance with all of the conditions set forth herein and (a) assumes full risk and responsibility therefor, (b) if requested will sign a confirmation of purchase, and (c) will pay the purchase price in full or such part as we may require for all lots purchased. No lot may be transferred. Any person placing a bid as agent on behalf of another (whether or not such person has disclosed that fact or the identity of the principal) may be jointly and severally liable with the principal under any contract resulting from the acceptance of a bid.

Unless otherwise agreed, payment in good funds is due and payable within five (5) business days following the auction sale. Whenever the purchaser pays only a part of the total purchase price for one or more lots purchased, we may apply such payments, in our sole discretion, to the lot or lots we choose. Payment will not be deemed made in full until we have collected good funds for all amounts due.

Payment for purchases may be made in or by (a) cash, (b) cashier's check or money order, (c) personal check with approved credit drawn on a U.S. bank, (d) wire transfer or other immediate bank transfer, or (e) Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover credit, charge or debit card. A processing fee will be assessed on any returned checks. Please note that the amount of cash notes and cash equivalents that can be accepted from a given purchaser may be limited.

The purchaser grants us a security interest in the property, and we may retain as collateral security for the purchaser's obligations to us, any property and all monies held or received by us for the account of the purchaser, in our possession. We retain all rights of a secured party under the California Commercial Code. If the foregoing conditions or any other applicable conditions herein are not complied with, in addition to other remedies available to us and the consignor by law, including without limitation, the right to hold the purchaser liable for the purchase price, we at our option may either (a) cancel the sale, retaining as liquidated damages all payments made by the purchaser or (b) resell the property, either publicly or privately, and in such event the purchaser shall be liable for the payment of any deficiency plus all costs and expenses of both

sales, our commission at our standard rates, all other charges due hereunder, attorneys' fees, expenses and incidental damages. In addition, where two or more amounts are owed in respect of different transactions by the purchaser to us, to Bonhams 1793 Limited and/or to any of our other affiliates, subsidiaries or parent companies worldwide within the Bonhams Group, we reserve the right to apply any monies paid in respect of a transaction to discharge any amount owed by the purchaser. If all fees, commissions, premiums, bid price and other sums due to us from the purchaser are not paid promptly as provided in these Conditions of Sale, we reserve the right to impose a finance charge equal to 1.5% per month on all amounts due to us beginning on the 31st day following the sale until payment is received, in addition to other remedies available to us by law.

3. We reserve the right to withdraw any property and to divide and combine lots at any time before such property's auction. Unless otherwise announced by the auctioneer at the time of sale, all bids are per lot as numbered in the catalog and no lots shall be divided or combined for sale.

4. We reserve the right to reject a bid from any bidder, to split any bidding increment, and to advance the bidding in any manner the auctioneer may decide. In the event of any dispute between bidders, or in the event the auctioneer doubts the validity of any bid, the auctioneer shall have sole and final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to re-offer and resell the article in dispute. If any dispute arises after the sale, our sales records shall be conclusive in all respects.

5. If we are prevented by fire, theft or any other reason whatsoever from delivering any property to the purchaser or a sale otherwise cannot be completed, our liability shall be limited to the sum actually paid therefor by the purchaser and shall in no event include any compensatory, incidental or consequential damages.

6. If a lot is offered subject to a reserve, we may implement such reserve by bidding on behalf of the consignor, whether by opening bidding or continuing bidding in response to other bidders until reaching the reserve. If we have an interest in an offered lot and the proceeds therefrom other than our commissions, we may bid therefor to protect such interest. CONSIGNORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BID ON THEIR OWN ITEMS.

7. All statements contained in the catalog or in any bill of sale, condition report, invoice or elsewhere as to authorship, period, culture, source, origin, measurement, quality, rarity, provenance, importance, exhibition and literature of historical relevance, or physical condition ARE QUALIFIED STATEMENTS OF OPINION AND NOT REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES. No employee or agent of Bonhams is authorized to make on our behalf or on that of the consignor any representation or warranty, oral or written, with respect to any property.

8. All purchased property shall be removed from the premises at which the sale is conducted by the date(s) and time(s) set forth in the "Buyer's Guide" portion of this catalog. Property designated with a "W" and associated purchased lots, if not removed promptly following sale, will be transferred to an offsite warehouse at the purchaser's risk and expense, as set forth in more detail in the "Buyer's Guide." Purchased property that is permitted to remain onsite at Bonhams' facility should be removed at the purchaser's expense not later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time five (5) business days following the date of the sale. If not so removed, a storage fee of \$5.00 per lot per day will be payable to us by the purchaser beginning at the close of the

21st day following the sale, and we may thereafter transfer such property to an offsite warehouse at the purchaser's risk and expense. Accounts must be settled in full before property will be released. Packing and handling of purchased lots are the responsibility of the purchaser. Bonhams can provide packing and shipping services for certain items as noted in the "Buyer's Guide" section of the catalog.

9. The copyright in the text of the catalog and the photographs, digital images and illustrations of lots in the catalog belong to Bonhams or its licensors. You will not reproduce or permit anyone else to reproduce such text, photographs, digital images or illustrations without our prior written consent.

10. These Conditions of Sale shall bind the successors and assigns of all bidders and purchasers and inure to the benefit of our successors and assigns. No waiver, amendment or modification of the terms hereof (other than posted notices or oral announcements during the sale) shall bind us unless specifically stated in writing and signed by us. If any part of these Conditions of Sale is for any reason invalid or unenforceable, the rest shall remain valid and enforceable.

11. These Conditions of Sale and the purchaser's and our respective rights and obligations hereunder are governed by the laws of the State of California. By bidding at an auction, each purchaser and bidder agrees to be bound by these Conditions of Sale. Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this agreement, or the breach, termination or validity thereof, brought by or against Bonhams (but not including claims brought against the consignor by the purchaser of lots consigned hereunder) shall be resolved by the procedures set forth below.

### Mediation and Arbitration Procedures

(a) Within 30 days of written notice that there is a dispute, the parties or their authorized and empowered representatives shall meet by telephone and/or in person to mediate their differences. If the parties agree, a mutually acceptable mediator shall be selected and the parties will equally share such mediator's fees. The mediator shall be a retired judge or an attorney familiar with commercial law and trained in or qualified by experience in handling mediations. Any communications made during the mediation process shall not be admissible in any subsequent arbitration, mediation or judicial proceeding. All proceedings and any resolutions thereof shall be confidential, and the terms governing arbitration set forth in paragraph (c) below shall govern.

(b) If mediation does not resolve all disputes between the parties, or in any event no longer than 60 days after receipt of the written notice of dispute referred to above, the parties shall submit the dispute for binding arbitration before a single neutral arbitrator. Such arbitrator shall be a retired judge or an attorney familiar with commercial law and trained in or qualified by experience in handling arbitrations. Such arbitrator shall make all appropriate disclosures required by law. The arbitrator shall be drawn from a panel of a national arbitration service agreed to by the parties, and shall be selected as follows: (i) If the national arbitration service has specific rules or procedures, those rules or procedures shall be followed; (ii) If the national arbitration service does not have rules or procedures for the selection of an arbitrator, the arbitrator shall be an individual jointly agreed to by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on a national arbitration service, the arbitration shall be conducted by the American Arbitration Association, and the arbitrator shall be selected in accordance with the Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator's award shall be in writing and shall set forth findings of fact and legal conclusions.

## CONDITIONS OF SALE - CONTINUED

(c) Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or provided by the published rules of the national arbitration service:

(i) the arbitration shall occur within 60 days following the selection of the arbitrator;

(ii) the arbitration shall be conducted in the designated location, as follows: (A) in any case in which the subject auction by Bonhams took place or was scheduled to take place in the State of New York or Connecticut or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the arbitration shall take place in New York City, New York; (B) in all other cases, the arbitration shall take place in the city of San Francisco, California; and

(iii) discovery and the procedure for the arbitration shall be as follows:

(A) All arbitration proceedings shall be confidential;

(B) The parties shall submit written briefs to the arbitrator no later than 15 days before the arbitration commences;

(C) Discovery, if any, shall be limited as follows: (I) Requests for no more than 10 categories of documents, to be provided to the requesting party within 14 days of written request therefor; (II) No more than two (2) depositions per party, provided however, the deposition(s) are to be completed within one (1) day; (III) Compliance with the above shall be enforced by the arbitrator in accordance with California law;

(D) Each party shall have no longer than eight (8) hours to present its position. The entire hearing before the arbitrator shall not take longer than three (3) consecutive days;

(E) The award shall be made in writing no more than 30 days following the end of the proceeding. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered by any court having jurisdiction thereof.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, and except as required by applicable arbitration rules, each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs in connection with the proceedings and shall share equally the fees and expenses of the arbitrator.

### Limited Right of Rescission

If within one (1) year from the date of sale, the original purchaser (a) gives written notice to us alleging that the identification of Authorship (as defined below) of such lot as set forth in the **BOLD TYPE** heading of the catalog description of such lot (as amended by any saleroom notices or verbal announcements during the sale) is not substantially correct based on a fair reading of the catalog (including the terms of any glossary contained therein), and (b) within 10 days after such notice returns the lot to us in the same condition as at the time of sale, and (c) establishes the allegation in the notice to our satisfaction (including by providing one or more written opinions by recognized experts in the field, as we may reasonably require), then the sale of such lot will be rescinded and, unless we have already paid to the consignor monies owed him in connection with the sale, the original purchase price will be refunded.

If, prior to receiving such notice from the original purchaser alleging such defect, we have paid the consignor monies owed him in connection with the sale, we shall pay the original purchaser the amount of our commissions, any other sale proceeds to which we are entitled and applicable taxes received from the purchaser on the sale and make demand on the consignor to pay the balance of the original purchase price to the original purchaser. Should the consignor fail to pay such amount promptly, we may disclose the identity of the consignor and assign to the original purchaser our rights against the consignor with respect to the lot the sale of which is sought to be rescinded. Upon such disclosure and assignment, any liability of Bonhams as consignor's agent with respect to said lot shall automatically terminate.

The foregoing limited right of rescission is available to the original purchaser only and may not be assigned to or relied upon by any subsequent transferee of the property sold. The purchaser hereby accepts the benefit of the consignor's warranty of title and other representations and warranties made by the consignor for the purchaser's benefit. Nothing in this section shall be construed as an admission by us of any representation of fact, express or implied, obligation or responsibility with respect to any lot. THE PURCHASER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AGAINST BONHAMS

FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER IS THE LIMITED RIGHT OF RESCISSION DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

"Authorship" means only the identity of the creator, the period, culture and source or origin of the lot, as the case may be, as set forth in the **BOLD TYPE** heading of the print catalog entry. The right of rescission does not extend to: (a) works of art executed before 1870 (unless these works are determined to be counterfeits created since 1870), as this is a matter of current scholarly opinion which can change; (b) titles, descriptions, or other identification of offered lots, which information normally appears in lower case type below the **BOLD TYPE** heading identifying the Authorship; (c) Authorship of any lot where it was specifically mentioned that there exists a conflict of specialist or scholarly opinion regarding the Authorship of the lot at the time of sale; (d) Authorship of any lot which as of the date of sale was in accordance with the then generally-accepted opinion of scholars and specialists regarding the same; or (e) the identification of periods or dates of creation in catalog descriptions which may be proven inaccurate by means of scientific processes that are not generally accepted for use until after publication of the catalog in which the property is offered or that were unreasonably expensive or impractical to use at the time of such publication.

### Limitation of Liability

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED ABOVE, ALL PROPERTY IS SOLD "AS IS." NEITHER BONHAMS NOR THE CONSIGNOR MAKES ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS OR CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY OR AS TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DESCRIPTION, GENUINENESS, ATTRIBUTION, PROVENANCE OR PERIOD OF THE PROPERTY OR AS TO WHETHER THE PURCHASER ACQUIRES ANY COPYRIGHTS OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN LOTS SOLD OR AS TO WHETHER A WORK OF ART IS SUBJECT TO THE ARTIST'S MORAL RIGHTS OR OTHER RESIDUAL RIGHTS OF THE ARTIST. THE PURCHASER EXPRESSLY ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT IN NO EVENT SHALL BONHAMS BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY COMPENSATORY, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.

## SELLER'S GUIDE

### SELLING AT AUCTION

Bonhams can help you every step of the way when you are ready to sell art, antiques and collectible items at auction. Our regional offices and representatives throughout the US are available to service all of your needs. Should you have any further questions, please visit our website at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us) for more information or call our Client Services Department at +1 (800) 223 2854 ext. 33550.

### Auction Estimates

The first step in the auction process is to determine the auction value of your property. Bonhams' world-renowned specialists will evaluate your special items at no charge and in complete confidence. You can obtain an auction estimate in many ways:

- Attend one of our Auction Appraisal Events held regularly at our galleries and in other major metropolitan areas. The updated schedule for Bonhams Auction Appraisal Events is available at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us).
- Call our Client Services Department to schedule a private appointment at one of our galleries. If you have a large collection, our specialists can travel, by appointment, to evaluate your property on site.
- Send clear photographs to us of each individual item, including item dimensions and other pertinent information with each picture. Photos should be sent to

Bonhams' address in envelopes marked as "photo auction estimate". Alternatively, you can submit your request using our online form at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us). Digital images may be attached to the form. Please limit your images to no more than five (5) per item.

### Consigning Your Property

After you receive an estimate, you may consign your property to us for sale in the next appropriate auction. Our staff assists you throughout the process, arranging transportation of your items to our galleries (at the consignor's expense), providing a detailed inventory of your consignment, and reporting the prices realized for each lot. We provide secure storage for your property in our warehouses and all items are insured throughout the auction process. You will receive payment for your property approximately 35 days after completion of sale.

Sales commissions vary with the potential auction value of the property and the particular auction in which the property is offered. Please call us for commission rates.

### Professional Appraisal Services

Bonhams' specialists conduct insurance and fair market value appraisals for private collectors, corporations, museums, fiduciaries and government entities on a daily basis. Insurance appraisals, used for insurance purposes, reflect the cost of replacing property in today's retail market. Fair market value appraisals are used for estate,

tax and family division purposes and reflect prices paid by a willing buyer to a willing seller.

When we conduct a private appraisal, our specialists will prepare a thorough inventory listing of all your appraised property by category. Valuations, complete descriptions and locations of items are included in the documentation.

Appraisal fees vary according to the nature of the collection, the amount of work involved, the travel distance, and whether the property is subsequently consigned for auction.

Our appraisers are available to help you anywhere and at any time. Please call our Client Services Department to schedule an appraisal.

### Estate Services

Since 1865, Bonhams has been serving the needs of fiduciaries – lawyers, trust officers, accountants and executors – in the disposition of large and small estates. Our services are specially designed to aid in the efficient appraisal and disposition of fine art, antiques, jewelry, and collectibles. We offer a full range of estate services, ranging from flexible financial terms to tailored accounting for heirs and their agents to world-class marketing and sales support.

For more information or to obtain a detailed Trust and Estates package, please visit our website at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us) or contact our Client Services Department.



## BUYER'S GUIDE

### BIDDING & BUYING AT AUCTION

Whether you are an experienced bidder or an enthusiastic novice, auctions provide a stimulating atmosphere unlike any other. Bonhams previews and sales are free and open to the public. As you will find in these directions, bidding and buying at auction is easy and exciting. Should you have any further questions, please visit our website at [www.bonhams.com](http://www.bonhams.com) or call our Client Services Department at +1 (800) 223 2854 ext. 3550.

#### Catalogs

Before each auction we publish illustrated catalogs that include dates and times for previews and auctions. Our catalogs also provide descriptions and estimated values for each "lot." A lot may refer to a single item or to a group of items auctioned together. We offer our catalogs by subscription or by single copy. For information on subscribing to our catalogs, you may refer to the subscription form in this catalog, call our Client Services Department, or visit our website at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us).

#### Previews

Auction previews are your chance to inspect each lot prior to the auction. We encourage you to look closely and examine each object on which you may want to bid so that you will know as much as possible about it. Items are sold "as is" and with all faults; illustrations in our catalogs, website and other materials are provided for identification only. At the previews, our staff is always available to answer your questions and guide you through the auction process. Condition reports may be available upon request.

#### Estimates

Bonhams catalogs include estimates for each lot, exclusive of buyer's premium and tax. The estimates are provided as an approximate guide to current market value and should not be interpreted as a representation or prediction of actual selling prices. They are determined well in advance of a sale and are subject to revision. Please contact us should you have any questions about value estimates.

#### Reserves

All lots in a catalog are subject to a reserve unless otherwise indicated. The reserve is the minimum price that the seller is willing to accept for a lot. This amount is confidential and does not exceed the low estimated value.

### BIDDING AT AUCTION

At Bonhams, you can bid in many ways: in person, via absentee bid, over the phone, or via Bonhams' online bidding facility. Absentee bids can be submitted in person, online, via fax or via email.

A valid Bonhams client account is required to participate in bidding activity. You can obtain registration information online, at the reception desk or by calling our Client Services Department.

By bidding at auction, whether in person or by agent, by absentee bid, telephone, online or other means, the buyer or bidder agrees to be bound by the Conditions of Sale.

Lots are auctioned in consecutive numerical order as they appear in the catalog. Bidding normally begins below the low estimate. The auctioneer will accept bids from interested parties present in the saleroom, from telephone bidders, and from absentee bidders who have left written bids in advance of the sale. The auctioneer may also execute bids on behalf of the consignor up to the amount of the reserve, but never above it.

We assume no responsibility for failure to execute bids for any reason whatsoever.

#### In Person

If you are planning to bid at auction, you will need to register at the reception desk in order to receive a numbered bid card. To place a bid, hold up your card so that the auctioneer can clearly see it. Decide on the maximum amount that you wish to pay, exclusive of buyer's premium and tax, and continue bidding until your bid prevails or you reach your limit. If you are the successful bidder on a lot, the auctioneer will acknowledge your paddle number and bid amount.

#### Absentee Bids

As a service to those wishing to place bids, we may at our discretion accept bids without charge in advance of sale by telephone, by facsimile or in writing on bidding forms available from us. "Buy" bids will not be accepted; all bids must state the highest bid price the bidder is willing to pay. Our auction staff will try to bid just as you would, with the

goal of obtaining the item at the lowest bid price possible. In the event identical bids are submitted, the earliest bid submitted will take precedence. Absentee bids shall be executed in competition with other absentee bids, any applicable reserve, and bids from other auction participants. A friend or agent may place bids on your behalf, provided that we have received your written authorization prior to the sale. Absentee bid forms are available in our catalogs, online at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us), and at our San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York galleries.

#### By Telephone

Under special circumstances, we can arrange for you to bid by telephone. To arrange for a telephone bid, please contact our Client Services Department a minimum of 24 hours prior to the sale.

#### Online

Web users may place absentee bids online from anywhere in the world. To bid online, please visit our website at [www.bonhams.com/us](http://www.bonhams.com/us).

We are pleased to make our live online bidding facility available to bidders in this sale.

Additional terms and conditions of sale relating to online bidding will apply. Please see [www.bonhams.com/21348](http://www.bonhams.com/21348) or contact the Client Services Department to obtain information and learn how you can register and bid online in this sale.

#### Bid Increments

Bonhams generally uses the following increment multiples as bidding progresses:

\$50-200 .....	by \$10s
\$200-500 .....	by \$20/50/80s
\$500-1,000 .....	by \$50s
\$1,000-2,000 .....	by \$100s
\$2,000-5,000 .....	by \$200/500/800s
\$5,000-10,000 .....	by \$500s
\$10,000-20,000 .....	by \$1,000s
\$20,000-50,000 .....	by \$2,000/5,000/8,000s
\$50,000-100,000 .....	by \$5,000s
\$100,000-200,000 .....	by \$10,000s
above \$200,000 .....	at auctioneer's discretion

**The auctioneer may split or reject any bid at any time at his or her discretion as outlined in the Conditions of Sale.**

#### Currency Converter

Solely for the convenience of bidders, a currency converter may be provided at Bonhams sales. The rates quoted for conversion of other currencies to U.S. Dollars are indications only and should not be relied upon by a bidder, and neither Bonhams nor its agents shall be responsible for any errors or omissions in the operation or accuracy of the currency converter.

#### Buyer's Premium

A buyer's premium is added to the winning bid price of each individual lot purchased, at the rates set forth in the Conditions of Sale. The winning bid price plus the premium constitute the purchase price for the lot. Applicable sales taxes are computed based on this figure, and the total becomes your final purchase price.

Unless specifically illustrated and noted, fine art frames are not included in the estimate or purchase price. Bonhams accepts no liability for damage or loss to frames during storage or shipment.

All sales are final and subject to the Conditions of Sale found in our catalogs, on our website, and available at the reception desk.

#### Payment

All buyers are asked to pay and pick up by 3pm on the business day following the auction. Payment may be made to Bonhams by cash, checks drawn on a U.S. bank, money order, wire transfer, or by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover credit or charge card or debit card. All items must be paid for within 5 business days of the sale. Please note that payment by personal or business check may result in property not being released until purchase funds clear our bank.

#### Sales Tax

California, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington DC and Washington state residents must pay applicable sales tax. Other state or local taxes (or compensating use taxes) may apply. Sales tax will be automatically added to the invoice unless a valid resale number has been furnished or the property is shipped via common carrier to destinations outside the states listed above. If you wish to use your resale license please contact Cashiers for our form.

