

DIAMOND DISTRICT MONTHLY



AVI FERTIG NAMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF 47TH STREET DIAMOND DISTRICT BID

Avi Fertig was named this month as the new Executive Director of the 47th Street Diamond District BID.

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ASYMMETRY THE TREND FOR 2018

By Edit Simon, Edit Simon Jewelry Design

Looking into the rear-view mirror, this year's trends in jewelry were defined by contradicting the commonplace mantras of "less is more" and "beauty is symmetry". Layering mismatched chains of various lengths with more and more intricate statement pendants have urged for an exhibitionistic and splashier look, while the surge of asymmetry has seen the previous requirement of total uniformity boycotted.

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diamonddistrict.org

AVI FERTIG NAMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF 47TH STREET DIAMOND DISTRICT BID



Mr. Fertig, who most recently served as Special Assistant to New York State Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, said of his appointment, "I'm very enthusiastic about my new role as executive director of the 47th Street Diamond District BID. This is an exciting time for business in New York City, and here at New York's Diamond District, we have a front row seat to the many new challenges and future opportunities found daily in the world's greatest city."

Mr. Fertig brings an accomplished career in small business outreach, communications and government relations to his new position. In his previous role as Special Assistant to Senate Majority Leader John

Flanagan, Mr. Fertig helped advanced the state Senate majority's legislative agenda by cultivating relationships with various communities throughout New York State, and as a Senate majority liaison to the New York City Council.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute to the energy and dynamism of the thousands of men and women who work and thrive in this celebrated business community," said Mr. Fertig.

"I consider it such a privilege to be selected to lead an organization that serves the over 2600 independent businesses within the 47th Street Diamond District—which ranks among Manhattan's most renowned city blocks and is certainly one of the world's most well-known," he continued.

Prior to joining the Senate majority office, Mr. Fertig was the communications director to New York State Senator Simcha Felder, a legislative aide to the Hempstead Town Board, Director of Community Affairs for the Nassau County Legislature, and deputy press secretary for New York City Councilman Noach Dear.

In addition to his years with local and state government, Mr. Fertig spent over a decade specializing in business marketing and public relations at the communications firm he founded, after working as a corporate marketing director, and an advertising copywriter.

Mr. Fertig is a graduate of Brooklyn College with a degree in psychology and lives in Woodmere with his wife and four children.

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IN THE NEWS

Read about the meteoric rise of young jewelry entrepreneur

Adina Kamkhatchi which appeared on CNN Business on October 18th by Parija Kavilanz. *"Four years ago, she was a college freshman. Today, she has a multimillion dollar jewelry company."* edition.cnn.com/2018/10/18/success/adinas-jewels-startup/index.html

Susan Taylor and Barbara Lewis reported in Reuters on

October 18th that De Beers' synthetic diamond operation, Element Six, was expanding its efforts to high-tech markets in quantum computing. To that end, De Beers is building a \$94 million factory in Portland, Oregon. Since synthetic diamonds can withstand extreme conditions that silicon cannot, their use in advanced laser, and thermal and water applications is being explored.

Continuing a trend started over the last few years, the number

of jewelry business in the U.S. declined by 4.7 percent in the third quarter as businesses continue to leave the industry. The decline was reported by the Jewelers Board of Trade (JBT) on October 21st in Rapaport News.

Sotheby's managed to reach their highest total for a Fine Jewels

auction when its most recent sale totaled \$11 million, when 76

percent of lots sold. As reported by Rapaport News on October 22nd, the total can be attributed to the sale of a lozenge-sized, 10.68- carat Columbian emerald with a diamond on each side. The emerald went for \$1.2 million, more than double its original estimate.

Read about The Most Iconic Jewelry Pieces in Movies," in

Ricardo Minesotor's piece, which appeared in Entertainment on October 22nd: foreignpolicyi.org/the-most-iconic-jewelry-pieces-in-movies/

On October 23rd Rapaport News reported that brand

management company, Authentic Brands Group (ABG), which owns the Marilyn Monroe estate, purchased the trademark rights to the song "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" from Nirav Modi, the Indian tycoon who filed for Chapter 11 in February.

