

FACETS OF JEWELS BY DESIGN

Celebrating our 20th year of fine jewellery design

a periodic newsletter for clients of Llyn L. Strelau JEWELS BY DESIGN Ltd.



Unique baroque black Pearl inspired Mr. Potato Head!

Pearls: Whether they are natural or cultured, fresh or saltwater, round or baroque, white, cream or coloured, Pearls draw our eye and caress our skin like no other gem.

Of particular interest to us this month are South Sea Pearls – saltwater Pearls found in the area extending from Burma down to Australia and across to French Polynesia.

Several species of oyster are farmed to produce South Sea Pearls. Large white and gold-toned Pearls come from three sub-species of the *Pinctada maxima* oyster (white, silver and gold-lip). Black Pearls come from the *Pinctada margaritifera* (black-lip) oyster that yields gorgeous gems from pale grey to solid black. Fine white Australian South Sea Pearls and Burmese golden Pearls command high prices. Recent growth in Pearl farming in Tahiti, the Cook Islands, Indonesia and the Philippines has increased the supply of these beauties.

Choosing the Right South Sea Pearl: The criteria used to grade Pearls are *colour, lustre, symmetry, texture and size.*



Gold, peacock, aubergine, white, bronze, turquoise and flyingwing are some of the rainbow colours of South Sea Pearls.

Colour: With Pearls two factors work in concert. One is the *body colour*, the predominant base tone of the Pearl, which can range from white to black or shades of pale cream to intense golden yellow. The other is *orient* or *overtone*, the iridescent oil-on-water effect created by light entering and refracting through the surface layers of the Pearl.

In the finest black and golden South Sea Pearls this orient provides a symphony of colour. The overtone may be green or copper, plum, pink, bronze or blue or a subtle combination of several shades. White South Sea Pearls typically exhibit a subtler orient. It

is a good idea to hold a pearl to your skin to see if the Pearl's 'skin' is simpatico with your own complexion. There is a perfect colour for everyone.



High Lustre black Pearl with sharp reflection.

Lustre: a telling feature and perhaps the most important quality factor. It is an indication of the thickness and quality of the nacre or mother of pearl. Viewing a selection of Pearls under a bright incandescent light bulb will show a sharp and clear reflection if the Pearl is of high quality. As the grade of Pearl diminishes the



Typical soft lustre of white South Sea Pearl.

EVENT CALENDAR

MAY

South Sea Pearls

Emeralds & Fancy Yellow Diamonds

Please call for an individual Appointment

Saturday, May 8 10:30 - 5:30

Come alone or bring your friends

JUNE

This month our focus is on COLOUR. Our special guest is the second generation of one of Canada's premier coloured gemstone suppliers. He will be showing a wide variety of beautiful coloured gemstones: fine Ruby and Emeralds, a rainbow of Sapphires, Garnets and Tourmalines and even a selection of collectors' gemstones.

JULY & AUGUST Watch for details of our summer plans in the June edition of FACETS.

EMERALD LORE: From the depths of Columbia and Africa comes the flash of green fire that is the birth stone for May. The ancients worshipped it; the Spaniards killed for it; the Elizabethans traded with it. Emerald was believed to be a symbol of immortality, beneficial to eyesight and an antidote to poison. It could reveal trust and foreshadow events. The lively colour of this green Beryl is the ultimate evocation of the fresh growth of Spring.



Elevated Green - by Bayot Heer
Award-winning ring featuring a 1.69 carat Colombian Emerald

Smooth, Shapely, Lustrous, Colourful, Compelling

SOUTH SEA PEARLS



reflection of the lamp will appear softer and more muted. White South Sea Pearls are an exception – their lustre is typically softer with an ephemeral, misty sort of beauty.



Drop-shape Baroque strand with 'rings'



'Keshi' Pearls non-nucleated Baroque Pearls in necklace with green Sapphires



Three rings with round black Pearls combined with coloured gemstones



Superb Black Pearl strand exhibiting very high lustre, consistent size and body colour but many different shades of orient

Symmetry: In the marketplace, round Pearls are the most desired, followed by pear, oval and button shapes. All other forms are considered baroque (irregular in shape). Circled (ringed) Pearls can be more casual to wear, while a baroque Pearl may inspire a whimsical sculptural jewel.

Texture: A Pearl's surface may be smooth, bumpy or textured. A baroque Pearl can exhibit a pronounced multi-colour iridescence that is most attractive. Pearls tend to have slight imperfections visible somewhere on the skin of the pearl; the issue is how much they disturb the eye. Connoisseurs are concerned with how the Pearl will 'face-up', that is, will the imperfections be visible when set? A ring setting, viewed at close range, would demand an unmarked gem while small blemishes could be acceptable for earrings, pendants or a full strand since marks will not be obtrusive when worn.

Size: The type of parent oyster, the size of the implanted bead, and the time taken for growth determines the size of a Pearl. South Sea oysters can grow quite large and are able to produce gems

ranging from under eight to over twenty millimetres in diameter. Rarity and value increase with the size of the Pearl.

When purchasing a strand of Pearls consider how well all the Pearls in the necklace are matched both in size and colour. Pearl strands are often graduated in size. One that has a pronounced gradation in size with many smaller Pearls and only a few larger ones at the front will be less expensive than a strand with only a subtle change in sizes or one in which all the pearls are the same diameter. In recent years beautiful multi-colour strands have been available. Less expensive than a perfectly colour-matched necklace, they are versatile to wear and perfect for more casual wear.

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet our Pearl Expert this month who can share with you the fascinating components of this Queen of Gems. We have an extensive stock at Jewels by Design, but your opportunity for choice will be vastly extended during this visit. We look forward to seeing you.



Two multi-colour strands one Baroque and one Round

MAY Treasures of Ocean and Earth

Just in time for Mother's Day our special guest is sharing a superb selection of the finest South Sea Pearls with us. Take this opportunity to view and compare a much larger collection of Pearls and see for yourself the variations in body colour and orient, symmetry, shape and texture as you become a connoisseur of Pearls.

Our supplier's recent foray into fine Colombian Emeralds is perfect for the month of May. Celebrate Spring!

To complement the fine Pearls and Emeralds we will be fortunate to have a collection of natural Fancy colour Yellow Diamonds. From soft primrose tones to vivid Canary yellow these gems will dazzle the eye.

We will also feature a collection of Fancy-cut white Diamonds. These unusual matched pairs of tapered baguettes, kite-shape, half-moon and trapezoid cuts are perfect for side stones to set with a larger central gem.

We are booking appointments during the day on **Saturday May 8th** to allow you to appreciate these fine gems in a peaceful atmosphere. Come alone or bring a small group of friends if you would like to share the experience.

Our website: www.jewelsbydesign.com is frequently updated for your enjoyment and shopping convenience. Current and back issues of this newsletter **FACTETS** are on our website. Please send us your email address. We will direct publications to you via the Internet or send you a reminder to check the website.