#### Shipping & Removal

Buyers are to review the Offsite Sold Property Storage page for a list of lots that will be removed to the offsite warehouse of Box Brothers. These designated lots must be retrieved by the buyer prior to the day and time designated on the Offsite Sold Property Storage page. If buyers of these designated lots also buy other lots, such as decorations, rugs or works of art, these lots may also be removed to the warehouse of Box Brothers, so all lots remain together and customers can collect or ship from one location. All other items will remain at Bonhams for a period of 21 days, after which time they may be transferred to offsite storage. [Wine, Jewelry, Natural History, Collectibles, 20th Century Decorative Arts, Rugs, Native American Art and most Arms & Armor auctions are not included in this policy.](#)

Box Brothers San Leandro (for San Francisco auctions only)  
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The export of a lot from the United States or import into certain countries may be subject to export and import regulations, licensure and/or other restrictions; in particular, lots containing animal materials such as ivory, rhinoceros horn, tortoise shell or whalebone may require the granting of one or more export or import licenses or may be banned from import altogether by some countries. Lots noted in the catalog with a Y next to the lot number (e.g., 1001<sup>Y</sup>) contain one or more such animal materials. It is the buyer's responsibility to investigate any such restrictions and to obtain any relevant export and import licences. Please note that this process is governed by local authorities and may take considerable time. Regardless of any delay in the obtaining of an export or import license or denial of a license's issuance, purchased lots shall be paid for in accordance with the Conditions of Sale, and any such delay or denial shall not serve as the basis for the cancellation of any sale. Prospective buyers are advised to obtain information from the relevant regulatory authorities regarding export and import restrictions, requirements and costs prior to bidding.



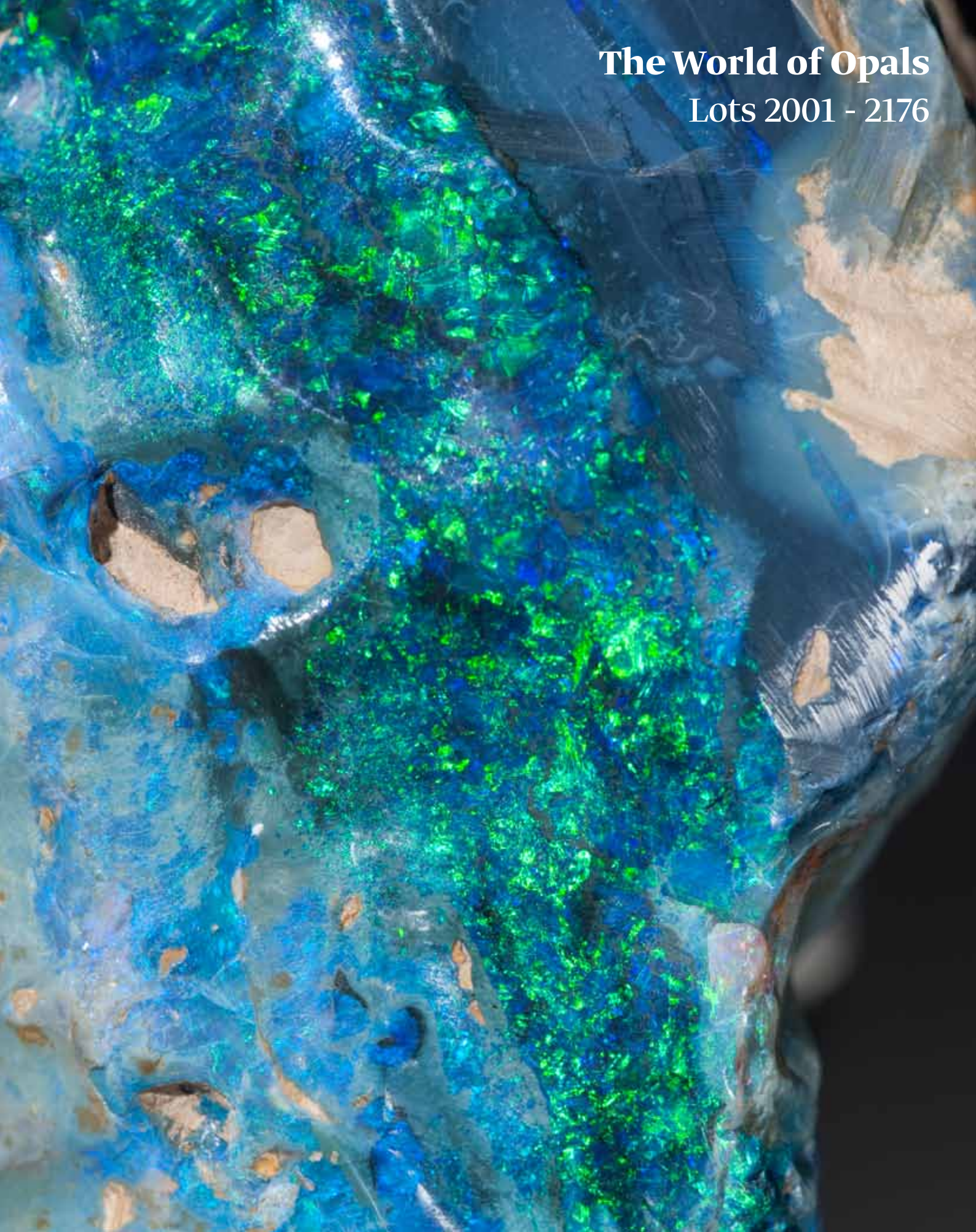
## Order of Sale

Australia	
Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia .....	2001-2127
Picture Opals.....	2119-2127
Various World Localities	
USA, South America, Europe, Asia, West Africa.....	2128-2148
Ethiopia .....	2149-2156
Mexico.....	2157-2176

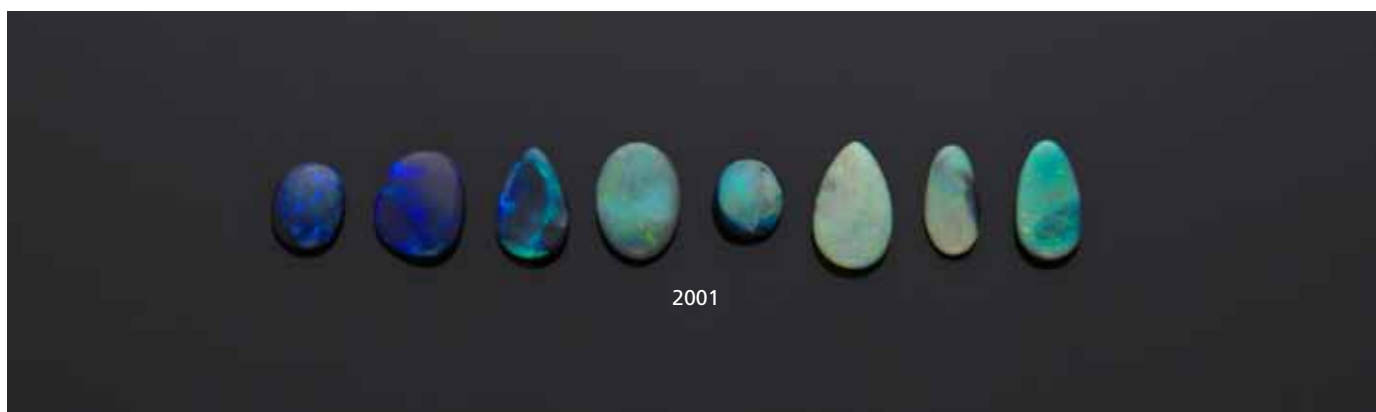


# The World of Opals

Lots 2001 - 2176







## Australia

2001

### Group of Eight Opals

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Comprising three black opals and five semi-grey opals having either electric blue or green play-of-fire, the largest weighing 6.09 carats and the total aggregate approximate weight for all eight stones: 34.9 carats. (8)

**\$1,800 - 2,200**

Without Reserve

2002

### Group of Eight Opals

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Comprising one black pear-shaped opal, weighing approximately 4.35 carats and measuring 13.6 x 10.8mm; together with seven semi-grey opals with predominantly green fire. The total aggregate weighing approximately 38.85 carats. (8)

**\$1,200 - 1,500**

Without Reserve

2003

### Group of Eight Opals

Including two pear-shaped black opals with blue flash and six pear-shaped and oval opals with semi-grey body color and green flash. The largest measuring approximately 2.4 carats. The total aggregate weighing approximately 18.5 carats. (8)

**\$800 - 1,200**

Without Reserve

2004

### Black Opal and Diamond Pendant-- "Raindrops"

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Ensuite with the next two lots, this stylish and youthful pendant comprising 9 black opal cabochons from Lightning Ridge, Australia, weighing altogether 9.26 carats, bezel-set and mounted in 18K white gold, accented with 58 brilliant-cut diamonds, weighing approximately 0.46 carats, suspended from a delicate link chain, length is 18 in. .

**\$4,000 - 6,000**

2005

### Black Opal and White Gold Earrings-- "Raindrops"

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Ensuite with the previous necklace of similar design, this stylish pair of earrings is composed of 12 black opal cabochons, weighing approximately 9.26 carats, bezel-set and mounted in 18K white gold, with oval surmounts set with 58 diamonds, weighing approximately 0.46 carats. Height 2 3/4 in

**\$4,500 - 5,500**

2006

### Black Opal and White Gold Ring-- "Raindrops"

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Ensuite with the previous two lots, this stylish ring is set with 10 oval or free form cabochon black opals, weighing approximately 6.35 carats, from Lightning Ridge, Australia, bezel-set and mounted in 18K white gold and centering on a line of brilliant-cut diamonds, weighing approximately 0.23 carats, size 7.

**\$3,000 - 4,000**

2007

### Black Opal Ganesh Plaque

*By Ronald Stevens*

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Carved from semi-black opal rough this plaque has electric blue-purple play-of-color in the area of the lotus cushion beneath the Ganesh.

Weighing approximately 13.5 carats and measuring 27.0 x 23.0 x 3.5mm

**\$600 - 800**

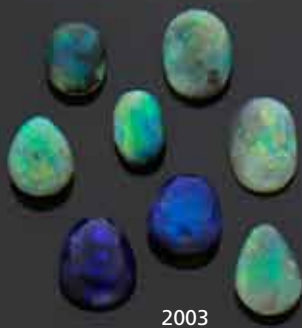
2008

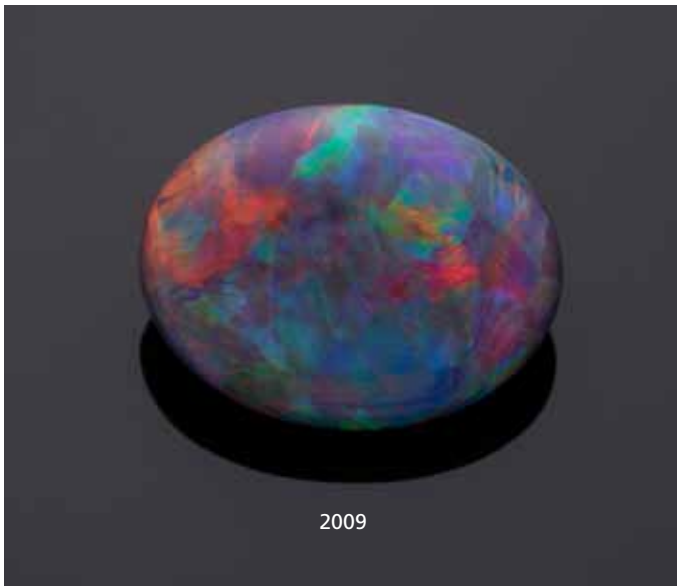
### Two Black Opals

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

The first, an oval cabochon of black opal with green flash, weighing approximately 9.8 carats and measuring 20.0 x 14.0 x 4.0mm; the second, also an oval but with blue flash, weighing approximately 11.5 carats and measuring 25.0 x 14.0 x 4.0mm. (2)

**\$2,000 - 3,000**





2009

2009

#### **Black Crystal Opal with Red Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This fine oval cabochon black crystal opal exhibits extensive red play-of-color with vivid violet flashes intermingled with green, blue and yellow.

*Weighing approximately 5.17 carats and measuring 14.0 x 11.0 x 4.5mm*  
**\$4,000 - 6,000**

2010

#### **Black Crystal Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Classic material for the region, this attractive oval cabochon has a good face up appeal and spread, giving it the appearance of a much larger stone. Rich blue-green play-of-color in a broad flash pattern enlivens the stone. Of suitable size for mounting as a pendant.

*Weighing approximately 24.73 carats and measuring 26.0 x 21.5 x 6.0mm*  
**\$1,200 - 1,500**

2011

#### **Black Opal, Diamond and Black Onyx Pendant**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Centering on an oval cabochon opal with red-green and violet play-of-color, *estimated to weigh approximately 15.00 carats and measuring 29.80 x 15.95 x 5.65mm*, surrounded by round brilliant-cut diamonds with single-cut diamonds set in bail, *estimated total diamond weight: 1.40 carats. Length 2 1/4*

**\$20,000 - 30,000**

2012

#### **Group of Eight Opals**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Some having black body colors, some with semi-black to grey body color with green, orange, red play-of-color. *The largest weighing approximately 3.1 carats. The total aggregate weight approximately 20.45 carats. (8)*

**\$1,000 - 1,500**

Without Reserve

2013

#### **Black Opal Bead Necklace**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A single strand necklace comprised of oval-shaped beads of deep black opal having a distinctive electric purple flash, *weighing approximately 115 carats*, some beads having crystal opal features to them, completed by a simple lobster claw 9K clasp, *length 17 1/2 in*

**\$1,000 - 1,500**

2014

#### **Two Black Opals**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Both pear shapes and each having an electric purple-blue play-of-color; the larger one, *weighing approximately 21.7 carats and measuring 27.5 x 21.0 x 5.4mm*; the smaller one, *weighing approximately 19.3 carats and measuring 26.3 x 17.0 x 6.2mm. (2)*

**\$2,000 - 3,000**

Without Reserve

2015

#### **Impressive Opal and Diamond Pendant/Enhancer**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This sizable semi-black opal has a full range of spectral flashes of color with extensive red and orange as well as blue, green and yellow, *weighing approximately 79.97 carats*, mounted in a generous quantity of 18K yellow gold with pierced gallery, and enhancer bail, the mount set with approximately 1.16 carats of brilliant-cut diamonds. *Height 2 1/2 in*

**\$15,000 - 20,000**



2010



2011

2012

2013

2014

2015



2016



2017



2018

2016

#### **Boulder Opal, Gemstone and Silver Belt--A Medley of Australian Stones**

A unique gemstone belt, entirely flexible design, consisting of 72 stones of the following species many of which originate in Australia including: boulder opal from Queensland, phrenite, chrysoprase, tiger's eye quartz, lapis, kyanite, turquoise, smoky quartz, each stone bezel-set in silver with link connectors, *total weight approximately 530 grams, length 31 in, adjustable.*

**\$4,000 - 6,000**

2017

#### **Large Collection of Boulder Opals**

*Queensland, Australia*

Comprising thirty-eight boulder opal specimens or cabochons, displaying a variety of blue, green orange and vari-hued play-of-color, some of which are book-matched splits. *Offered in a wooden framed presentation case.*

*Length 12 in (38)*

**\$1,200 - 1,500**

2018

#### **Opal and Multi-gemstone Intarsia Ring**

*By Nicolai Medvedev*

Medvedev's works are featured in the National Gemstone Collection of the Smithsonian. He is considered to be a master of gemstone intarsia work and this present ring bears evidence to that. Of hexagonal outline an intarsia of natural gemstones is comprised of azur-malachite, sugilite, turquoise, white opal, and malachite within a lapis lazuli borders.

*Measuring 3.1 x 2.7 cm; size 12 ¼*

**\$1,200 - 1,500**





2019



2019

2019

#### Multi-Gem-set Intarsia Box

By Nicolai Medvedev

Hand fabricated by noted Lapidary artist Nicolai Medvedev whose works are on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Gem Collection, this functional box is of hexagonal outline. Inset with malachite, sugilite, white opal, lapis lazuli, turquoise and ornamental jasper the box opens to reveal an interior lined with picture jasper and exotic woods. With 18K yellow gold hinge. Signed *N. Medvedev*, dated 1992, numbered C-1027. Measures 3 x 2 in

\$7,000 - 9,000

2020

#### Opal and Multi-gemstone Intarsia Neck Ornament with Ribbon

By Nicolai Medvedev

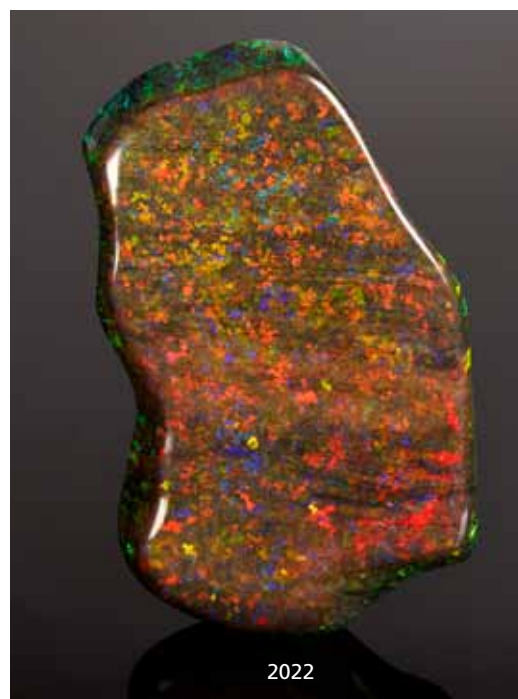
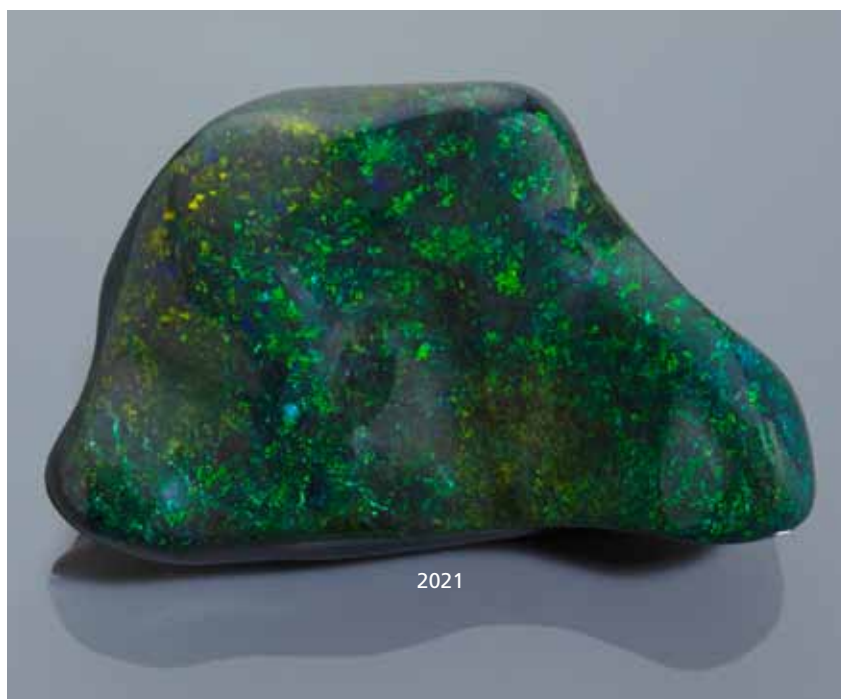
Retailed by E.F. Watermelon

Designed as a neckpiece to be worn with a tuxedo, the intarsia ornament slides on a black satin ribbon with 14K gold adjustable fittings. Of hexagonal outline, centering on a hexagonal panel of white Harlequin opal, within a border of turquoise, and additional borders of white opal and lapis lazuli, mounted in 18K yellow gold and backed with lapis lazuli. Signed *N. Medvedev*, dated 1989. Measuring 2 x 1 1/2 x 3/8 in

\$2,000 - 2,500



2020



**2020A**  
**Reverse Intaglio Gem Black Opal Inlay of a Peacock**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*  
*Designed and created by Jenador*

Depicting a peacock, this extraordinary artwork is suitable for use as a wall hanging or cabinet display. Jenador was inspired to create a depiction of a peacock that could only be achieved with the intense fire and spirit provided by Australian opal. Consisting of 60 million year-old gem black opal, carved into sections and embedded into 4mm thick black glass there are approximately 1,630 pieces of opal weighing approximately 12.5 carats that have been carefully selected and cut for their outstanding quality of brilliance, luster, depth and beauty, signed with the artist's pseudonym: Jenador (for Jennifer Benaim). *Measures 11 x 8 1/4 in*  
**\$2,000 - 3,000**

**2021**  
**Matrix Opal with Green Fire**

*Andamooka, South Australia*

Like most matrix opal material from this region this specimen was sugar treated by the miners before being honed to a superb level of polish. The process—a classic and long-standing tradition—involves soaking the original rough specimen in a sugar solution and then boiling it in acid to deposit carbon in the available pore spaces, resulting in a dark background. The procedure is performed to reveal the excellent pinpoint fire and play-of-color of the mineral within the matrix. The present hand-sized specimen of contour polished matrix opal showing predominantly green fire to the face with flashes of orange, and more extensive orange to the reverse side. This particularly beautiful specimen possesses a mirror-bright, natural polish to the surface, rather than the treatment of shellacking which is what so many of these types of specimens have undergone. *Weighing approximately 1269.5 carats and measuring 4 1/4 x 2 1/2 x 1 1/2.*  
**\$8,000 - 10,000**



2022

**Matrix Opal with Extensive Red Fire**

*Andamooka, South Australia*

Like most matrix opal material from this region this specimen was sugar treated by the miners before being honed to a superb level of polish. The process—a classic and long-standing tradition—involves soaking the original rough specimen in a sugar solution and then boiling it in acid to deposit carbon in the available pore spaces, resulting in a dark background. The procedure is performed to reveal the excellent pinpoint fire and play-of-color of the mineral within the matrix. The face of the present, fine specimen displays predominantly red flash, with speckled orange, green, and electric blue. A side view of the stone reveals a lower band of vivid, iridescent green play-of-color.