In October, Rapaport reported that Christie's will auction the

24-carat diamond necklace Marilyn Monroe wore in the 1953 movie, "Gentlemen Prefer Blonds," and sang that song. The auction will convene in Hong Kong on November 27th.

David Brough of Rapaport News reported on October 23rd that the World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) voted unanimously to work with other groups and consult with the FTC in the U.S. about the widely debated diamond terminology.

Delegates of the CIBJO gathered in Bogota, Columbia between October 15th and 17th and issued a resolution stating, "[Delegates] support the proposal that CIBJO works alongside other industry organizations engaging with the US FTC regarding the newly issued guidelines."

Despite the revised guidelines released this past summer by the FTC removing the word "natural" from the definition of a diamond, the CIBJO did not make any plans to change the language in their Blue Book of standards.

In addressing the issue CIBJO President Gaetano Cavalieri said in his address to delegates, *"Our objective is not to alienate the producers of such materials, but rather to welcome them into our community. At the same time, we seek to protect the established diamond industry, and in particular their stakeholders in developing countries, for whom diamond mining is a source of livelihood and economic opportunity."*

Citing its unfairness to vendors who provided Sears

with merchandise on consignment, Rose Blue and Vijay Gold

filed objections to Sears' plans to liquidate 142 stores as part of its Chapter 11 process.

As reported on October 23rd by Robert Bates in JCK, Rose Blue and Vijay Gold cited the bankruptcy of Whitehall Jewelers in 2008 in their filing. A judge blocked plans by Whitehall to sell its consigned merchandise unless it could provide protection to, or show assent by vendors.

It was later reported in Rapaport News on October 31st that a court ordered Sears to pay suppliers for consignment goods its consumers purchased during the closing down sales offered by Sears as it prepares for bankruptcy.

On October 23rd in Forbes, Anthony DeMarco reported that Faberge and Rolls-Royce together created a bejeweled egg.

Stating the egg, "celebrates the history, heritage and legend for which both Rolls-Royce and Faberge have been revered over more than a century," it was unveiled at the Rolls-Royce headquarters in Goodwood, West Sussex, England.

The egg is only the second once since 1917 to receive the designation "Imperial Class," which means it was styled in the same way as the original 50 Imperial Easter Eggs created between 1885 and 1917. 40 of the eggs were produced during the reign of Nicholas II who was said to be a patron of Rolls-Royce.

Ashley Davis reported on October 24th in the National Jeweler that surveyed consumers demonstrated more interest in brick and mortar shopping for the upcoming holiday season. In poll conducted by the NPD Group, 6 out of 10 people said they would do some of their shopping in-store, a 3 percent increase from last year.



Alrosa Pilots GIA's M2M Program

CARLSBAD, Calif. – Oct. 25, 2018

– GIA (Gemological Institute of America) announced today that Alrosa, the world's largest producer of rough diamonds, is piloting the Institute's M2M program.

"The M2M program is a way to share with the consumer the story of our diamonds," said Sergey Ivanov, CEO of Alrosa. "The creation of tracing systems is an important step in confirming diamond provenance, which will have benefits for industry participants, retailers and ultimately retail consumers. Alrosa is examining different tracing solutions available on the market to provide consumers with supreme confidence and knowledge."

Consumers are exhibiting greater interest in the origin of the diamonds they purchase. The M2M program allows the retailer, and ultimately the consumer, to trace the journey

of a diamond, adding to its story at each point along the value chain. The M2M program allows for the individual characteristics of a polished stone, and its unique journey, to be shared with consumers using a mobile application, together with traditional diamond grading reports.

"We are very pleased to welcome Alrosa to the M2M program," said Tom Moses, GIA executive vice president and chief laboratory and research officer. "Dozens of retailers and several manufacturers are signed up, and we continue to engage other diamond producers as part of the initiative."