*Weighing approximately 394.0 carats and measuring 3 3/4 x 2 1/4 x 1 1/2 in*

**\$6,000 - 8,000**

2023

**Gem Grade Boulder Opal Specimen**

*Elusive Mine, Koroit, Queensland, Australia*

This brown matrix and gem opal nodule has been sliced on one side, showing its internal structure, and polished all around. Concentric bands of vermiform iridescent green- and blue-fire precious opal and brown ironstone surround a tan core with purple-fired white opal veins. The outside of the specimen consists of swirls and loops of opal cutting through the ironstone matrix.

*Weighing approximately 2422 ct (484.4. gr), and measuring 4 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches (11.5 x 9 x 3.5 cm)*

**\$7,000 - 9,000**

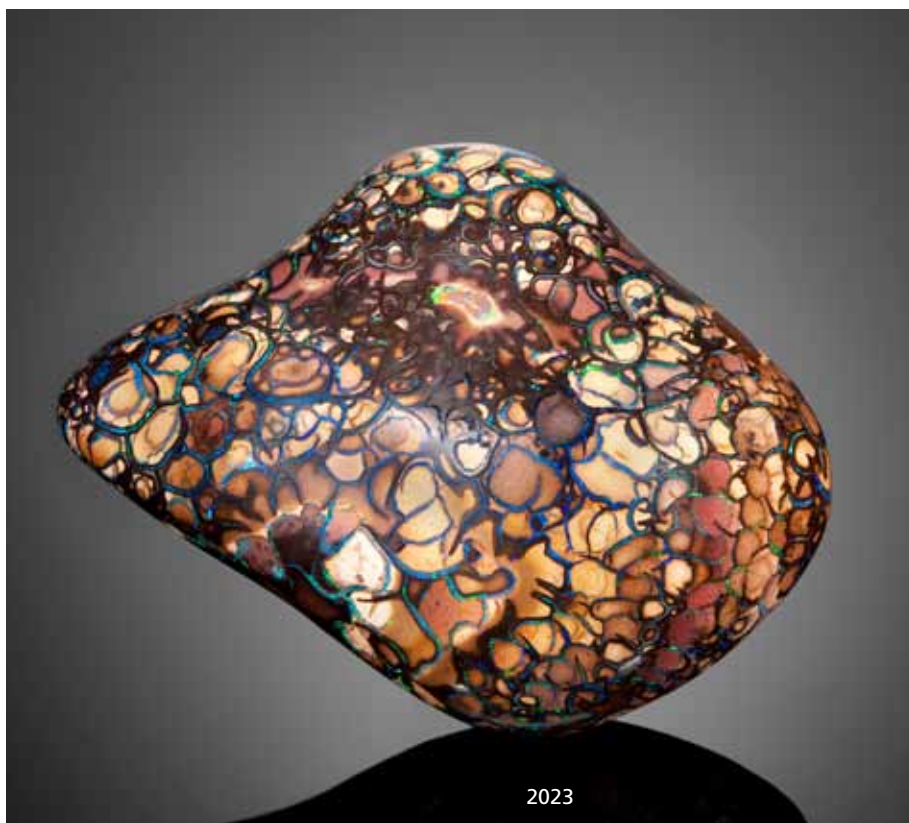
2024

**Boulder Opal Split Specimen**

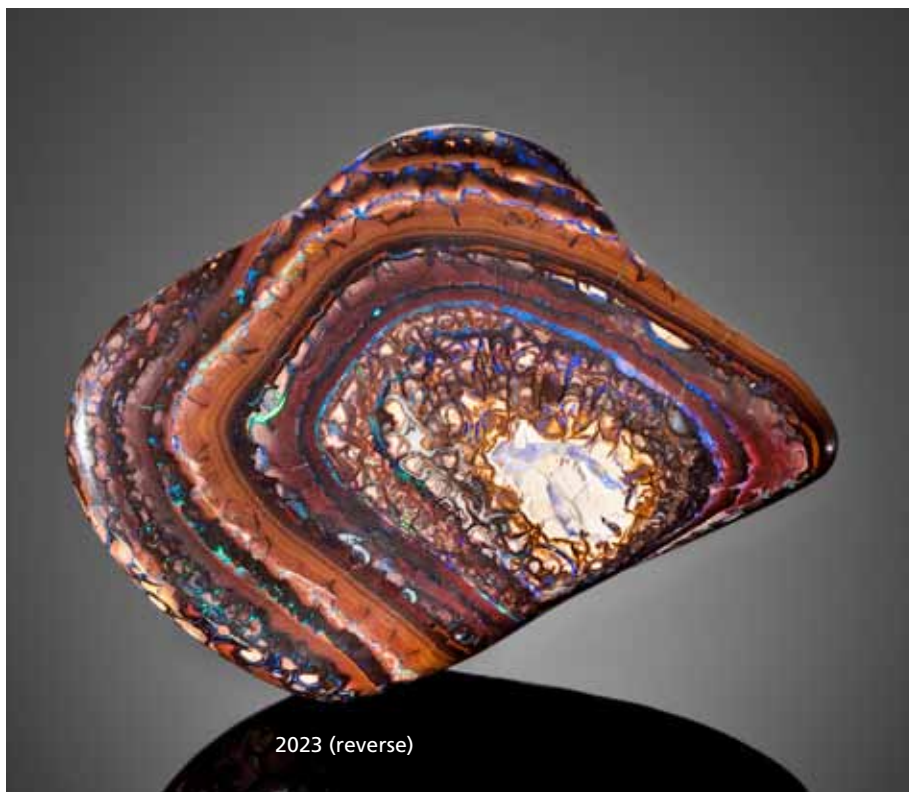
*Elusive Mine, Koroit, Queensland, Australia*

Two halves of a large boulder opal nodule in ironstone matrix; the nodule consisting of vermiform precious opal around ironstone and lithified "clay," forming concentric layers. Maximum nodule size is 3 1/2 x 2 7/8 in (9 x 8 cm). Both halves have polished faces and smooth polished bases to allow them to stand. The first, *weighing approximately 2400 carats (480 gr) and measuring 4 1/8 x 3 3/4 x 2 in (11 x 9.5 x 4.5 cm)*; the second, *weighing approximately 2415 ct (483 gr) and measuring 5 1/8 x 3 7/8 x 1 1/8 in (13.5 x 9.5 x 3 cm) . (2)*

**\$3,000 - 4,000**



2023



2023 (reverse)



**2025**

**Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This fine pear-shaped, black opal has a contour polished face exhibiting a pinfire play-of-color with strong green, blue, orange and yellow.

*Weighing approximately 16.5 carats and measuring 22.0 x 17.0 x 6.9mm*

**\$4,000 - 5,000**

**2026**

**Black Opal, Garnet and Pearl Brooch**

Designed in the antique style, the brooch centering on a fine oval double cabochon black opal from Lightning Ridge having a strong red flashes predominating with orange, yellow flashes as well as green and violet play-of-color, *estimated to weigh approximately 14.50 carats and measuring 24.00 x 17.50 x 7.13mm*, surrounded by Swiss-cut tsavorite garnets and bordered by 2.0 mm seed pearls, mounted in 14K yellow and white gold with milledgrained decoration. *Length 1 3/8 in.*

**\$35,000 - 45,000**

**2027**

**Black Opal Bead Necklace**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A single strand of graduated disk-shaped opaque variegated gray polished opal beads showing blue-green play of color, with yellow metal clasp. The largest bead, *measuring 11.0 mm x 4.1 mm*. The necklace with clasp, *weighing approximately 78.5 carats. Length 19 1/2 in.*

**\$600 - 800**

**2028**

**Fine Crystal Opal and Gold Ring**

*Australia*

A fine crystal opal predominating in blue and green flash with accents of orange and electric purple within the transparent golden-hued crystal body, the opal measuring 23.0 x 17.0mm. Mounted in 18K yellow gold, with a pierced gallery, and single border of diamonds, within a millegrained decorated edge, *size 6.*

**\$5,000 - 7,000**

**2029**

**Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

An oval cabochon solid black opal having predominantly violet play-of-color with green flashes.

*Weighing approximately 5.40 carats and measuring 16.0 x 10.5 x 5.2 mm*

**\$2,000 - 3,000**

**2030**

**Stunning Black Picture Opal and Yellow Gold Ring--"The Eye of a Peacock Feather"**

*By Gerd Schulz*

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

The circular cabochon, *measuring 15.0 x 15.0 mm and weighing approximately 6.97 carats*, having a unique blue-green play-of-color which appear in broad sections each covering 1/3 to a 1/2 of the surface. The rolling iridescence is reminiscent of the sheen of the eye of a peacock feather. Mounted in 18K yellow gold, *with monogram signature GS for Gerd Schulz, Lightning Ridge's preminent goldsmith, size 9.*

**\$7,000 - 9,000**

**2031**

**Large Black Opal with Blue-Green Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This fine oval cabochon displays an attractive dark black body color and excellent floral pattern play-of-color in blue and green. This is a classic and desirable stone from Lightning Ridge with excellent face-up appeal which would allow it to be mounted either as a ring or pendant.

*Weighing approximately 17.45 carats and measuring 20.0 x 17.5 x 7.0mm*

**\$8,000 - 10,000**

**2032**

**Black Opal with Blue-Green Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A highly decorative black opal having an overall electric blue sheen and green and blue internal fire. The large size would permit it to be mounted elegantly either as a ring or pendant.

*Weighing approximately 12.20 carats and measuring 18.5 x 15.5 x 5.5mm*

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**2033**

**Very Fine Opalized Clamshell**

*Coober Pedy, South Australia*

This is as fine an example of an opalized clam as we have seen on the market. Distinguished by its vivid play of color in bright orange, blue and green with flashes of yellow, this gem would create a stunning ring or pendant. For the discerning collector of opalized fossils.

*Weighing approximately 9.08 carats and measuring 21.0 x 15.0 x 5.0 mm*

**\$8,000 - 10,000**



2026



2028



2029



2030



2031

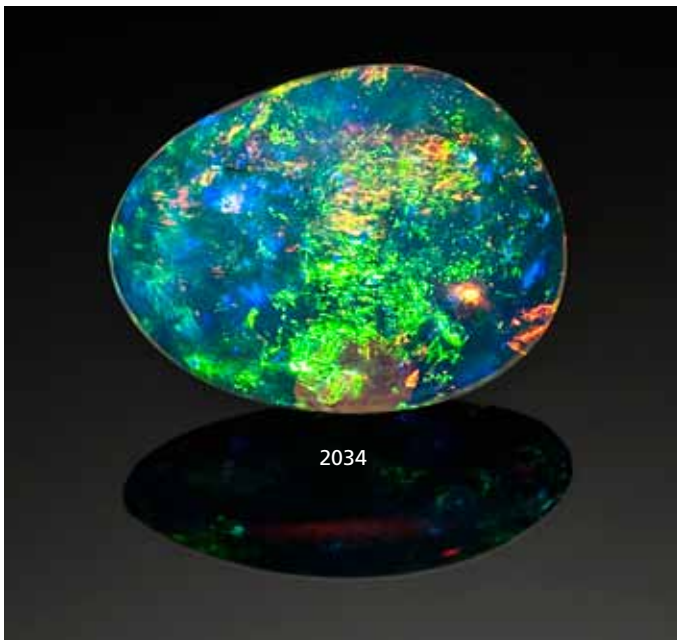


2032

2027



2033



2034

2034

#### **Gem Opalized Clamshell**

*Coober Pedy, South Australia*

Vivid play-of-color abounds in this continuous gem crystal opal which originated from the region in Australia known for its opalized fossils. Predominantly green, with flashes of electric purple and some orange, this is an excellent example of its type for the serious collector.

*Weighing approximately 5.49 carats and measuring 17.0 x 13.0 x 4.0mm*  
**\$1,400 - 1,800**

2035

#### **Impressive White Crystal Opal and Diamond Brooch/Pendant**

*Coober Pedy, South Australia*

A stunning pendant mounted with a large white crystal opal, weighing approximately 75.4 carats and measuring 51.0 x 27.2 x 8.0mm, mounted in 14K yellow gold, (gold weighing approximately 34.8 grams), set with 10 brilliant-cut diamonds, the largest of which measures 5.0mm in diameter, the diamonds with a total weight of approximately 2.9 carats, with pendant bail and brooch fitting, the mount engraved on the back and dated 12-25-74. Height 3in

**\$5,000 - 7,000**

2036

#### **Unique White Crystal Opal and High Karat Gold Pendant/Necklace**

*By Kenneth Mansergh*

*Sydney, Australia*

This unique pendant necklace centers on a large, rare crystal opal from Andamooka, South Australia, having a white body color and vivid play-of-fire with extensive orange, yellow, green and flashes of electric purple. The oval cabochon is stated to weigh approximately 127 carats and measures 49.0 x 35.0 x 7.9mm. The unique mount surrounding the opal having the appearance of being mounted with native leaf gold specimens, typically 22K to 23K, which are fused together and the chain consisting of 17 long rigid link sections each consisting of small fused batons of gold.

*Total gross weight of the entire necklace approximately 150.7 grams.*

*Length 28in*

**\$15,000 - 20,000**

*Originally cut from an opal of over 400+ carats which won the London Exhibit. Kenneth Mansergh cut and fabricated two custom pieces from original stone, of which this is one. This necklace was displayed at I. Magnin & Co., San Francisco, CA in 1976 for purchase price of \$125,000.*

2037

#### **Group of Thirteen Australian Opals**

From various localities in Australia, including pear shaped stone of light grey body color, weighing approximately 11.3 carats and measuring 22 x 16 mm, together with 12 others having an additional aggregate approximate weight of 48.0 carats. (13)

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**Without Reserve**

2038

#### **White Crystal Opal, Diamond and Pearl Choker Necklace**

*Coober Pedy, South Australia*

A contemporary version of the classic "dog collar" choker necklace, center on an oval cabochon white crystal opal, weighing approximately 27.63 carats, having excellent orange and neon green play-of-color, within a surround of 41 brilliant-cut diamonds, having a total approximate weight of 1.23 carats, with six strands of 4.0 mm cultured pearls, with four bar spacers enhanced with lines of small diamonds, length 15in, adjustable 14K yellow gold clasp.

**\$7,000 - 9,000**





2035



2036



2037



2038



**2039**

**Vivid Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A fine example of a "nobby" or nodule opal, this plump oval cabochon displays a broad rolling flash pattern of vivid play-of-color of bright blue-green with large areas of orange, yellow and electric purple. With some play-of-color over 1/3 of the reverse side as well.

*Weighing approximately 11.80 carats and measuring 17.4 x 14.3 x 7.0mm*

**\$32,000 - 38,000**



**2040**

**Fine Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A classic oval cabochon of solid black opal having excellent polish with full spectral play of color predominating in reds, with flashes of blue, green, yellow and orange in a form of ribbon pattern. With black patch to the reverse.

*Weighing approximately 5.87 carats and measuring 16.0 x 12.4 x 4.5mm*

**\$15,000 - 20,000**



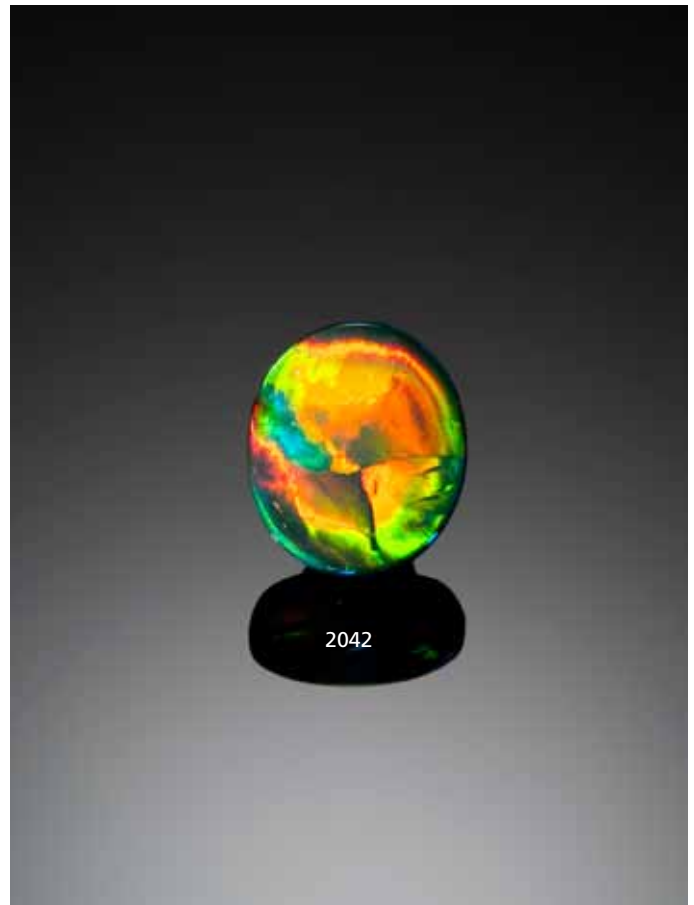
**2041**

**Fine Black Opal with Red Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Mined several decades ago and in the same family since, the present oval cabochon black opal displays extensive red play-of-color in an interesting "brush stroke" and ribbon pattern with flashes of orange, yellow, green, and blue.

*Weighing approximately 7.04 carats and measuring 18.0 x 13.0 x 4.0mm*  
**\$30,000 - 35,000**



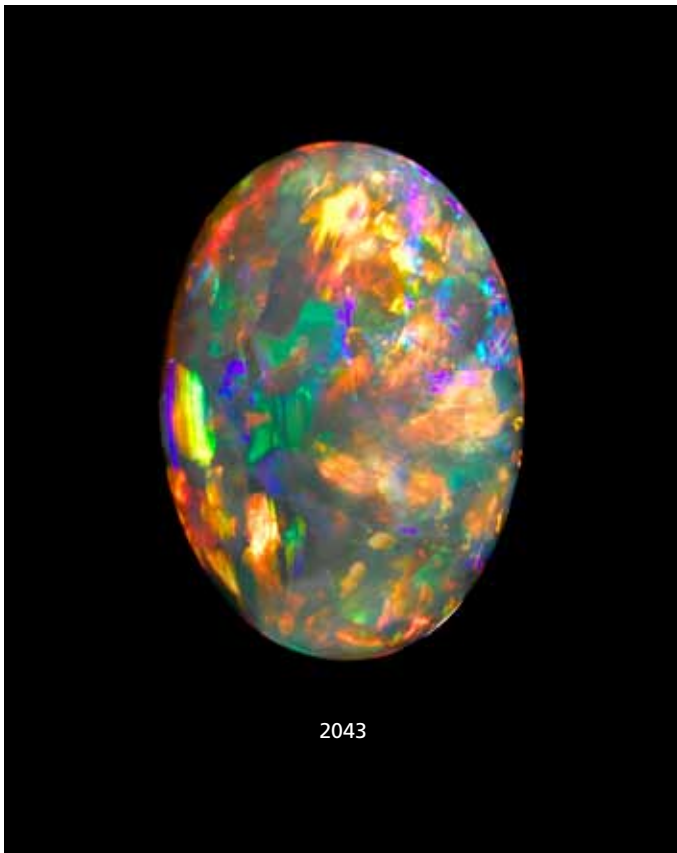
**2042**

**Classic Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A true black opal cabochon, this oval gem exhibits a beautiful range of red, orange, yellow, blue, green, and electric purple in broad sections of rolling flash. This is a classic and desirable opal of which the market is now in short supply.

*Weighing approximately 6.87 carats and measuring 14.5 x 12.5 x 5.0mm*  
**\$30,000 - 35,000**



2043



2044



2045

2043

#### **Fine Gem Crystal Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A translucent gem crystal opal with a deep red body color when held to the light; when viewed from above it is distinguished by a vivid play-of-color in a broad flash pattern showing orange, red, green, yellow and electric blue.

*Weighing approximately 18.43 carats and measuring 22.5 x 15.5 x 8.0mm*

**\$7,000 - 9,000**

2044

#### **Fine Black Opal with Red Flash**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A highly aesthetic opal cabochon having predominantly red fire, with flashes of green and hints of blue. With black patch to the reverse side.