M2M is a digital platform that brings together GIA's unique ability to scientifically match rough diamonds to the resulting polished gems with information from each step in the value chain that tells the compelling story of a diamond's journey. Having completed an earlier pilot phase of the program, GIA has processed thousands of rough diamonds ranging from one carat up to more than 100 carats.

For GIA press inquiries, please contact Nellie Barnett at nbarnett@gia.edu or +1 760-603-4184.

For Alrosa press inquiries, please contact Jane Kozenko at kozenkoen@alrosa.ru or +7 925 003-31-03

About Alrosa

Alrosa is Russia's largest diamond mining company, accounting for 27% of global diamond mining and 95% Russian diamond mining. It mined 39.6 million carats

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of rough diamond in 2017. Alrosa was the largest diamond producer by volume and second largest by revenue in 2017. The company operates in two regions of the Russian Federation — the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Arkhangelsk Region.

About GIA

An independent nonprofit organization, GIA (Gemological Institute of America), established in 1931, is recognized as the world's foremost authority in gemology. GIA invented the famous 4Cs of Color, Clarity, Cut and Carat Weight and, in 1953, created the International Diamond Grading System™ which is recognized around the world as the standard for diamond quality.

Through research, education, gemological laboratory services and instrument development, the Institute is dedicated to ensuring the public trust in gems and jewelry by upholding the highest standards of integrity, academics, science and professionalism. Visit GIA.edu.

- ◆ **“Gem professionals from Sotheby's, Christie's, Phillips, and Bonhams reveal the season's must-have pieces”** in this October 26th Robb Report article by Rebekah Bell: robbreport.com/style/jewelry/most-important-jewelry-at-auction-right-now-2824905/
- ◆ Blue Diamonds will lead the way at Sotheby's November 15th auction in Geneva –this according to an October 31st piece in Rapaport News.

A rectangular, 5.04 carat, fancy-vivid-blue diamond ring estimated between \$9 million to \$12 million will be among three

blue diamonds featured at the Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels Sale.

- ◆ Gemfields unearthed a 5,655-carat emerald at its Kagan mine in Zambia, reported Rapaport News on October 31st.

The stone was named Inkalmu, or Lion Emerald, by Gemfields. The name is meant to honor Gemfields' two conservation partners – The Zambian Carnivore Programme and the Niassa Carnivore Project. The piece will be sold at auction in November in Singapore, and 10 percent of the proceeds will be donated to those two groups.

- ◆ On November 1st Rapaport News reported that the major U.S. retailers, such as J.C. Penney, Macy's and Jewelry Television (JTV), were fully embracing the movement toward synthetic diamonds and expected strong growth in their sales particularly as the holiday season approaches.

Pam Mortensen, J.C. Penney's Senior Vice President of Merchandising, told Rapaport News of their synthetic line, Grown with Love, “By bringing Grown with Love into the J.C. Penney fine-jewelry department, we are filling a void in our assortment for lab-grown diamonds. These unique diamonds are growing in popularity, and by offering [the consumer] this option for bridal jewelry, we are appealing to a new customer base.”

- ◆ **Inside the Enduring Mystery of What Happened to Russia's Imperial Jewelry** – read Town & Country November 1st article by Stellene Volandes to take a look inside the Romanov jewelry cat-

alogues - www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a24186546/romanov-jewelry-catalogues-russia-does-not-want-you-to-see/

- ◆ **“This Jewelry Collector Will Share Dozens of Diamonds, but Not His or Her Name.”** See the jewelry of an anonymous “private American collector,” in the exhibition, “*Through the Eyes of a Connoisseur*” which is on view at the New York branch of L'Ecole, School of the Jewelry Arts and featured on November 1st in W Magazine - www.wmagazine.com/gallery/through-the-eyes-connoisseur-jewelry-exhibit

- ◆ A 109-carat sapphire necklace could set a new auction world record when it comes up for auction at Christie's Hong Kong sale on November 27th, this according to Rapaport News on November 5th. The Kashmir sapphire will headline the Magnificent Jewels auction and is estimated at \$12 million to \$15 million. The auction will also feature a 10-carat, Burmese pigeon's blood ruby and diamond ring estimated at \$6.9 million to \$8.7 million. The same auction will also have the Moon of Baroda necklace worn by Marilyn Monroe in 1953 for the premiere of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*.