*Weighing approximately 2.0 carats and measuring 13.1 x 9.7 x 2.5mm*

**\$6,000 - 8,000**

2045

#### **Black Opal and Gold Ring**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Set with a black opal oval cabochon having a true black body color, this gem displays excellent red fire as well as strong flashes of orange, green, electric purple and yellow, *measuring 12.7 x 10.6 x 5.4mm and estimated to weigh 4.5 carats by calculation, size 6.*

**\$5,000 - 7,000**

2046

#### **Exceptional Black Opal with Blue-green**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A classic, exceptional quality black "nobby" or nodule opal with deep black body color and a vivid blue-green floral pattern of play-of-color. Such "plump" and generously proportioned opals of fine quality are difficult to find in today's market.

*Weighing approximately 22.12 carats and measuring 21.50 x 17.10 x 10.00 mm*

**\$65,000 - 75,000**



2046







2047

**Split "Yowah Nut" Precious Opal in Matrix**

*Yowah, Queensland, Australia*

A single sliced-open opal-bearing ironstone nodule, or "Yowah Nut," polished on the sliced faces, showing excellent fire – mostly green to blue, but also yellow and red. The larger half *weighing approximately 82.08 carats and measuring 30.0 x 25.0 x 10.5 mm*; the other, *weighing approximately 45.34 carats and measuring 27.0 x 18.5 x 13.2 mm*.  
**\$6,000 - 8,000**

2048

**Boulder Opal Specimen**

*Queensland, Australia*

This specimen should interest the collector of boulder opals with its uncharacteristically extensive red fire. It provides a view into full spectral colors which boulder opal is capable of producing. With brown ironstone to the reverse, (*with slight repair to face*). *Weight: 112.5 carats. Measures 30.0 x 23.0 x 22.0mm*  
**\$3,000 - 4,000**

2049

**Opal-in-Matrix--A "Yowah Nut" Split**

*Yowah, Queensland, Australia*

These two little jewels could easily be mounted as a pair of earrings. This book-matched pair of pear-shaped cabochons is a split of an opal-bearing nodule, known in the mineral hobby as a "Yowah Nut". The faces show a transparent gemmy opal surrounded by brown ironstone. One half *weighing approximately 8.50 ct and measuring 13.4 x 11.8 x 7.3 mm*; the other *weighing approximately 7.45 ct and measuring 13.2 x 11.3 x 6.1 mm (2)*  
**\$300 - 500**

2050

**Split of Section of Opalized Wood**

*Bottom level, Jojo Mine, Yowah, Queensland, Australia*

A highly aesthetic specimen which is actually the opal replacement of a piece of wood. Both halves have polished faces which reveal the extensive veining of opal. The thicker section displays a large, deep crevice or "pipe" which has been filled with precious and gem-quality crystal opal, as does the smaller half. Opalized wood is a relatively rare occurrence in opal deposits across Australia. *Measures 3 x 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 in and 2 3/4 x 2 1/2 x 1/4 in (2)*  
**\$1,800 - 2,200**

2051

**Group of Ten Boulder Opal Pendants**

*Queensland, Australia*

Ten pendants of boulder opal on ironstone matrix. Colors are browns, cream, yellow, blues and purples. All are quadrilateral (mostly rectangular) in outline, except the longest, a triangular pendant *measuring 55.0 x 22.6 x 10.0 mm*. *Total weight approximately 1351 carats*  
**\$300 - 500**

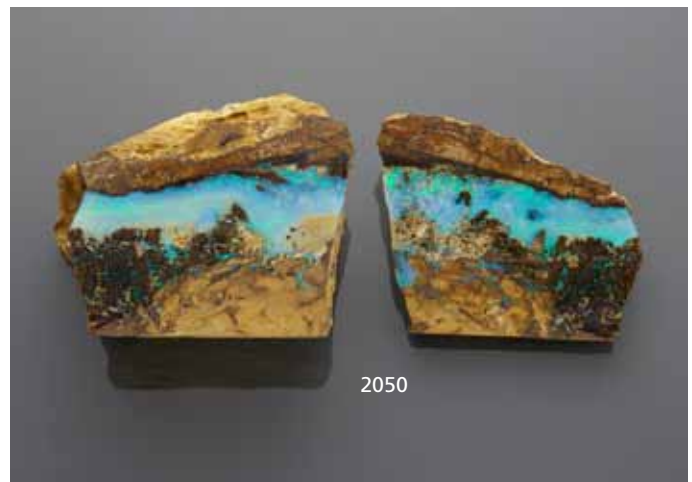
Without Reserve

2052

**Boulder Opal in Matrix Cabochon**

*Queensland, Australia*

This fascinating chocolate-brown ironstone cabochon displays fiery, translucent white veins of precious opal showing play-of-color in all rainbow hues throughout the matrix.  
*Weighting approximately 25.25 carats and measuring 23.8 x 18.6 x 6.5 mm*  
**\$600 - 800**





2053



2054



2055

**2053**

**Light Gray Crystal Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A free form polished cabochon having a light gray body color which is translucent when held to the light; defined by its predominantly rich red play-of-color, with intermittent electric purple and vivid green. This is a fine example of its type from Lightning Ridge.

*Weighing approximately 23.56 carats and measuring 33.5 x 23.5 x 3.5mm*  
**\$1,000 - 1,300**

**2054**

**Crystal Opal**

*Australia*

Swirls of blue and green flash predominate in this triangular light gray crystal opal.

*Weighing approximately 12.5 carats and measuring 25.5 x 22.0 x 3.5mm*  
**\$200 - 300**

**Without Reserve**

**2055**

**Gem Double-sided Light Crystal Opal**

*Lighting Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Polished as a plump, pear-shaped stone, this translucent crystal opal displays gem quality on all surfaces. A variety of patterns are seen on this gem: chaff pattern play-of-color is visible on one side, rich color on the sides and floral pattern on the back, all combine to make this a true gem opal for the collector.

*Weighing approximately 8.15 carats and measuring 16.5 x 9.5 x 8.5mm*  
**\$550 - 750**

2056

**White Opal Flower Study on Agate Geode  
Sphere and Base--"The Apple Blossom"**

*By Manfred Wild*

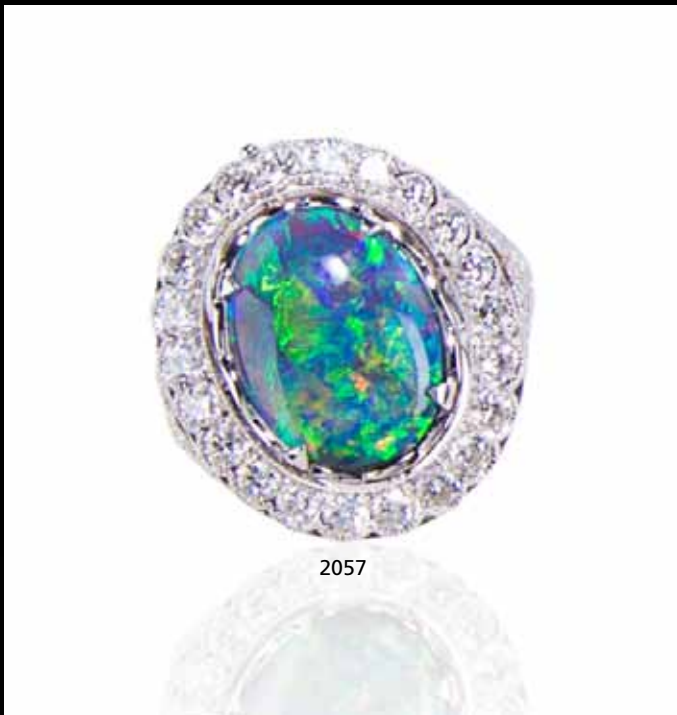
*Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

A contemporary twist on the traditional Lapidary theme of flower studies, the present object features a gem-quality flower carved of fiery white opal from Coober Pedy, Australia the pollen suggested by the citrine to the center. Four Russian nephrite leaves grace the branch of silver. The branch rests atop a Brazilian grey agate sphere having a geode cavity. The sphere is removable from the grey agate base.

*Measures 7 x 4 x 4in*

**\$10,000 - 15,000**





2057

**2057**

**Black Opal and Diamond Ring with Reversible "Day/Night" Mounting**

Centering a reversible oval double cabochon black opal, weighing approximately 5.52 carats, surrounded by round brilliant-cut diamonds, total diamond weight: 1.14 carats, with pavé-set diamond foliate shoulders and engraved mount; mounted in 18K white gold, size 6 1/4. \$9,000 - 12,000

**2058**

**Very Fine Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A domed cabochon of solid black opal having a slightly "triangulated" circular outline, which displays a vivid play-of-color of bright green, blue, electric purple, orange and yellow.

Weighing approximately 9.3 carats and measuring 15.5 mm x 15.0 x 6.0mm \$22,000 - 28,000

**2059**

**Magnificent Suite of Thirteen Black Opals**

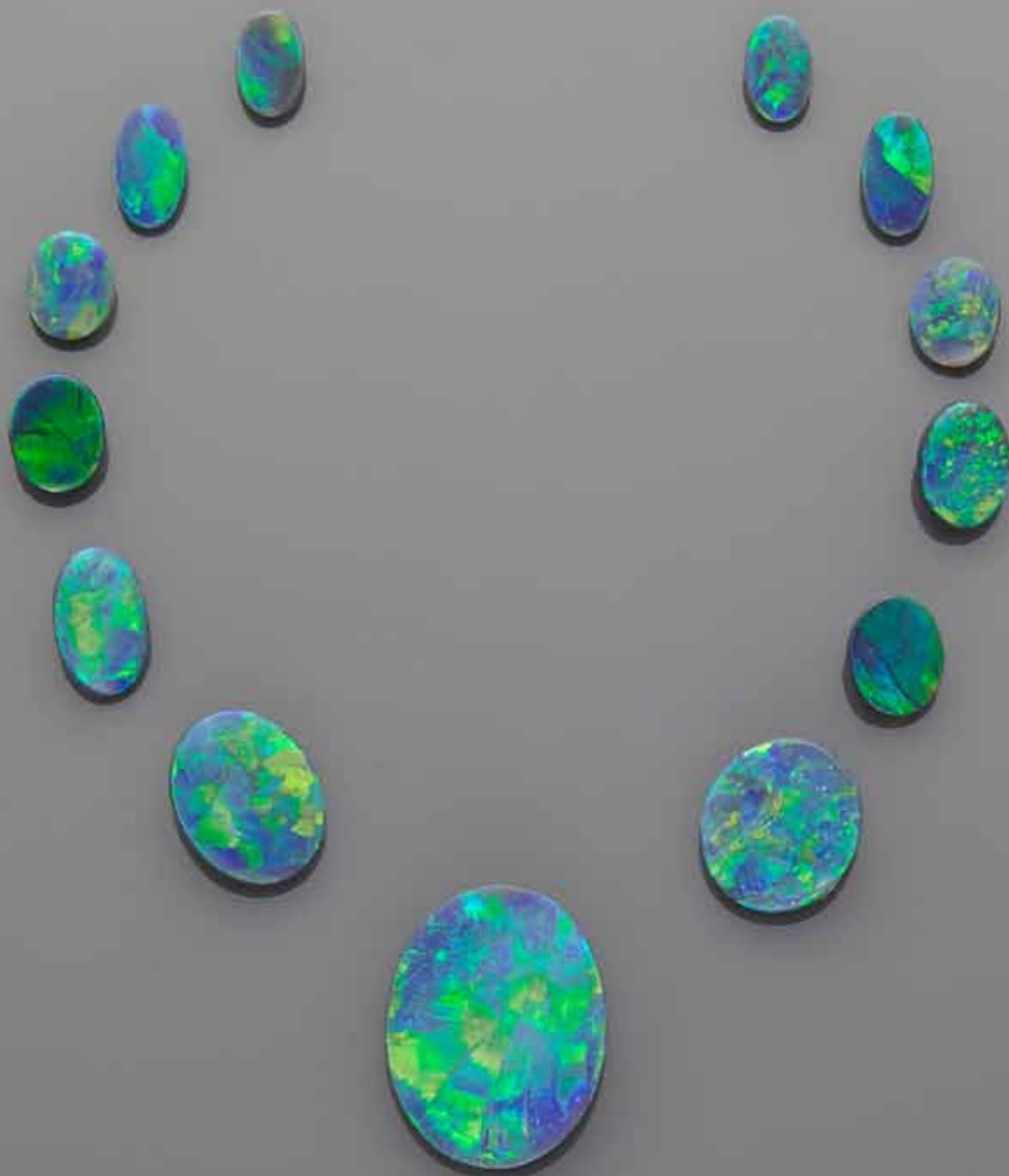
*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Probably originating all from one seam, the present suite comprises beautifully matched solid black opals. Exhibiting a flagstone and broad rolling flash pattern of blue and green play of color with orange flashes, the individual weights from largest to smallest are as follows: 27.0 cts, 10.5 cts, 12.0 cts, 4.5 cts, 5.0 cts, 3.0 cts, 3.0 cts, 4.0 cts, 3.5 cts, 2.5 cts, 2.5 cts, 1.5 cts, 2.0 cts. Total weight approximately 81.49 carats (13) \$70,000 - 90,000



2058





2059



**2060**  
**Heart-Shaped Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Stated to have been mined over 80 years ago this beautiful opal comes from an old Sydney estate. Broad areas of green and blue with accents of orange serve to make this example a completely unique opal worthy of attention. The face-up spread of this stone particularly lends itself to being mounted as a pendant as the stone shows much larger.

*Weighing approximately 7.39 carats and measuring 17.0 x 17.0 x 3.5mm*

**\$8,000 - 10,000**

**2061**  
**Stunning Black Opal and Diamond Pendant**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This contemporary and elegant pendant necklace features a large solid black opal, *weighing approximately 51.65 carats*, horizontally bezel-set and mounted in 18K white gold. The bail is pave-set with 72 brilliant-cut diamonds, *weighing approximately 0.77 carats*, having an enhancer closure allowing the pendant to be removed and worn on other chains. Offered with an 18K white gold Omega chain necklace. *Length 17in.*

**\$10,000 - 15,000**

**2062**  
**Pair of Double-sided Black Opals**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A distinctive and unique pair of large, polished black opals which display the sedimentary nature of the mineral, suitable for mounting as a one-of-a-kind butterfly brooch or pendant. The play-of-color is green, orange, yellow and blue with extensive flashes of red.

*Together weighing approximately 96.58 carats and each measuring approximately 93.0 x 25.0 x 4.0mm (height 2 ½ in)*

**\$4,000 - 5,000**

**2063**  
**Very Fine Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A large oval cabochon black opal that is classic for the locality but now in increasingly dwindling supply. Characterized by vivid play-of-color in blue, green with orange flash, the face up size of this stone would lend itself either to being mounted as a ring or pendant.

*Weighing approximately 20.24 carats and measuring 23.5 x 19.5 x 5.5mm*

**\$50,000 - 60,000**

**2064**  
**Stylish Black Opal and Diamond Brooch**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Set with a large cabochon solid black opal of free-form kite-shaped outline having a vivid blue-green floral pattern play-of-color, *weighing approximately 38.55 carats*, mounted in 18K yellow gold and set with 0.66 carats of brilliant-cut diamonds. *Length 2in*

**\$45,000 - 60,000**





2061



2062



2063



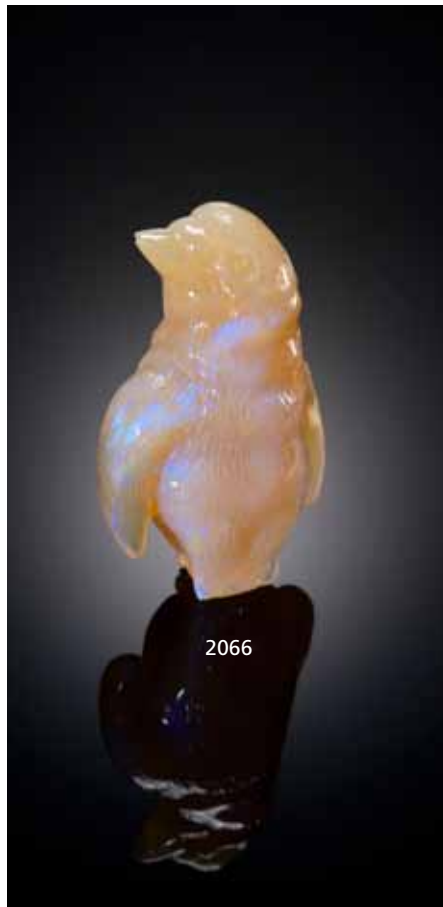
2064



2065

**Opal Carving of a Bear Cub with Tree**

Carved of Australian opal having a natural honey-yellow body color, with green play-of-color and flashes throughout, depicting a bear cub embracing a tree stump, *weight approximately 312.5 carats, height 2 1/2 in.*  
**\$500 - 700**



2066

**Opal Carving of a Chick**

Carved from a single piece of Australian opal having a honey-toned body color, with brilliant flashes of play-of-color of red, green, and blue, *weighing approximately 205.0 carats, height 2 1/4 in.*  
**\$350 - 450**



2067

**Two Carved Opal Monkeys**

Both carved of Australian opal rough having a light honey body color and iridescent flashes of purple, depicting a monkey clutching a tree branch, *weighing approximately 233.0 carats, height 2 3/4 in;* together with a smaller monkey, *weighing approximately 71.5 carats, height 1 1/2 in.*  
**\$500 - 700**



2068

**Opal Carving of a Mythological Bird**

Carved from a single piece of Australian opal having a light grey body color and iridescent flashes of green, *weighing approximately 144.5 carats, height 1 3/4 in.*  
**\$150 - 250**

2069

**Huge Polished Opal Specimen**

*Australia*

Of generous proportions this specimen is a unique cabinet-sized piece. A thick, hefty specimen of semi-translucent to opaque natural opal, polished as a freeform tablet in an outline vaguely reminiscent of a large tooth, the honey body color having iridescent orange, green, yellow, purple flashes as well as electric blue to the reverse side. Due to its large size and unique color, this is an interesting offering worthy of consideration by the serious collector of opals. *Weighing approximately 888 carats and measuring 3 1/4 x 3 x 3/4 in*  
**\$15,000 - 20,000**

*Accompanied by a Gemological Institute of America report number 2125855088 dated December 2, 2010 stating natural opal with no indications of color treatment.*



2069



**2070**  
**Large Boulder Opal Bowl**  
*Queensland, Australia*

This large, decorative polished bowl is fashioned in a freeform triangular shape, with a small carved foot. Carved from a single large boulder of ironstone with bluish opal veins, the opalization flashes with blue and even red fire in one location. *Measures 10 3/4 x 8 5/8 x 4 in.*

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**2071**  
**Group of Three Matching Boulder Opals**  
*Yowah, Queensland, Australia*

A set of three boulder opals having extensive iridescent green and blue opalized veining within the ironstone matrix. *Weighing 31.5 carats, 43.5 carats and 43.5 carats, the largest measuring 30.0 x 22.5 x 4.0mm; with a total aggregate weight of 118.5 carats. (3)*

**\$500 - 700**

**2072**  
**Boulder Opal and Diamond Pendant**  
*Queensland, Australia*

This stylish pendant is set with a kite-shaped boulder opal which has vibrant, full-spectral play-of-color with a full range of exceptional red hues predominating, *weighing approximately 22.40 carats*, bezel-set in 18K white gold, the bail inset with approximately 0.32 carats of small brilliant-cut diamonds. *Height 2in*

**\$9,000 - 11,000**

**2073**  
**Fine Boulder Opal Cabochon**  
*Koroit, Queensland, Australia*

An elegant elongated oval cabochon of rich, dark brown ironstone having a myriad of intertwinning serpentine lines of iridescent blue and green opal. *Weighing approximately 27.5 carats and measuring 32.0 x 12.0 x 6.0mm*

**\$700 - 900**

**2074**  
**Boulder Opal Bead Necklace**  
*Koroit, Queensland, Australia*

A highly decorative necklace comprising 28 spherical beads, *graduating slightly from 16.0 to 13.0mm*, having a deep chocolate brown body color to the ironstone with iridescent blue-green veining of opal, completed by a silver clasp. *Total weight approximately 741 carats. Length 17 in.*

**\$1,000 - 1,500**

**2075**  
**Carved Boulder Opal and Ruby Brooch--"The Owl"**  
*Queensland, Australia*

Incorporating a large, gem-quality boulder opal having a full spectral play-of-color, *weighing approximately 26.7 carats*, carved in the form of an owl. The eyes set with two circular-cut rubies, mounted in 14K yellow gold with brooch fitting, *height 1 1/2 in overall.*

**\$1,800 - 2,200**

**2076**  
**Boulder Opal and Gold Nugget Pendant**  
*Koroit, Queensland, Australia*

The pear-shaped cabochon boulder opal of rich chocolate brown ironstone having electric purple, blue and green veining, *measuring 27.0 x 16.5 x 3.5mm*, set below a 14K yellow gold bail, atop a frame composed of small natural gold nuggets, backed by a frame of silver to the reverse. *Height 1 1/2 in*

**\$600 - 800**



2073



2072

2074

2071



2076



2075

**2077**

**Very Fine Matched Pair of Black Opal Cabochons**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

The present pair of oval cabochons would create a fine pair of earrings. Both have a black body color and orange, green and blue fire. The first, *weighing approximately 1.44 ct and measuring 8.8 x 6.1 x 3.8 mm*; the second, *weighing approximately 1.40 ct and measuring 8.5 x 5.6 x 4.0 mm*. (2)

**\$3,000 - 4,000**

**2078**

**Kyanite, Blue Chalcedony and Synthetic Opal Necklace**

Comprising 24 beads fashioned from kyanite crystals and polished with a triangular-form outline, spaced with two large rondels beads inlaid with synthetic opal and six spacer beads inlaid with synthetic opal between, completed by a silver clasp, *length 21 in*

**\$500 - 700**

**Without Reserve**

**2079**

**Group of Four Black Opals with Blue-Green Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Four opal cabochons with dark transparent body color and blue-green fire: two triangular and two oval cabochons, *weighing approximately 1.54 ct, 2.23, 1.83 and 1.66 ct*; the longest oval *measuring 14.4 mm long*. (4)

**\$2,000 - 3,000**

**2080**

**Group of Three Very Fine Pear-Shaped Black Opal Cabochons**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Three pear-shaped opal cabochons each having fine play-of-color: the largest with predominantly red flashes, *weighing approximately 1.76 carats, length 10.8 mm*; the medium-sized opal with extensive red as well, *weighing approximately 0.93 carats* and the smallest, *weighing approximately 0.87 carats*, having multi-color flash. (3)

**\$3,000 - 4,000**

**2081**

**Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

An oval cabochon black opal having peacock shades of blue and green play-of-color.