- ◆ **“Diamond traders seek export credit limits in dollars,” reports Ram Sahgal of Economic Times:** economic-times.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/diamond-traders-look-for-export-credit-limits-in-dollars/article-show/66504903.cms.

ASYMMETRY THE TREND FOR 2018

By Edit Simon, Edit Simon Jewelry Design

The return of yellow gold and large enameled pieces are reminiscent of the 80s, and the recent revival of brooches in contemporary jewelry brought back another dynamic way to enhance your look with what previously felt like dusty heirlooms from a bygone era. While we turned away from color for a while, both fine and fashion jewelry is now abundant with splashes of colour.

Pearls have also been recently “rediscovered”, with single pearls as pendants now adorning all types of jewelry. The history of using pearls in jewelry is a timeless one, quite possibly considered the oldest gem. In fine jewelry, saltwater pearls have been held in the highest regard, but depending on quality can be expensive, especially when it comes to full strands. Freshwater pearls have become more popular to use in fine jewelry, as their quality has improved while having a lower price-tag than their saltwater counterparts. The newer usage of single pearls as an add-on allows you to wear this beautiful gem at a friendlier price.

Yellow gold layered necklaces have become a staple of this year, defined by shorter chains which fit snugly around the

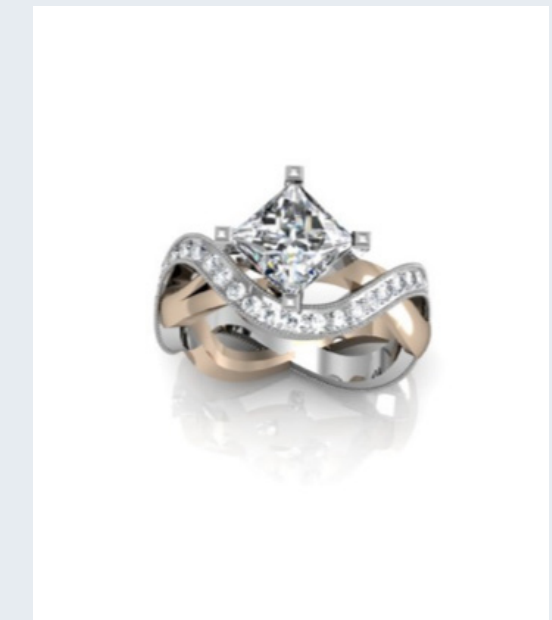
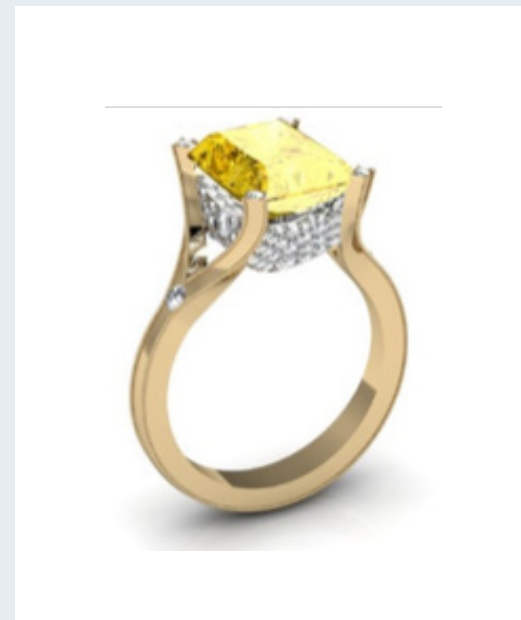
neck and flow down into a multitude of chains with varying lengths. Besides its chic aesthetic, this design allows the wearer to customize and add their own personal flare.