*Weighing approximately 3.36 ct and measuring 11.9 x 9.0 x 4.6 mm*.

**\$1,400 - 1,800**

**2082**

**Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A classic oval cabochon having a black body color and iridescent green pinfire play-of-color.

*Weighing approximately 2.37 ct and measuring 12.6 x 7.5 x 3.4 mm*.

**\$1,200 - 1,500**

**2083**

**Black Opal Cabochon**

*Lightning Ridge, Australia*

Oval opal cabochon with nearly black body color and fire in peacock shades of blue and green.

*Weighing approximately 3.56 ct and measuring 11.5 x 8.5 x 5.3 mm*.

**\$2,000 - 3,000**

**2084**

**Crystal Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, Australia*

An oval cabochon with translucent dark gray body color and fire in patches of green and peacock blue.

*Weighing approximately 3.69 ct and measuring 12.6 x 9.1 x 4.6 mm*.

**\$1,500 - 2,000**

**2085**

**Crystal Opal Cabochon**

*Lightning Ridge, Australia*

An oval opal cabochon with translucent gray body color and overlapping patches of mostly green and orange fire. There is a small area of matrix (potch) on the back, not visible from the front of the opal.

*Weighing approximately 4.12 ct and measuring 13.7 x 10.0 x 4.6 mm*.

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**2086**

**Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

An oval cabochon with black body color and peacock blue and green play-of-fire. A Lightning Ridge classic.

*Weighing approximately 5.32 ct and measuring 15.0 x 10.3 x 5.3 mm*.

**\$1,500 - 2,000**

**2087**

**Opal Doublet and Gold Butterfly Brooch**

The wings of the butterfly bezel-set with four fine-quality doublets, each opal having a banded pattern, *weighing approximately 14.0 carats total*, having grey potch as backing, mounted in 14K white gold. *Height 1 1/4 in*

**\$2,000 - 2,500**

2077

2079

2081

2080

2078

2084

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2086

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2087



**2088**  
**The Largest Recorded Fine Black Opal Nodule—"Halley's Comet"**  
**—Listed in the Guinness Book of World Records**

*Leaning Tree Claim, 3-Mile Black Opal Field, Lunatic Hill, Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest uncut black opal nodule (or "nobby" as this formation is known in the opal trade), "Halley's Comet" is most certainly a unique specimen of great fame. Deriving its name from Halley's Comet which appeared in Australian skies at the time of the find in on November 3, 1986, the monster stone of nearly 2000 carats, as large as the size of a man's clenched fist, was found by a group of five opal miners known as "The Lunatic Hill Syndicate". The partnership was named for the location of their open-cut mine that was the size of a football field on the Leaning Tree Claim in the 3-Mile Black Opal Field in Lightning Ridge.

The area had been mined since the early 1900s but had never produced a stone as big as the present specimen. This claim became so named because gougers working in the shallow flat below this hill upon which the claim is situated, jokingly considered anybody to be a lunatic who would go up a hill only to sink all the way down to the horizontally trending opal dirt levels. In those days, most of the black opals were mined at what was known as the "3 mile shallows", at an average depth of 2 to 5 meters, located just 200 meters downhill from the present open-cut. One day a lone miner decided to try his luck and dig a mine-shaft on top of the hill in the deep ground. The common belief in those times was that it was a waste of time and that no opal was ever found at such a depth, and what on earth was the lunatic doing, digging a shaft there? From that day forward that ridge was called "Lunatic Hill" by the old timers. In the end, it proved to be the richest-ever area in the region.

Lunatics or not, some few men dared do just that and with amazing results. The present specimen was found at a depth of twenty meters. The Leaning Tree Claim open-cut site remains one of Lightning Ridge's biggest tourist attractions to this day and is in the process of being Heritage listed.

More than 100,000 cubic meters of dirt were processed in an agitator (a converted concrete mixer the likes of which is typically used at Lightning Ridge to wash the opal "pay dirt") from which emerged stones ranging from 10 carats to 80 carats in addition to the 2000 carats monster "nobby".

Known internationally as one of the finest quality black opals, "Halley's Comet" exhibits a thick, black gem-grade opal color bar measuring approximately 1 inch (25mm) at its widest point that circumscribes the entire specimen at its equatorial center.

The floral, harlequin pattern of gem-quality green, blue-violet and yellow, play-of-color is a five out of five.

The largest gem "nobby" to be found at the famed locality of Lightning Ridge, "Halley's Comet" is the third largest gem grade black opal ever recorded, the largest one extant, and the largest specimen ever found in this region.

This is the largest black opal to be offered at public auction to our knowledge and, as such a trophy, it deserves a central place in any serious opal collection and should be preserved as an example of Australian national heritage.

*Presently weighing approximately 1980.5 carats and measuring 4 x 2 5/8 x 2 1/2 in (100 x 66 x 63cm)*

*Exhibition Provenance: Displayed at Australian Mineral Museum, at the Earth Exchange in Sydney, from February 1992 until 1995. Whilst on display "Halley's Comet" was insured for \$1,491,304.*

*Accompanied by a Gemstone Authentication Report, ref. no. AA 48140, dated 12/05/2011 stating solid natural opal, black, N4, free form oblong nobby, 1980.5 carats. Origin: Lightning Ridge, NSW.*

*Accompanied by a Guinness World Records Certificate circa 1991 stating: The largest rough black opal weighed 2,020 carats and measured 4 x 2 5/8 x 2 1/2 inches. It has been named Halley's Comet and is owned by a team of opal miners known as The Lunatic Hill Syndicate. The opal was found at Lightning Ridge, NSW, Australia on 3 November 1986.*

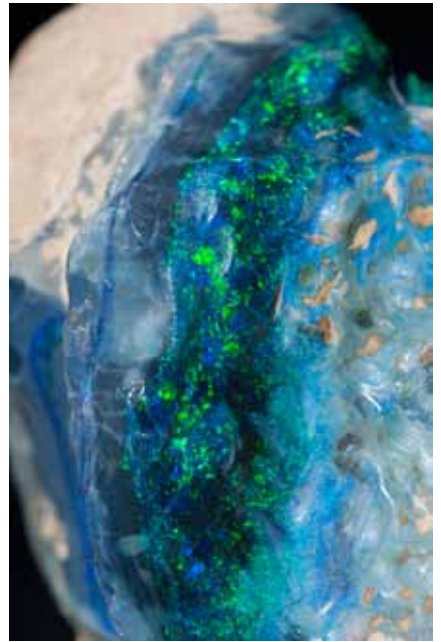
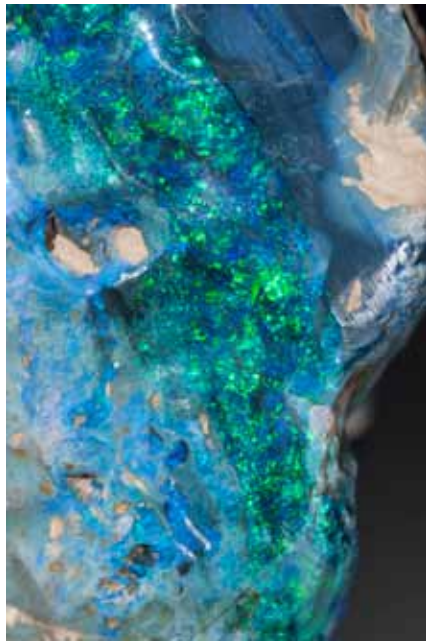
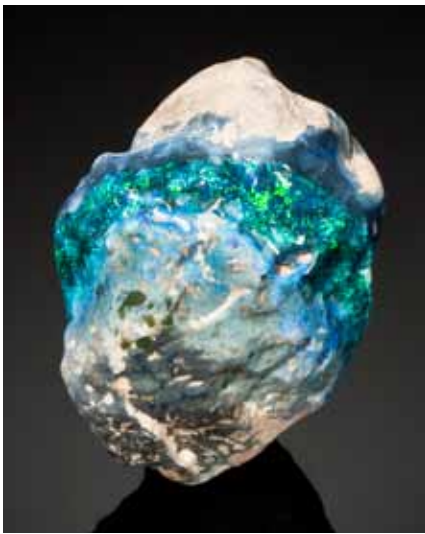
**\$450,000 - 650,000**

*Offered in a custom presentation box.*





2088



2088 (details)





2089



2089 (reverse)

#### 2089

#### Impressive Black Opal and Diamond Pendant/Brooch by David Webb

*By David Webb*

This stunning, unique pendant was most probably a custom design made in behalf of an opal connoisseur/client of the firm of David Webb. It features a large natural Lighting Ridge black opal having blue, green and orange floral pattern and broad flash play-of-fire. The stone measures 70.0 x 51.0 x 6.5 mm and was unmounted to verify the weight of approximately 190.0 carats. The bail is embellished with a pretty Queensland boulder opal which measures 13.0 x 7.5 x 3.0mm. The large opal is encircled by 96 circular, marquise and pear-shaped diamonds, weighing a total of 7.18 carats. Reverse side fabricated with copious amounts of gold and textured with a hammered gold finish to the artistic azure work as well as the pendant bail. Platinum prong setting and yellow gold brooch fitting. Signed David Webb, 18K 900PT.DS45

\$120,000 - 150,000



**2090**

**Important Black Opal, Diamond and Platinum Ring**

*By Rick Southwick*

*Lightning Ridge, Australia*

This stunning and elegant ring centers on a large harlequin opal surrounded with 26 round brilliant and six Ascher-cut diamonds; the open basketwork back of the ring is mounted with 10 more brilliant-cut diamonds weighing approximately 2.27 carats. The prong-set oval cabochon opal measures 24.3 x 23.8 mm, and weighs approximately 22.35 ct. stamped 950, maker's mark RS for Rick Southwick, size 5 1/2. **\$30,000 - 40,000**

*Accompanied by a copy of a video of the goldsmith, Rick Southwick, making this ring.*

**2091**

**Black Opal with Excellent Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This elongated oval cabochon displays a vivid and very present full spectral play-of-color predominating in reds, with electric blue, purple, orange, yellow and green. Weighing approximately 20.04 carats and measuring 34.0 x 14.0 x 5.5mm **\$65,000 - 85,000**

**2092**

**Very Fine Black Opal with Red Fire**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This oval cabochon is suitably-sized to create a ring. Strong red flash, with orange, yellow, blue and green are visible in what would best be termed a "windmill pattern." Such stones, with a true black body color and vivid play-of-color present are increasingly difficult to obtain in today's market. A fine stone for the serious collector.

*Weighing approximately 8.09 carats and measuring 15.5 x 12.0 x 5.5mm*  
**\$65,000 - 75,000**

**2093**

**Black Opal**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

An elongated oval cabochon of semi-black opal having an all-over rolling flash pattern of play-of-color in a full spectral range of hues.

*Weighing approximately 11.14 carats and measuring 24.0 x 13.0 x 3.5mm*  
**\$15,000 - 20,000**





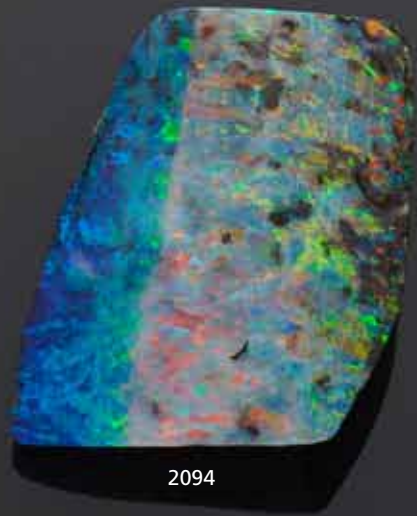
2091



2092



2093



2094

**Spectacular Published Boulder Opal**

*Winton, Queensland, Australia*

This famous illustrated piece is as fine an example of Queensland boulder opal as exists. Fashioned as a free-form modified rectangle the opalization has deposited itself in clear lines of blue, green, red with red-green play-of-color with seams of green and violet upon a solid ironstone base. The vividness of the play-of-color is superb and this piece should surely form the cornerstone of any serious collection of opals.

*Weighing approximately 411 carats and measuring 57.00 x 44.50 x 19.00 mm*

**\$70,000 - 80,000**

*Accompanied by a copy of Beautiful Opals, Australia's National Gem, Special 2000 Commemorative Edition, by Len Cram. This opal is illustrated on page 27.*



2095



2096



2097

**2095**

**Boulder Opal with Red Fire**

*Queensland, Australia*

This spectacular modified triangular shape cabochon has a predominantly red fire with splashes of green, blue, orange and violet play-of-color.

Red is the rarest color in boulder opals and this one is an excellent collector's piece.

*Weighing approximately 26.46 carats and measuring 25.80 x 22.40 x 5.00 mm*

**\$16,000 - 20,000**

**2096**

**Companion Pair of Exceptional Boulder Opals**

*Winton, Queensland, Australia*

This is an exceptional pair of cabochons was cut from the same rough. They represent the top end of boulder opals which can be found in Queensland given their exceptional display of red hues. They would ideally lend themselves to being mounted as a pendant. Both triangular-shaped cabochons having predominantly red play-of-color graduating into orange, yellow, green and blue. The first, *weighing approximately 17.42 carats and measuring 32.10 x 18.13 x 5.30 mm*.. The second larger one, *weighing approximately 25.13 carats and measuring 35.00 x 21.03 x 5.40 mm (2)*

**\$40,000 - 50,000**

**2097**

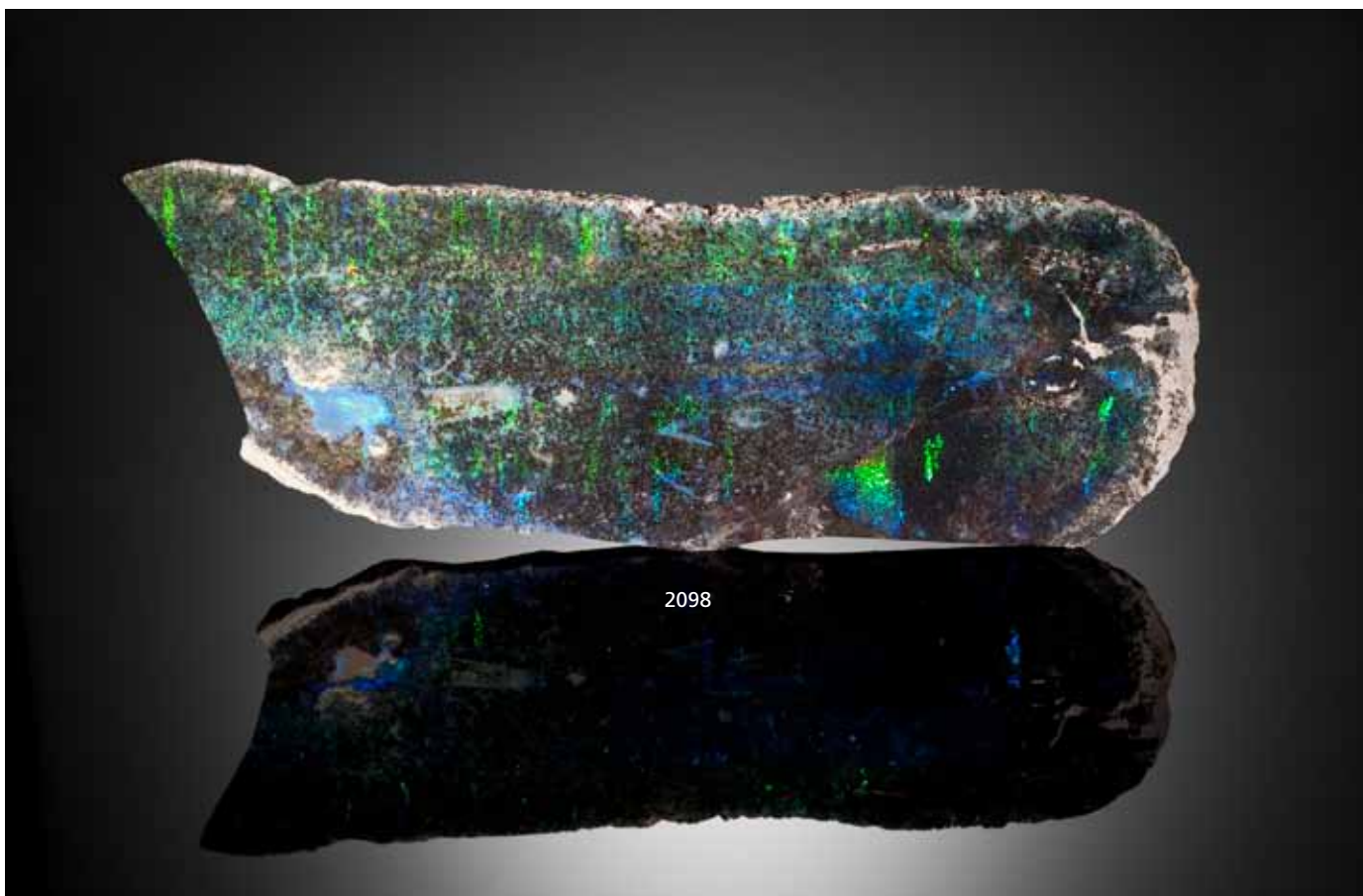
**Gem Blue-Green Boulder Opal**

*Winton, Queensland, Australia*

Fashioned as a triangular or fan-shaped cabochon the thick seam of blue-green opal on ironstone appears largely in a floral pattern. The coverage of opal is excellent and the colors are exceptionally vivid.

*Weighing approximately 72.8 carats and measuring 41.50 x 33.50 x 7.20 mm*

**\$10,000 - 15,000**



2098

**2098**

**Polished Andamooka Opal Slab**

*Andamooka, South Australia*

In this slice of Andamooka opal, polished on both sides, stripes of blue-to-green fire cut through a dark pisolitic opal matrix. The brown-to-black pisolites resemble caviar. Billowing fire also shows in a transparent opal "window" in the slab.

*Weighing approximately 669 carats and measuring 18.5 x 6.5 x 0.5 cm (7 ½ x 2 ½ x ¼ in)*

**\$3,000 - 5,000**

**2099**

**Matrix Opal and Gold Pendant**

*Andamooka, South Australia*

Large black matrix opal cabochon exhibits blue and green patches of fire within the treated black matrix. Bezel set in an open-backed 14K yellow gold frame and bail. *The total weight approximately 79.86 carats inclusive of mount; measuring 44.0x 30.0 x 9.7mm, exclusive of bail.*

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**2100**

**Matrix Opal Carving of an Eagle on a Boulder Opal Base**

*By Gerd Moser*

*Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

*Andamooka, Australia*

A virtuoso carving made from untreated, natural color, Andamooka matrix opal, having a spectacular play-of-color with vivid iridescent greens particularly on the backs of the book-matched wings which are rendered in very fine realistic detail, each wing measuring approximately 6 inches in length, *total gross weight: 4100 carats*, with 18K yellow gold feet. Raised on a removable Queensland boulder opal base having very fine ribbon of opal veining in the ironstone matrix. *Overall height of sculpture: 13 in. Height of boulder opal base: 7 1/4 in*

**\$40,000 - 60,000**



2099





2100



2101



2102

**2101  
Matrix Opal Carving of a Cat**

*Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

Realistically textured to depict the fur of a cat, this charming carving is carved of Andamooka matrix opal which has flashes of green play-of-color in areas within the white and grey matrix. *Weighing approximately 682 carats (137 grams). Length 3in*

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**2102**

**Opal Carving of a Frog**

*By Ronald Stevens*

Carved from translucent Australian crystal opal from an unidentified locality, having a light grey body color with green flashes of play-of-color especially on the underside. Depicting a frog and miniature mushrooms beside him, *weighing approximately 148.0 carats and measuring 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 3/4in*

**\$1,000 - 1,200**

**2103**

**Largest Surviving Mintabie Opal Specimen--'The Mintabie Queen' Mintabie, South Australia**

Mintabie, in South Australia, is situated some 240 kilometers north west of Coober Pedy, which has for many years been the major world supplier of gem grade precious opal but even Coober Pedy was surpassed by Mintabie for 5 or 6 years in the late 1980s.