Although many designers offer ready-made sets, layering has quickly become a styling art form, adopted by tastemakers as a sport. From mixing-and-matching chains, using vintage coins as statement pieces and adding ever-more extravagant and creative pieces to your décolletage, this trend can be used to serve as a style public service announcement that, at least for the time being, “more is more”. But layering does not just stop at the neck, it is also very popular in stacking bracelets and rings to achieve a similar look.

We have been told that “beauty is symmetry”, but 2018 turned this philosophy on its head. This year saw dramatic asymmetry embraced by both the jewelry and fashion cosmos alike. In the fashion world it manifested itself with dramatically angled cuts, uneven necklines and mismatched textures. Jewelry saw the same shift into a mashup of contrasting colours, shapes and angles. This trend translates especially well into earrings, with mismatched designs including different lengths, sizes or color stones being used. Inverted chandelier earrings, or a simple setting contrasted by a hanging bouquet of similar colored stones for a sense of cohesiveness have become a fan favorite.

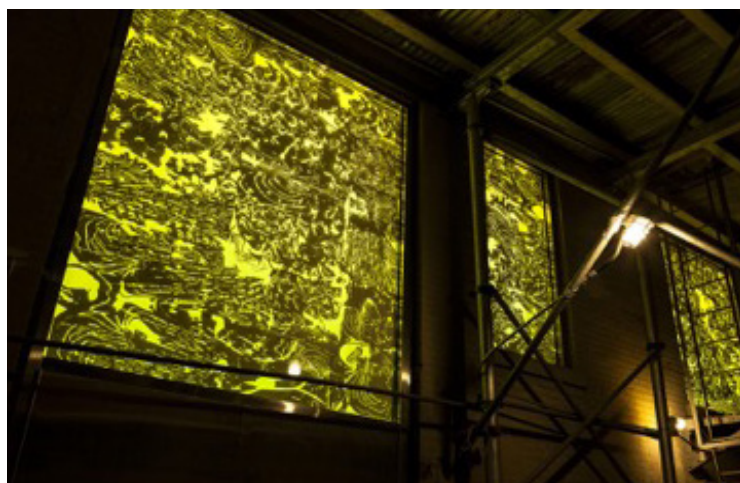
This style can even be seen in the renaissance of the brooch, with sharp angles and misaligned stones of the same ilk to still provide a sense of unity.

This shift of asymmetry in jewelry seems to represent a draw to the imperfect – a subtle rebellion against the status quo, and a statement of being unapologetically yourself. These designs offer a kind of off-kilter visual harmony which both soothes and evokes curiosity.



ChaShaMa

THE WINDOW ART TO ADORN THE UNUSED BUILDINGS ON 47TH STREET



Ann Tarantino

Jump Cuts will be doing an installation of opaque and translucent vinyl applied directly to the Diamond District windows. The work takes inspiration from striations seen in cross-sections of the landscape, rendered here in vibrant color. Strips of vinyl are cut and applied to each window, in alternating colors and variations of transparency and opacity. As each strip overlaps the next, it creates a new color and a sense of increasing depth. The project is equally a vibrant, colorful abstraction and a riff on how landscapes are visualized and understood. This work is suitable for publics of all ages. If lit from behind, it has the potential to cast colored shadows on the street, but lighting is not a requirement for the work. It is simple and straightforward to install and can be readily deinstalled. Jump Cuts promises passers-by a beacon of light and color to bright even the gloomiest day.



Jisook Kim

The works that I'm going to exhibit in the window space are mainly installations. The abstract form of the three - dimensional works will be installed hanging from the ceiling, hanging on the wall and placed on the floor.