While opal was first found there in 1919, the remoteness of the area, lack of water and hard rock precluded the area from being mined on a regular basis until 1976 – 77. After a peak in production in the late 1980s – mining has now markedly declined. There is very little mining and very little opal is being produced.

Opal is found in the Palaeozoic rocks, in the Mintabie silicified sandstone. It is this silicification which has made the Mintabie beds hard to work, to the extent that explosives and large bulldozers are required to break up the sandstone. Large rippers behind the bulldozers rip up the sandstone beds and 'spatters' walking behind try and detect if any opal has surfaced.

The precious opal is found in-filling horizontal structures and vertical joints throughout the Mintabie sandstone beds, from the surface down to a depth of 30 meters.

Mintabie opal often shows distinct dark and light bands, often with much of the color in the paler or crystal opal bands. This opal is cut so that the brilliantly colored crystal overlies and is displayed against the black potch background. This is known as the Mintabie 'black opal' or 'semi black opal'. While some opal has the vivid play of colors in a black body, as is found in Lightning Ridge, there is also the lower grade milky opal, jelly opal and abundant blue-black opal potch.

Because of the layered structure of the sandstone beds, much of the infill opal is in narrow semi horizontal veins or seams. These vary from 1mm up 10mm in thickness and are very occasionally much thicker. After being ripped up, any slabs that are found to be opal bearing are saved. These are subsequently broken up to try and retrieve any precious opal, especially that showing the black body, which has often sold for thousands of dollars per ounce and up to \$10 000- per carat when cut.

Historically, in the opal-miners quest to sell every ounce of cuttable opal, virtually all the big slabs of opal-bearing stone were broken down to a small size.

The present specimen is indeed a rare piece. The large size has been retained and much of the large surface of opal shows swirls of color, both against the jelly blue background but also the black opal body. It is indeed worthy of being the centerpiece in any display of opal. While other opals may have wonderful flashing color, they are invariably small. This large Mintabie opal, the best of its kind, has that 'wow' factor to attract the eye to any cabinet.

*Weighing approximately 25.4 lbs (11.4 kilos) and measuring approximately 19 x 13 x 4 in (48.0 x 33.0 x 10.0 cms)*

**\$17,000 - 22,000**





2103



**2104**  
**Exceptional Light Opal**  
*Coober Pedy, South Australia*

This pear-shaped gem exhibits the finest, most sought after "chaff" pattern with full spectral hues predominating in orange and red with smaller flashes of yellow, green and blue. Its elegant shape would lend itself to being made into the most stunning pendant. It is rare to find such vivid play-of-color in a light body color opal, and this stone is as fine an example as can be found.

*Weighing approximately 25.58 carats and measuring 42.2 x 22.2 x 4.0mm*  
**\$15,000 - 20,000**



**2105**  
**Rare Free-form Red-on-Black Opal**  
*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A free-form black opal which exhibits a rare ribbon-flagstone combination pattern having predominantly red play-of-color with violet, green, blue and orange accents.

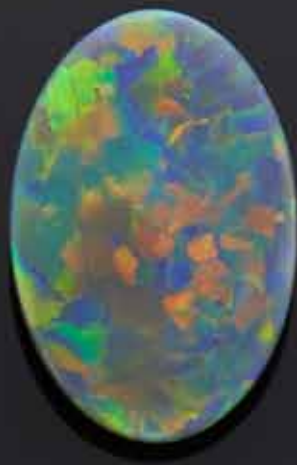
*Weighing approximately 21.58 carats and measuring 35.0 x 23.0 x 5.0mm*  
**\$25,000 - 30,000**

**2106**  
**Very Large and Impressive Opal**  
*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This exceptional and very large oval cabochon of semi-black seam opal exhibits a full range of spectral play-of-color including copious amounts of red and orange with further flashes of blue, electric purple, green and yellow visible in a broad flash and flagstone pattern. This is a fine opal which would mount superbly in either a brooch or pendant to be suitably admired.

*Weighing approximately 117.30 carats and measuring 63.0 x 35.0 x 8.0mm*  
**\$90,000 - 110,000**





2106



2107

**2107**  
**Crystal Opal Pendant with Red Fire**  
*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*  
 An oval cabochon opal with extensive red play-of-color in large blocks, weighing approximately 1.74 carats, mounted in 18K yellow gold, stamped GS for Gerd Schulz. Height 3/4 in  
**\$2,000 - 2,500**



2108

**2108**  
**Fabulous Pattern Opal**  
*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*  
 This semi-black opal fashioned as a triangular cabochon displays orange, green and electric purple has play-of-color exhibits itself in a distinct flagstone pattern. Patterned opals, such as this one, are highly collectible. Weighing approximately 4.91 carats and measuring 17.5 x 10.1 x 4.2mm  
**\$4,500 - 5,500**



2109

**Exceptional Carved Black Opal with Distinctive Pattern**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This large free-form, carved black opal would create a stunning and completely one-of-a-kind pendant or brooch. The broad harlequin pattern of play-of-color is vivid and present and exhibits a rainbow of colors predominating in red and orange with blocks of yellow, blue and green. Such a fine and unusual opal rarely comes along in the market and the present example has been in the same Australian family for several decades.

*Weighing approximately 69.25 carats and measuring 51.0 x 35.0 x 8.0mm*

**\$110,000 - 130,000**



2110

2110

**Large and Dramatic Boulder Opal Nodule Half, In Two Sections**  
*Queensland, Australia*

Amazing section of a large ironstone nodule, with a dramatic seam of white, green, turquoise blue and royal blue precious opal. When the smaller piece is separated from the rest, the deeper extent of the colorful opal seam is exposed. *Reconstructs to: 10 x 5 ¾ x 5 ½ in.*

**\$6,000 - 8,000**

2111

**Boulder Opal Fountain**

*Queensland, Australia*

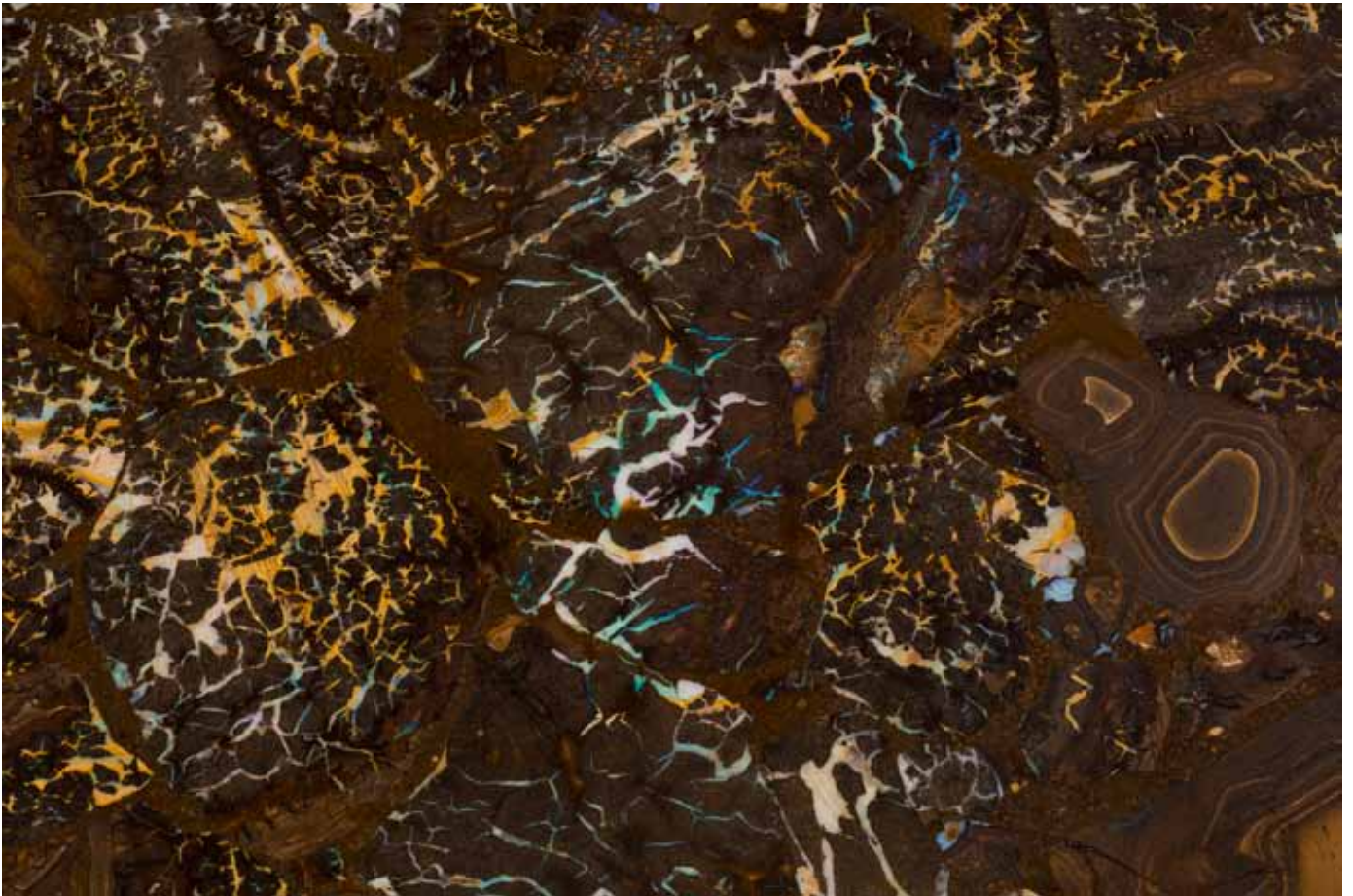
Sure to be a conversation piece or a unique focal point of a Zen garden, this fountain features a large specimen of boulder opal which has been drilled lengthwise through its core. The brown ironstone has blue opalized veining throughout, the colorfulness of which becomes apparent especially when the piece is wet. Offered in a blue ceramic bowl. *Height without bowl: 18in*

**\$1,500 - 2,500**



2111





2112

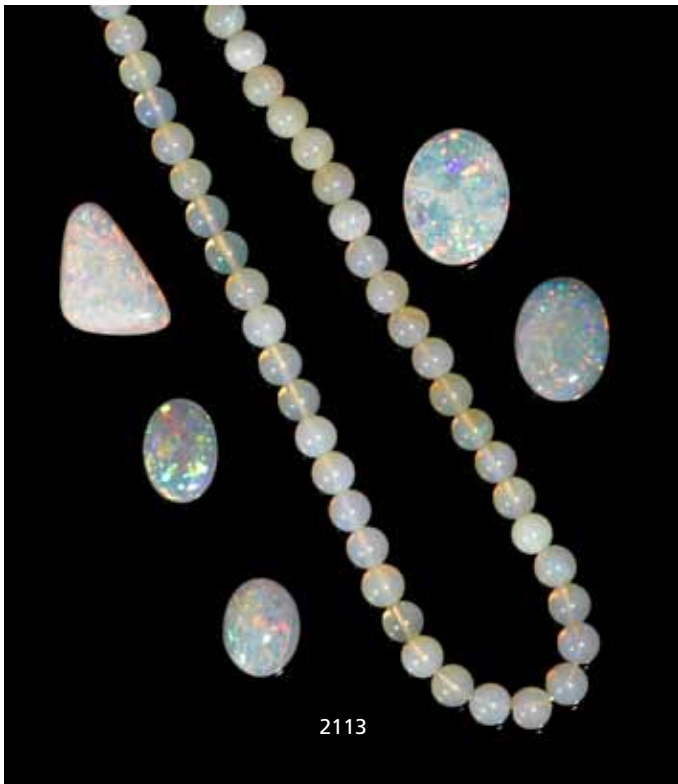
2112

**Unique Boulder Opal Intarsia Table**

*Koroit, Queensland, Australia*

A unique intarsia table formed of cross section slices of boulder opal inlaid into matrix. The slabs of ironstone are highlighted with a myriad of veins of opal having attractive multi-color play-of-color of blue, orange, white and cream, set within a bronzed metal border. Measures 60 x 36 x 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  in  
**\$20,000 - 25,000**

*This lot is being sold in situ and will remain in an offsite warehouse during preview. Please contact the Natural History Department for further information.*



2113



2114



2115



2116



2113

**Group of Crystal Opals and a Crystal Opal Bead Necklace**

*Coober Pedy, South Australia, Australia*

Comprising five white or light gray opals with good fire, including of four oval and one free-form polished opal, weighing 6.58, 5.65, 5.47, 3.86 and 3.78 carats; together with a uniform strand of 5.0 mm opal beads, temporarily strung, without clasp, weighing 69.5 carats, length 17 in.

**\$500 - 700**

**Without Reserve**

2114

**A "Baker's Dozen" of White Precious Opal Cabochons**

*Australia*

Thirteen transparent-to-semi-translucent white precious opal cabochons: eight ovals and one each heart, marquise, round, rectangle, and freeform quadrilateral; the longest measuring 24.6 x 18.1 x 3.8 mm. All show good fire and fire colors include red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.

Thirteen is called a "baker's dozen" after the traditional practice of bakers to add an extra item when a dozen of the same were ordered. Total weight approximately 82.46 carats (13)

**\$2,200 - 2,800**

2115

**White Crystal Opal**

*Coober Pedy, Australia*

The semi-transparent white crystal opal pear-shaped cabochon, polished on both sides, showing very large patches of red fire beside further regions of pinfire play-of-color in red, yellow, green, and blue.

Weighing approximately 8.15 carats and measuring 25.8 x 14.7 x 2.7 mm.

**\$900 - 1,200**

2116

**Black Crystal Opal Carving of a Ganesh**

*By Ronald Stevens*

Carved of Lightning Ridge black crystal opal this Ganesh showing electric purple and blue flashes of color.

Weighing approximately 98.5 carats and measuring 47.0 x 33.0 x 10.0mm

**\$3,000 - 4,000**

2117

**Black Opal Carving of an Octopus**

*By Ronald Stevens*

Carved of Lightning Ridge black crystal opal having a smoky black body color and electric purple flashes with green, the present carving depicts an octopus.

Weighing 215.0 carats and measuring 2 x 2 x 1 in

**\$2,000 - 3,000**

2118

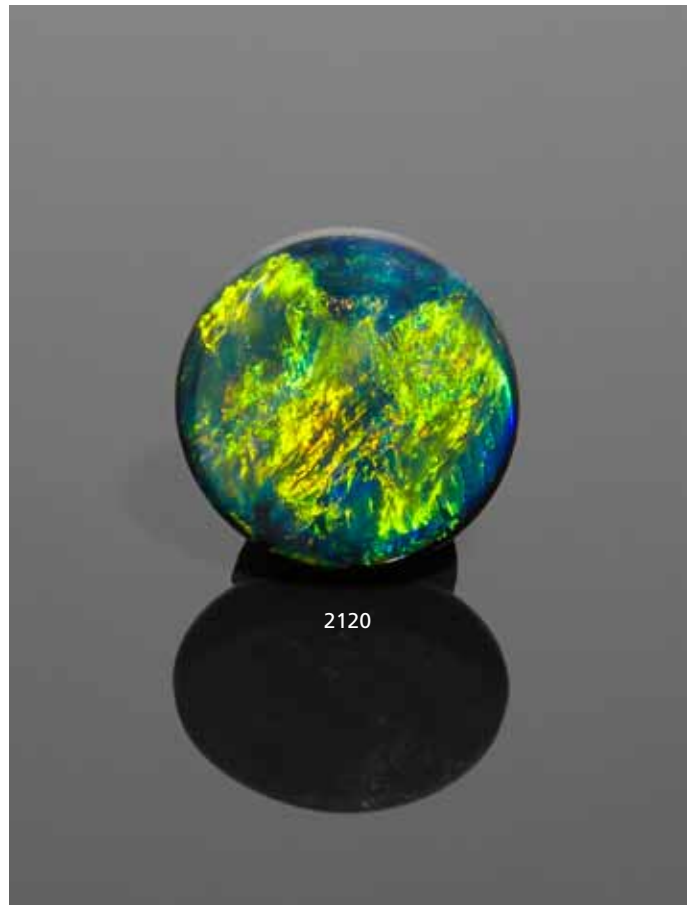
**Group of Three Rare Opalized Fossils**

*Australia*

Including black opal pine cone from Lightning Ridge; weighing approximately 169.0 carats and measuring 45.0 x 43.0 x 17.0mm; a white opal Limpid from Coober Pedy; weighing approximately 163.5 carats and measuring 47.4mm; and a white opal snail from Coober Pedy, weighing approximately 27.5 carats and measuring 20.2mm. (3)

**\$2,000 - 3,000**





## Picture Opals

2119

### Black Crystal Opal—"Number One"

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This triangular opal cabochon is translucent, with semi-black body color. A large, continuous ribbon of play-of-color in orange flashes to green depending on the angle of observation--depicting the numeral "one". Vivid play-of-color predominating in red and orange with patches of green and blue abound throughout this memorable stone.

*Weighing approximately 10.35 ct and measuring 18.5 x 16.6 x 4.6 mm.*

**\$35,000 - 40,000**

2120

### Black Picture Opal Cabochon--"The Angel"

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Opals are rarely cut into circular cabochons due to the amount of rough that is wasted in doing so. The present example is a beautiful true black opal having full spectral play-of-fire with red, orange, yellow and blue-green flash. When rolled, an image of an Archangel seems to appear in a green flash, and when rolled in a different angle the angel appears in orange.

*Weighing approximately 7.87 carats and measuring 14.6 x 14.4 x 5.0mm*

**\$9,000 - 11,000**

2121

### Fine Yowah Nut Picture Opal--"The Dragon"

*Yowah, Queensland, Australia*

The rich brown ironstone of this cabochon is infused with an electric and iridescent blue-green play-of-color with flashes of orange, the outline of which appears to depict the silhouette of a dragon.

*Weighing approximately 27.70 carats and measuring 30.40 x 14.40 x 6.00 mm*

**\$3,500 - 4,000**

2122

### Exceptional Black Opal with "Chinese Writing"

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

Pattern opals are a highly sought after category of collecting within the opal hobby. The present pear-shaped stone is an exceptional example of its type. Distinguished by a vivid body color of bright electric blue and green one corner of the stone in particular, displays Chinese "calligraphy" in vivid green.

*Weighing approximately 17.07 carats and measuring measuring 23.90 x 16.10 x 6.00 mm*

**\$40,000 - 50,000**





2121



2122



2123



2124

**2123**  
**Unique Picture Boulder Opal and Silver Belt Buckle--"Great Barrier Reef"**  
*Queensland, Australia*  
 Evoking the imagery of the Great Barrier Reef, this fine quality picture boulder opal possesses pastel hues in the "sky" and strong greens and blues in the "water" area, the sea theme is echoed in the hand-cast silver work. *Total weight: 592.0 carats inclusive of silver. Length 3in*  
**\$3,000 - 4,000**

**2124**  
**Boulder Opal: "Yowah Nut" Picture Opal**  
*Yowah, Queensland, Australia*  
 A split of an opal-bearing ironstone nodule, or "Yowah Nut," polished on the faces, showing pinfire patterns of mostly green-fire precious opal. The patterns resemble sitting or wading birds: Are they ducks on the water? Courting Chinese geese? Or something else? The buyer decides! The larger half, *weighing approximately 239.5 carats and measuring 40.0 x 37.0 x 17.5 mm*; the other, *weighing approximately 201 carats and measuring 40.0 x 40.0 x 17.3 mm*.  
**\$2,000 - 3,000**

**2125**  
**Exceptionally Vivid Picture Boulder Opal-- "Coucher de soleil sur la mer"**  
*Jundah, Queensland, Australia*  
 Of slightly tapering form, this elegant elongated rectangular cabochon appears to depict the setting sun over the sea. Above the "horizon line" the play-of-color is a broadflash green with yellow and orange; below the line the "sea" abounds in hues of blue, violet, green flashes of orange and red. The reverse side is a rich chocolate-colored ironstone. The hues of this exceptionally rare collector's stone are as vivid as one could desire. *Weighing approximately 31.43 carats and measuring 33.80 x 12.20-14.84 x 6.15 mm*  
**\$45,000 - 55,000**



2125

2126

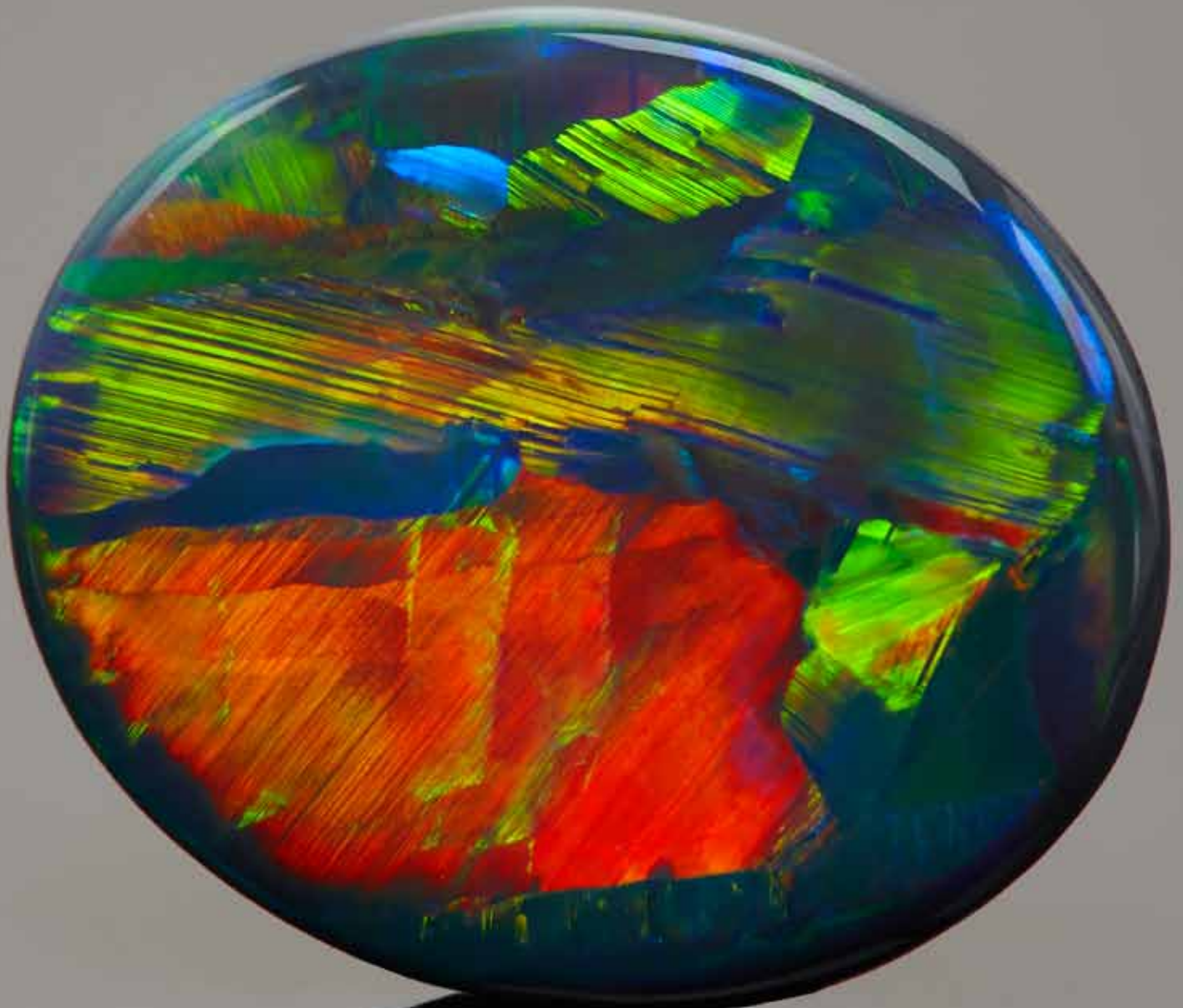
**Exceptional Black Picture Opal--"The Road to Lightning Ridge"**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

This fine oval cabochon black opal is a memorable one for its distinctive multi-color fire predominating in sheets of red from one angle with orange, yellow, green and blue from other angles; the colors suggesting a landscape or dirt road in the Outback when the stone is viewed horizontally.

*Weighing approximately 9.85 carats and measuring 20.03 x 16.94 x 5.10 mm*

**\$55,000 - 75,000**



2126





2127



2127 (detail)

2127

**Stunning Black Opal and Diamond Pendant--"The Peacock Opal"**

*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*

A impressive necklace which centers on a world-class black opal, weighing approximately 136.18 carats, having blue-green play-of-color with hints of orange in large patches of color giving the appearance of bold brush strokes--the pattern of the play-of-fire appearing to depict the plumage of a peacock. Surrounded by a border of forty circular-cut diamonds together weighing an auspicious number of 8.88 carats, mounted in 18K white gold. Offered on an 18K white gold Omega chain necklace. Length 15in.

\$120,000 - 140,000



## Opals from Various World Localities

### 2128 Dendritic Opal Carving of a Falcon on Quartz Base

*Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

Carved from a large specimen of dendritic opal from India this fine sculpture realistically depicts a falcon. The beak has been carved of two colors of opal as well: Andamooka matrix opal and another opal of creamy body color. The silver-gilt feet rest upon a large quartz crystal which has been mounted with a rotating metal base beneath. *Height overall: 9in*  
**\$3,000 - 5,000**

### 2129 Cat's Eye Opal in Matrix Bead Necklace Brazil

To our knowledge no more than 80 kilos of this rare variety of cat's eye opal have been mined in the last 30 years. This particularly rare green opal is found in veins in dark brown volcanic rock and the color is due to iron content. This unique necklace comprises fifteen large beads, each measuring approximately 30.0 x 20.0mm, having a green body color with yellow bands of chatoyancy, completed by an 18K yellow gold clasp. *Weighing altogether 1125 carats. Length 19 1/2 in*  
**\$1,200 - 1,500**

### 2130 Green Opal Bead Necklace Mali

A single strand of slightly graduated round transparent-to-translucent yellowish green polished opal beads from a rare locality, the beads graduating from 7.6 mm to 4.5 mm, weighing approximately 90.5 carats. Completed by a 14K filigree gold clasp. *Length 17 1/2 in.*  
**\$3,000 - 4,000**

### 2131 Peruvian Opal and Silver Pendant

*Andes Mountains, Peru*

A smooth polished specimen of blue-green opal in matrix from a new find in the Andes Mountains of Peru. The color is significantly more intense than in previous deposits, however the material is opaque. Both the bail and grommet are fabricated of sterling silver. *Height 3in*  
**\$350 - 450**

**Without Reserve**

### 2132 Very Fine Prase Opal

*Tanzania*

A cushion-shaped cabochon of vivid, celadon green having superb translucency and luster. The opals from this find are no longer available on the market and certainly not of this quality. *Weighing approximately 32.0 carats and measuring 24.0 x 19.0 x 10.5mm*  
**\$4,500 - 5,500**

### 2133 "Denim" Blue Opal Yemen

From an unusual locality, this attractive oval cabochon represents a new and limited find which has now been exhausted. The color is a pastel sky blue with translucency at the edges. *Weighing approximately 10.5 carats and measuring 19.0 x 15.5 x 6.0mm*  
**\$600 - 800**

### 2134 Two Dendritic Opal Cabochons India

From a limited deposit in India this translucent white opal, bears evidence of mineral inclusions which have established themselves in a consistent "fernlike" or dendritic branching pattern. The two companion stones would create a beautiful pendant. *Weighing approximately 79.5 and 29.5 carats. The larger stone measuring 46.0mm in length.*  
**\$300 - 500**

### 2135 "Lace" Opal Cabochon Arizona

From a new find in Arizona, this unique variety of opal, known in the trade as "Lace Opal" appears to visually resembles "crazy Lace Agate" from a distance. Nonetheless, the composition is different with its bright yellow to orange concentric patterns which are bordered by red to crimson alternating with white. *Weighing approximately 77.0 carats and measuring 72.0 x 33.0 x 5.5mm*  
**\$250 - 350**

**Without Reserve**





2136

2136

**Very Fine Cat's Eye Opal Bead Necklace**

*Tanzania*

A unique single-strand necklace of 54 rondel-form beads, *graduating from 13.0 to 9.0mm*, having a golden yellow body color and strong chatoyancy. Completed by an 18K yellow gold clasp.

*Weighing approximately 482 carats. Length 18 1/2 in.*

**\$6,000 - 8,000**





2137

2137

**Stunning Rare Black Opal**

*Brazil*

From a new locality discovered only about 3 years ago and already mined out, the present black crystal opal has a novel style of presentation with a flat top and matte polished cabochon back. The color is a deep root beer black with full spectral broadflash play-of-color with iridescent orange, yellow, blue, green a red play-of-color. Its large face up size would allow it to be beautifully mounted as a pendant. *Weighing approximately 17.81 carats and measuring 27.5 x 17.5 x 7.5mm*  
**\$10,000 - 12,000**



**2138**  
**Fine Blue Opal Cabochon**  
*Andes Mountains, Peru*

This sought-after, translucent greenish-blue opal cabochon is of suitable size to be mounted as an impressive pendant. Blue opals like these owe their natural coloring to impregnations of copper minerals such as chrysocolla. First reaching the American market in the early 1990s, such fine blue opal is now virtually impossible to obtain.

*Weighing approximately 61.29 carats and measuring 51.9 x 29.5 x 7.4 mm*

**\$6,000 - 8,000**

**2139**  
**Pink Opal Bead Necklace**  
*Andes Mountains, Peru*

A single strand continuous bead necklace composed of light pink, "pumpkin-shaped" carved opal beads, *graduating from 22.0 to 8.5 to mm in diameter*, with spherical 4mm red coral bead spacers. *Weight approximately 574 carats. Length 26 ½ in..*

**\$500 - 700**

**Without Reserve**

**2140**  
**Pair of Pink Opal Cabochons**  
*Andes Mountains, Peru*

A matched pair of translucent pink oval cabochons: the first, *weighing approximately 49.99 carats and measuring 34.2 x 24.9 x 9.1 mm*; the second, *weighing approximately 48.59 carats and measuring 34.1 x 24.9 x 8.3 mm*; both polished on all sides. *Total weight approximately 98.58 carats (2)*

**\$1,500 - 2,000**

**2141**  
**Blue Opal Bead Necklace**  
*Andes Mountains, Peru*

Blue opal from Peru reached the American market circa 1990 and the deposits are now entirely exhausted. A fine single strand necklace such as the present one would have been very difficult to obtain. Composed of translucent bright blue rondel-form large beads, *measuring 16.0 - 15.0mm*, completed by a silver and diamond-set toggle clasp, *length 20in*  
**\$1,200 - 1,500**

**2142**  
**Pair of Kascholong Opal and High-Karat Earrings**  
*Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

The name *kascholong* is derived from Mongolian. It describes a translucent, white or colored common opal with a porcelain appearance, with similarities to mother-of-pearl—which is why it is also known as the "mother-of-pearl opal". The present high-quality material, originating in Siberia, is extremely porous and suitable for carving due to its hardness (Mohs 7.5), which is greater than opal and more comparable to chalcedony. Each pear-shaped drop of white opal was carved by the firm of Grimm in Idar-Oberstein, the two drops together, *weighing approximately 34.0 carats*, mounted in 22 to 23K yellow gold with granular decoration and shepherd's hook earwires.

**\$800 - 1,200**

**2143**  
**Pink Opal Cabochon**  
*Andes Mountains, Peru*

The cushion form semi-translucent pink opal cabochon. Ensuete with the previous lot due to its richness in color.

*Weighing approximately 116.0 carats and measuring 44.5 x 33.0 x 10.9 mm*

**\$1,500 - 2,000**

**2144**  
**Two Faceted Australian Crystal Opals**  
*Lightning Ridge, New South Wales, Australia*  
 Although many collectors believe that all light crystal opal originates from Coober Pedy, Lightning Ridge can produce some wonderful colorful examples too. Opal is rarely seen faceted and the two stones offered in this lot are and excellent opportunity to acquire lively gem grade material from this area. The oval-cut opal, *weighing approximately 1.74 carats and measuring 10.0 x 8.2 x 4.0mm*; the marquise-shaped stone, *weighing approximately 1.32 carats and measuring 13.0 x 7.0 x 3.0mm*  
**\$700 - 900**



2139



2140



2141



2142



2143



2144



2145



2146





2145

**Three Pink Opal Hummingbirds on a Cactus**  
*By Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio*

The hummingbirds carved of pink Andean opal hover above a prickly pear cactus carved from Tanzanian ruby-in-zoisite in this enchanting room-sized sculpture. *Height 11in*

**\$2,500 - 3,500**

2146

**Pink Opal Rock Crystal Carving Depicting a Underwater Scene**  
*By Luis Albert Quispe Aparicio*

Carved of pink Andean opal, these charming tropical fish appear to hover amongst sea plants on the ocean floor, mounted with gold vermeil. *Measures 8 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 6in*

**\$3,500 - 5,500**

2147

**Ruby Parrot on a Freeform Pink Opal Branch**  
*By Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio*

A large carving of a parrot rendered in Tanzanian ruby, *weighing approximately 2640 carats*, with pink tourmaline cabochon eyes. The gold vermeil feet rest upon a freeform specimen of pink opal in matrix from the Andes Mountains, its form reminiscent of a branch. *Height 11in*

**\$2,500 - 3,500**



2148

**2148**  
**Large Pink Opal Carving of a Pair of Flamingos**  
*By Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio*

A room-sized display sculpture of monumental proportions, carved from a single large rough of pink opal from the Andes Mountains, the likes of which is now difficult to find in today's market. The pair of flamingos appear to be entwined, and the silhouette of their bodies resembles the form of a heart from a distance. With brass legs, raised on a black granite base. *Height 36in*  
**\$30,000 - 40,000**

## Ethiopia

**2149**  
**Hydrophane Opal with Intense Fire**  
*Wello, Delanta Plateau, Tigray, Ethiopia*

This is an excellent precious opal from the leading local mine found in Wello province, Delanta region, around 2700 ft above sea level and 570 km northwest of the capital city Addis Ababa. Discovered in 2008 gem crystal and hydrophane opal from Wello Ethiopia has recently come to the international market. Mined only by the local farmers who are currently banding together to form small mining cooperatives, the Ethiopian Ministry of Mining and Energy is making efforts to train them on mining safety, polishing, and market conditions.

Mineralogically speaking Wello opal is very different from Australian opal. In composition it may be most similar to Indonesian opal. Australian white opal, which some may superficially think has a similar appearance, is actually formed of silicon spheres stacked one on top of the other, creating a diffraction grating that disperses light entering the opal. The Wello material, on the other hand, has no spheres, but instead possesses a totally different structure altogether. The color display patterns range from rolling holographic orbs and dots to sheet, to flagstone to broadflash, to rolling ribbons and threads and exhibit some wave-like patterns as well.

Wello material is hydrophane opal that is porous—a Wello opal put in water may siphon up the water through capillary action, which usually causes the beautiful neon colors to disappear. Once the opal is taken out of the water and placed on something absorbent, the water will seep out, and the colors make their appearance again as the opal dries.

This oval cabochon exhibits the most desirable qualities of this new find: good translucency, a creamy to white body color and lively broad flash of extensive red, orange, yellow and green to the well-formed dome. The colors are vibrant and a definite 5/5 in terms of brightness.  
*Weighing approximately 16.3 carats and measuring 19.0 x 16.0 x 9.0mm*  
**\$1,200 - 1,500**

**2150**  
**Unique Heart-Shaped Crystal Opal**  
*Wello, Delanta Plateau, Tigray, Ethiopia*

This beautiful crystal opal displays a creamy white body color and a fantastic array of spectral play-of-color in broad flashes. Well-polished, the gem would create a fine pendant or would make a noteworthy addition to an opal collection.

*Weighing approximately 7.42 carats and measuring 14.0 x 15.0 x 7.0mm.*  
**\$1,000 - 1,500**

**2151**  
**Stunning Crystal Opal Bead Necklace**

This impressive single strand necklace of Ethiopian crystal opal comprises 35 gem-quality beads, measuring from 19.5mm at the center and graduating to 8.0mm at the ends. Well-matched for body color, they have an astonishing array of full spectral hues. Such large beads of such fine quality would have taken several years to collect and match making this necklace an especially enticing offering not to be repeated for a long time. Completed by a 14K yellow gold spherical clasp. *Weighing altogether 304 carats. Length 17 1/2 in*  
**\$30,000 - 40,000**





2152



2153



2154

2152

#### Lively Opal Bead Necklace

*Ethiopia*

A single-strand necklace of slightly graduating opal beads, *measuring between 7.0 to 5.0mm and weighing approximately 65.5 carats*, having a bright tangerine orange body color and vivid play-of-color, completed by a silver clasp, *length approximately 19in.*

**\$300 - 350**

**Without Reserve**

2153

#### White Opal and Diamond "Day-Night" Ring

*Ethiopia*

The swivel mount allows this fine stone to be viewed from both sides, hence the name "Day-Night". Set with an oval cabochon white opal having excellent fire, *weighing approximately 8.30 carats*, the border and shoulders set with approximately 0.56 carats of brilliant-cut diamonds, mounted in 14K yellow gold, *size 7.*

**\$4,000 - 5,000**

2154

#### Fine Crystal Opal and Gold Ring

A handsome and substantial ring set with a translucent white opal oval cabochon with large patches of fire in all colors, prong mounted in within a protective collar in a 14K yellow gold ring, stamped 585, and numbered 1144. The mount with open back.

*Total weight approximately 14.1 grams, the opal measuring 15.1 x 13.1 x 6.9mm. Size 9 ¾*

**\$5,000 - 7,000**

2155

#### Black Opal

*Wello, Ethiopia*

From an old find circa 2000, this attractive dark body color oval cabochon opal possesses a full spectral broad flash play-of-color with predominantly red flashes as well as orange, green and blue predominating.

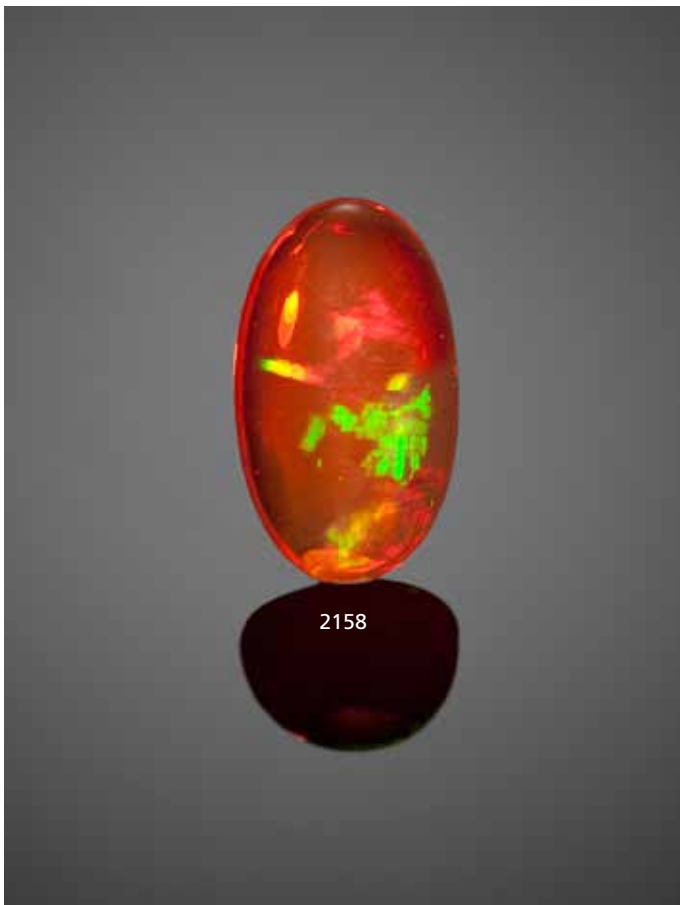
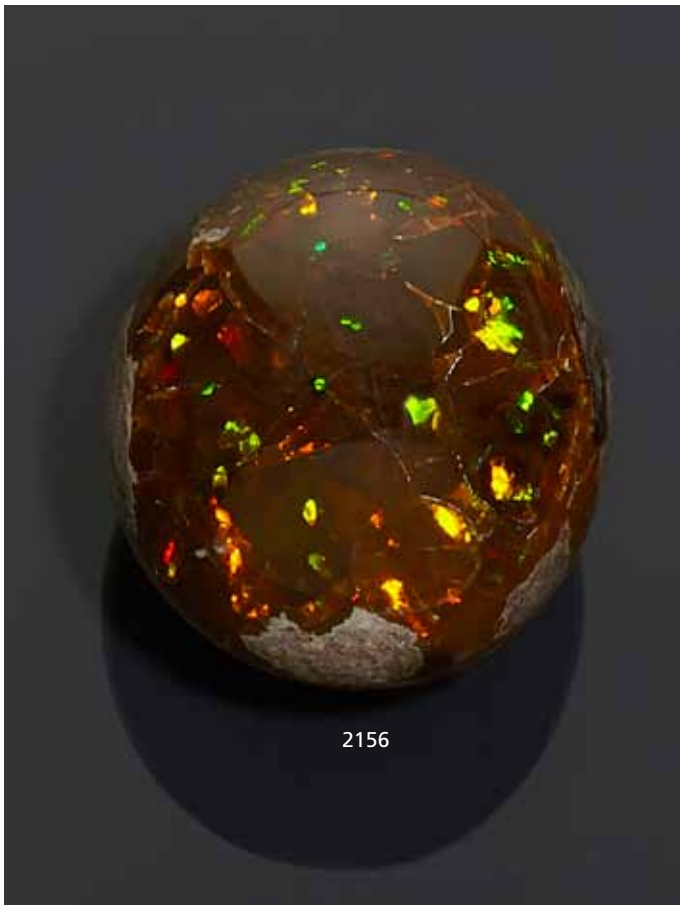
*Weighing approximately 34.0 carats and measuring 25.0 x 19.0 x 11.5mm*

**\$1,500 - 2,000**





2155





2156

#### Opal Sphere

*Ethiopia*

Rarely seen carved into a spherical shape, this opal nodule displays gemmy opal material over at least 1/3 of the surface of its chocolate brown body. The play-of-color is an intense vivid rolling flash of orange, green, yellow and red within the rhyolite matrix. *Weighing approximately 410.0 carats, Diameter 1 1/2 in*  
**\$3,000 - 4,000**

## Mexico

2157

#### Jelly Opal in Matrix and Gold Ring

*Mexico*

This handsome ring centers on a sherry-colored oval cabochon jelly opal in matrix which has incredible fire and liveliness, the red patches of fire edged in green, *measuring approximately 15 x 12 mm*, bezel-set in an open-backed mounting in a 14K yellow gold, *size 8 1/4*  
**\$1,200 - 1,500**

2158

#### Bright Orange Fire Opal

Vibrant orange transparent fire opal with occasional broad flashes of green and red fire. Fashioned as an oval cabochon, polished on all sides. *Weighing approximately 8.17 ct and measuring 19.8 x 11.5 x 6.2 mm.*  
**\$700 - 900**



2159

#### Light Orange Jelly Opal

*Mexico*

In direct light, this transparent light orange polished pear-shaped jelly opal shows flashes of red and green play-of-color. In oblique lighting, however, a sheet of bright red or "ribbon" is revealed, shifting to green or blue depending on the angle of observation. *Weighing approximately 11.73 ct and measuring 16.2 x 13.5 x 10.0 mm.*  
**\$2,000 - 3,000**

2160

#### Jelly Opal "Tree of Life" Brooch/Pendant

Designed in the form of a tree with branches, the "fruit" represented by 11 bezel-set jelly opals of either pear-shaped or oval form. The opals are highly transparent jelly with excellent internal fire in variegated colors. The largest cabochon opal is pear-shaped and *measures approximately 12 x 9 mm*. The bezels for all of the opals are mounted with jump rings to allow them to swing with the movement of the wearer—which adds scintillation to the play-of-color within the opals. *Mounted in 14K yellow gold. Total gross weight 48.1 grams. With integral pendant bail and brooch fitting. Height 2 3/4 in*  
**\$3,000 - 5,000**

2161

#### Deep Orange Jelly Opal

*Mexico*

This is a gem-quality jelly opal worthy of serious consideration: transparent deep slightly reddish orange body color distinguishes it, fashioned as a long rectangular cushion cabochon, polished on all sides. Small patches of green, yellow, and red are visible through the crown of the stone, especially with illumination from the side. *Weighing approximately 12.72 carats and measuring 21.0 x 11.2 x 8.3 mm.*  
**\$8,000 - 10,000**



2162



2163

**2162**  
**Two Faceted Fire Opals**  
*Mexico*

The first, a transparent near-colorless triangular brilliant-cut opal with extensive, well-centered ribbons of green-to-blue fire; it would match well with a Tahitian black pearl with similar orient. This is reminiscent of the material from Jalisco, Mexico. *Weighing approximately 6.07 ct and measuring 15.0 x 14.6 x 8.8 mm.* The second, a semitransparent orange fire opal showing mainly green fire in direct light, but also red and blue fire when lit from the far side, making this a *contra luz* opal. *Contra luz* means "against the light," and refers to opals that show their best fire when lit from behind or from an oblique angle. *Weighing approximately 5.53 ct and measuring 15.3 x 10.6 x 8.3 mm (2)*  
**\$1,800 - 2,200**

**2163**  
**Jelly Opal**  
*Mexico*

Mexican opals from the classic source in Querétaro usually have an orange body color. This transparent opal shows a fabulous play of colors: mostly oranges and greens, but also blues, reds, and violets. The pear-shape cabochon is polished on all sides.  
*Weighing approximately 9.40 ct and measuring 19.5 x 15.0 x 6.5 mm*  
**\$3,000 - 4,000**

**2164**  
**Magnificent Suite of Fire Opals**  
*Mexico*

Suitable for the most discerning collector is this suite of altogether 40 gem fire opals, *each measuring approximately 12.0 x 12.0mm* graduating in color from cherry red at the center, then to vermillion, tangerine and lighter orange, and completed by a single near-colorless opal at the back. Such a collection of opals would have taken years to form. *Weighing a total of approximately 156.6 carats (40)*  
**\$35,000 - 40,000**





2164



**2165**  
**Bright Orange Jelly Opal Tie Pin**

*Mexico*

The gold tie pin designed in the form of a pruned tree trunk, set with a transparent orange pyramidal free-form faceted bright orange jelly opal showing green, yellow and orange internal fire, the stone *measuring approximately 15 mm in height*; uniquely set using pruned gold tree branches as prongs. Mounted in 14K yellow gold. *Total gross weight: 24.0 grams. Length 2 ¼ in)*

**\$3,000 - 4,000**

**2166**  
**Large Fire Opal**

*Brazil*

Expert faceting distinguishes this large oval-cut opal having a checkerboard faceted crown and concave facets to the pavilion. The hue is a bright tangerine orange color and both the clarity and luster are excellent.

*Weighing approximately 41.20 carats and measuring 32.0 x 23.0 x 15.0mm*

**\$1,700 - 2,000**

**2167**  
**Fire Opal Bead Necklace**

*Mexico*

Twelve strands of faceted elongated transparent-to-translucent near colorless to orange to reddish-orange beads, completed by an 18K yellow gold clasp. The color graduates from pale yellow at the clasp to deepest red in the center; the largest opal beads *measure up to about 10 mm in length*. The necklace with clasp, *weighing approximately 593 carats. Length 17 ½ in.*

**\$3,000 - 4,000**

**2168**  
**Contra Luz Opal Carving of a Fish**

*By Ronald Stevens*

*Mexico*

Suitable for mounting as a pendant or to use for cabinet display, this transparent to translucent opal has been carved in fine detail to depict a tropical fish.

*Weighing approximately 34.0 carats and measuring 33.0 x 28.0 x 9.0mm*

**\$600 - 800**

**2169**  
**Fire Opal Carving of Buddha**

*By Ronald Stevens*

*Mexico*

Carved of translucent orange fire opal to depict a happy seated Buddha, of suitable size to create a pendant.

*Weighing approximately 25.5 carats and measuring 23.0 x 21.0 x 9.0mm*

**\$600 - 800**



**2170**  
**Pair of Fire Opals**  
*Mexico*

Cut from the same rough to create a spectacular pair of fire opals, fashioned as a modified mixed-cut shield-shape, this pair would most definitely create a striking pair of earrings.  
*Weighing approximately 9.33 and 9.32 carats, measuring 16.90 x 14.08 x 11.10 mm and 16.82 x 14.29 x 11.05 mm. Together weighing approximately 18.65 carats.*  
**\$5,000 - 7,000**

**2171**  
**Two Fire Opals**  
*Mexico*

Both of bright yellowish-orange hue, the first, *weighing 4.68 carats and measuring 14.11 x 12.02 x 6.84 mm*; the second, *weighing 3.88 carats and measuring 13.07 x 11.10 x 6.90 mm.* (2)  
**\$400 - 600**

**2172**  
**Fine Jelly Opal**  
*Mexico*

A light orange body color and full spectral play-of-color within distinguishes this fine ring-sized stone which has been fashioned as a novel emerald-cut.  
*Weighing approximately 5.5 carats and measuring 12.0 x 10.0 x 7.0mm*  
**\$400 - 600**

**2173**  
**Vivid Fire Opal**  
*Mexico*

A fine gem-quality fire opal fashioned as an oval-cut, having excellent luster and clarity. Fire opals with such a deep reddish color are increasingly difficult to obtain in the present market.  
*Weighing approximately 8.89 carats and measuring 15.90 x 13.49 x 9.40 mm*  
**\$2,000 - 3,000**

Without Reserve



**2174**

***Contra Luz* Fire Opal Cabochon**

*Mexico*

This transparent orange fire opal from Mexico shows indistinct green fire in direct light, but dramatic swaths of primarily red (with green and blue) fire when lit from the far side. *Contra luz* means "against the light," and refers to opals that show their best fire when lit from behind or from an oblique angle.

*Weighing approximately 20.18 ct and measuring 19.1 x 14.0 x 13.5 mm*  
**\$2,500 - 3,500**

**2175**

**Jelly Opal in Matrix Cabochon**

*Mexico*

An oval cabochon mostly comprised of transparent jelly opal on opaque pinkish-tan to brown matrix. Some body-color zoning of the opal is visible in transmitted light. Individual fire patches are visible though a broad range of viewing angles, shifting their colors along the rainbow as the viewing angle changes. Red, orange, yellow and green fire predominates.

*Weighing approximately 11.54 ct and measuring 17.4 x 11.5 x 9.5 mm.*  
**\$1,200 - 1,500**



**2176**

**Enamel and Gemstone Egg Creation with Mexican Fire Opal Brooch in the Interior--"The Mexican Orchid"**

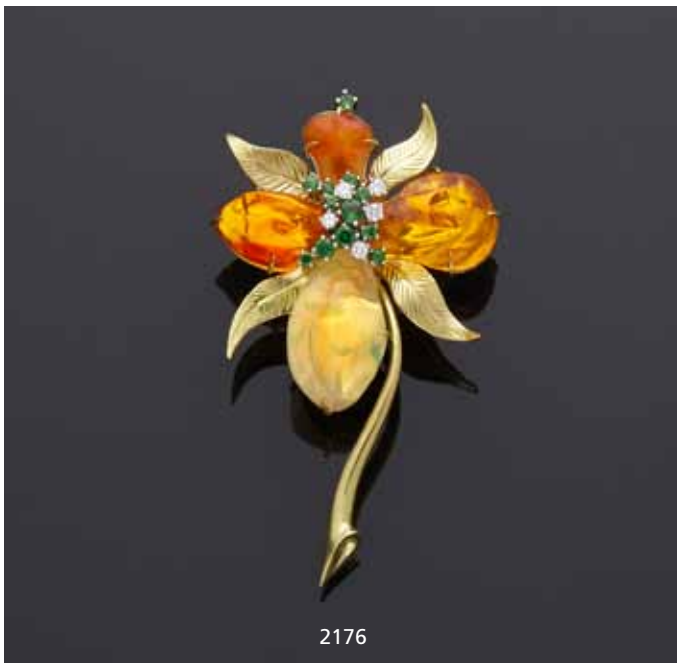
*By Manfred Wild*

*Idar-Oberstein, Germany*

The present offering is one of a series of enameled "Egg Creations" for which Manfred Wild is known. Decorated on the outside with lavish eggplant purple guilloche enamel on silver, above a base fabricated of optically clear rock crystal quartz. The hinged lid and stem rimmed with copious amounts of 18K yellow gold. A Mexican orange jelly opal cabochon, *weighing approximately 1.50 carats*, adorns the top of the egg while a jelly opal in matrix decorates the thumb piece, *weighing approximately 7.78 carats*. The egg rests upon 4 carved milky white agate petals above a stem decorated with four Russian nephrite jade leaves and 18K yellow gold leaves. The egg opens to reveal a removable brooch designed in the form of an orchid mounted with 4 Mexican jelly opals having either colorless or orange body colors, *weighing altogether 27.07 carats*, accented with 12 circular-cut tsavorites and 5 diamonds, *weighing approximately 0.20 carats*. *Total gross weight 702 grams*. *Height of brooch 2 3/4 in. Signed M. Wild and EB for Emil Becker.*

*Height overall: 7in*

**\$70,000 - 80,000**



**End of Sale**





2176

# Artists' Biographies and Index

## Hermann Grimm

The firm of Friedrich Philipp Grimm was founded in Idar-Oberstein in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was renamed as the firm of Hermann Grimm in 1926. The firm is now in its fifth generation and consists of a team of nearly 20 gemstone cutters specializing in custom gemstone carving and working with rare gemstones.

### Lot 2142

## Jenador

Jennifer Benaim works under her artist's pseudonym, Jenador. Her unique story starts in the Outback town of Lightning Ridge, Australia where many a crusty miner hunts for opal.

Quenching his thirst for adventure, her father, Henry, led the way with his wife Dorothy and six children in tow during some harsh times. With her pioneering father, life as a child was just one big adventure, Jennifer warmly recalls. Yet it was Henry's mining knowledge above the ground and not below it that held the key to Jennifer's future. Dad became a gem dealer, regularly traveling to Coober Pedy and White Cliffs. She would often journey with him and come across opal craft, often made by the wives of miners. While browsing during one such trip, small put-together pictures made from scratched pained glass with glistening opal inserts stopped them in their tracks. They realized that the concept could be developed into something special through hard work and diligence. Jennifer (then 17) embarked on a work regime in partnership with her father that extended another two decades until Henry's untimely death. She continues to create the highest quality opal art using an intricate technique of embedding precious stone into the design lines of etched glass, a concept that for one piece of artwork can take six months. She's passionate about placement and takes meticulous care every step of the way, eager to show off the gemstone's brilliant rainbow appeal. The carat weight and the amount of pieces of opal embedded accompany each piece. Jenador's work is exhibited in many galleries and private collections around the world.

### Lot 2020A

## Kenneth Mansergh

1959 a brooch was chosen as a gift to the young Princess Alexandra of Kent to mark her visit to Australia. The piece had been made by a young Sydney jeweler named Kenneth Mansergh.

Shortly after Kenneth developed his design workshop that was to receive many important awards over the coming decades, among them 2 Diamond International Awards, 7 Australian Design Awards and a commission for "The Diamond Rose" to celebrate the opening of the Sydney Opera House.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II was to receive a spectacular piece of Kenneth's creativity when she was presented with a solid gold and diamond replica of the wishing well featuring "Islay" (Queen Victoria's favorite dog) to celebrate the opening of the Queen Victoria Building.

The Commonwealth Government commissioned special items for various heads of state visits including gifts for The Shah of Persia, The President of Burma and The First Lady of the United States: all of these were made by Kenneth Mansergh.

Kenneth freely admits to an insatiable enthusiasm for creating beautiful jewelry notable for their traditional "by hand" craftsmanship.

### Lot 2036

## Nicolai Medvedev

Nicolai was born in 1950 in Ashkhabad, republic of Turkmenia. He was formally trained as an artist in the western European tradition both in art institutes in Ashkhabad and Moscow. His early art was influenced by French Impressionism and he painted in oils creating sunlit landscapes and still lifes. His eye for pattern and color, however, was schooled by daily life in his native Turkmenia, a land of carpets, mosques, and woven textiles. Always fascinated by minerals and gemstones, Medvedev would travel for hours on trains from Moscow to St. Petersburg to admire the massive malachite urns and lapis faced columns of the Hermitage Museum.

In 1980 Nicolai emigrated to the United States. There he exchanged his minerals suspended in linseed oil for the intensity and magic of the minerals themselves, virtually reinventing the tradition of *pietra dura*, or stone inlay, in the process.

Nicolai uses the colors of light - intense greens, golds, blues, pinks, and violets - created in the darkness of the earth's crust. Choice slivers of lapis lazuli, gold in quartz, rhodochrosite, azurite, malachite, sugilite, and opal are cut, polished, and placed in precise and startling juxtaposition to make his signed, one-of-a-kind pendants and boxes. Inspired by the geometric patterns of Turkmenia and the palette of the Impressionists, Medvedev's designs have recently come to assimilate the motifs and colors of the American Southwest, the source of many of his raw materials. Though he has cut thousands of stones, he is still surprised when he slices through a specimen to find the wings of a butterfly, a lotus flower, a night sky, or a gentle Tuscan landscape hidden in the rock. It is that continuing revelation that keeps the artist working in so labor-intensive a medium, inventing forms and frames for nature's own pictures.

The designs for a box almost always begin with an image he sees in a stone, and while the size and shape of the finished piece depend on that central picture, the box itself often suggests another natural form. Nicolai also plays with the solidity of the box, creating the illusion of windows on its surface. The openings can offer a view inward toward a darker, more intense image, but just as often they look into the skies of opal, azurite, or lapis lazuli; and the element of surprise isn't limited to the exterior of the box. The artist often breaks the spatial limits of the box by creating intimate vistas on the interior with "picture" jasper and other stones.

Today Nicolai Medvedev is considered a master lapidary of stone intarsia. He resides in New Jersey, and his boxes and pendants are collected worldwide and his work has been shown in major museums including the National Gem and Mineral Collection at the Smithsonian.

### 2018, 2019, 2020

### Gerd Moser

Born on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1950 in the village of Herrstein near to Idar-Oberstein, Germany. He began his education as a gemstone carver in 1965 and finished as a Master Gemstone carver in 1973. Founding his own company in 1976, together with his wife, Edith Moser and his son Sebastian Moser, they have built a successful and prosperous carving business which still exists today. They create outstanding one-of-a-kind gemstone masterpieces.

Lot 2100

### Sylvia and Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio

Sylvia and Luis Alberto Quispe Aparicio, follow a second-generation family tradition in the fabrication of *objets d'art*. More than 45 years ago, their father Vicente Quispe, originally a hobby mineral collector, turned professional, attended the Munich gem and mineral show and fell in love with carvings from Idar-Oberstein which he saw exhibited there. A few years later he established his own studio in Lima, Peru with the vision of becoming the top South American studio in the art of gemstone carving.

Sylvia, a goldsmith and jewelry designer who studied in Idar-Oberstein, today lives in Zurich where she designs for their studio. Her brother, Luis Alberto, trained in industrial engineering and marketing, is in charge of design work and their studio in Lima. Sylvia and Luis Alberto grew up surrounded by an environment of art work, carvings, sculptures, rough stones, minerals and the artists and master carvers who continuously visited and worked at their family studio. Their own designs are inspired by wildlife and merge sculpting techniques with those of jewelry fabrication. It is their unusual design work that separates them from traditional carving from the Old Continent.

Today their studio specializes mostly in carving ruby. The second hardest stone after diamond, few artists have managed to successfully work this stone since it requires a very advanced technique for both carving and polished involving two or three times as many tools and time. Their works are displayed in museums in the United States and Europe and enjoyed by private collectors around the world.

Lots 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148

### Gerd Schulz

Trained in Pforzheim, Germany, Gerd Schulz has resided for many years in Lightning Ridge and is the local Master Goldsmith. His work has been featured in many items offered in the past in Bonhams auctions and he is an outstanding craftsman.

Lots 2030, 2107

### Rick Southwick

A Sydney, Australia jeweler who was trained in London by a Master Jeweller, Rick is particularly experienced in traditional jewelry making techniques and antique reproduction and has extensive experience working with platinum. He has owned his own custom jewelry firm in Sydney since 1997.

Lot 2090

### Ronald Stevens

Originally from California, Ronald Stevens now owns his own carving *atelier* in Chiang Mai, Thailand where he directs a team of skilled craftsmen. A lapidary himself, he is also a silversmith and jewelry designer. Known especially for his utilization of rare rough material he is inspired by the stone itself allowing it to suggest the form that the eventual sculpture should take. His one-of-a-kind creations all feature rare gems and ornamental stones which he obtains from around the world.

Lots 2116, 2117, 2168, 2169

### Manfred Wild

Born in 1944, Manfred Wild, an eighth-generation gem cutter, is one of the most renowned lapidary artists to emerge from Idar-Oberstein. At the age of twenty, during an apprenticeship with a gemstone merchant, he began his well-rounded educational journey in the areas of fine art, gemstone cutting, engraving and goldsmithing.

Working in a family tradition of stone cutters established in 1630, Manfred Wild is one of the world's most famous creators of "objets d'art." He is best known for his virtuoso work in rare, precious and semi-precious materials carved as perfume bottles, animals, whimsical figures, flower studies, enameled eggs with concealed "surprises", cameos, chalices and *objets de fantaisie* made of precious stones, gold and silver.

It is helpful, of course, to understand Wild's work within the greater context of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Decorative and Jewelry Arts. In addition to the influence of his own family and town, Mr. Wild follows the traditions established by René Lalique and Peter Carl Fabergé (Russian jeweler, 1846-1920) and a great number of parallels can be seen in their work. Fabergé had begun a new era in the Jewelry Arts. Prior to him, many jewelers felt the value of jewelry was intrinsic, based upon the stones (particularly diamonds) and precious metals. The artistic creativity and superior craftsmanship introduced by Fabergé made such objects transcend their "break value". Fabergé also used a number of decorative techniques attributable to French 18<sup>th</sup> Century goldsmiths, e.g. the art of *guilloché*, a surface treatment of metal that could make wavy lines or striations in the design, either performed by machine or by hand. Atop the *guilloché* decoration was a translucent enameling that required the application of several coats and the "firing" of the object in an oven after each layer, a very labor-intensive technique. The limited palette of enamels used in the nineteenth century was expanded upon by Fabergé who, after much experimentation, arrived at over 140 shades. He also used natural stones often found in his local area or native to Russia, e.g. jasper, agate, bowenite, nephrite. Often his use of precious stones, including sapphires, rubies and emeralds was in an understated way, only for accents, and even then were used en cabochon. Diamonds, if used, were typically rose-cut. So many of the aforementioned decorative elements are seen the work of Wild even as they appear in the examples on these pages. When India Early Minshall, a wealthy collector of Fabergé purchased an egg in 1944, she stated, "Fabergé was called the Benvenuto Cellini of the North, but I do not think any jeweler can ever be compared to him"—She could not know that someday the work of Manfred Wild would rival the work of the great Russian jeweler.....

Mr. Wild's works are displayed in museums throughout the world including: The German Gemstone Museum in Idar-Oberstein, The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., The Harvard Museum in Boston, The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh and The Iksan Jewellery Museum in Korea, as well as extensive private collections in Japan, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States of America.

Lots 2056, 2176

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