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Lower East Side Girls Club

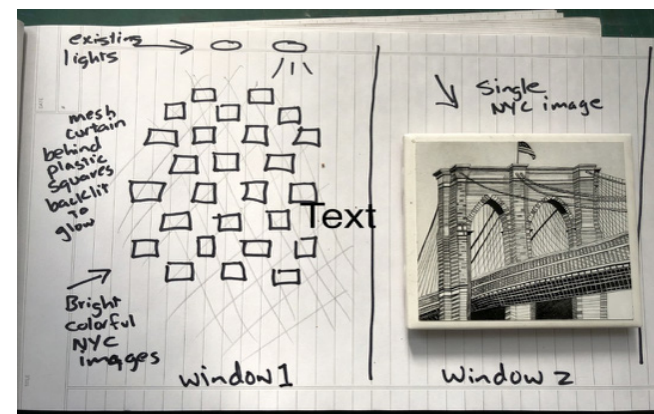
The Lower EastSide Girls Club (LESGC) will create installations that are about environmental awareness. Shown below are examples of their work from the Governors Island art fair. It was there that they exhibited Kevin McHugh’s disco shark, in their ‘under the sea’ themed installation. McHugh is known for donating his work (covered in Swarovski crystals) to environmental groups. Similarly, themed installations will take place in the Diamond District space.



Alicia Degener

Will be creating a curtain of 6” translucent plastic squares with colorful imagery of my paintings of bridges, Brownstones and Coney Island mounted on each square. These squares will be toggled together to form a quilted curtain. The translucent curtain will have mesh fabric behind as well as lighting so the images appear to be glowing. The curtain can be multiple panels at various distances from the back wall to create depth. The overhead lights in the existing

windows may be used or I will install lighting to create glowing effect. The plastic curtain of individual images can be alternated in the windows with large impactful prints of a single image such as the Brooklyn Bridge. The sidewalk is not very wide in front of the building so I believe the small colorful images can easily be appreciated by people passing by with their whimsical and iconic NYC imagery. The large image of the Brooklyn Bridge is B + W which is a nice juxtaposition to the small colored images and will be impactful from across the street and draw viewers in. The B+ W bridge was a 6’ mural I did in a wine shop so I included a photo of it to show how dramatic it is.



MADE IN THE USA UPDATE

Tiffany Stevens, Esq. President & CEO Jeweler's Vigilance Committee



Do you want to call your jewelry “Made in the USA”. Well, you probably can’t. But that might change in the near future.

To make an unqualified Made in USA claim, your product must be “all or virtually all” made in the U.S. and you must have

proof to support that claim before saying it on products, on packaging, or in advertising. According to the Enforcement Policy Statement from the Federal Trade Commission, “all or virtually all” means that all significant parts and processing that go into the product must be of U.S. origin. The product should contain no – or negligible – foreign content.

It’s unfortunately really difficult to substantiate the claim ‘Made in the USA’ for most precious metals and precious gemstones due to the reality of supply chain logistics. Much of the precious metal used in jewelry making is recycled, so it’s virtually impossible to tell where the metal was originally unearthed. Many gemstones face the same logistical challenges, especially diamonds. The only active U.S. diamond mine, in the Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro, Arkansas, is not commercial. And since so much of the value in a piece of precious-metal or gem-set jewelry resides in the materials, both the metal and the gems qualify as “significant” parts.

Before making any objective representation, including a Made in USA claim, manufacturers or marketers must have a “reasonable basis” to support the claim. In the Made in USA context, that means you need competent and reliable evidence that all or virtually all of the product is made in the United States.

Another important consideration is that advertisers can convey claims to consumers expressly and by implication. Be wary of making a claim this way. Depending on the context, U.S. symbols or geographic references (for example, U.S. flags, outlines of U.S. maps, or references to U.S. locations of headquarters or factories) may convey a Made in USA claim either by themselves or in conjunction with other phrases or images. Implying a false Made in USA claim is just as illegal as making a false claim flat-out, so exercise caution. The issue has taken on a renewed emphasis in the current political climate, with U.S. manufacturing a vital debate topic, and the federal government engaging in trade brinkmanship to discourage companies from outsourcing jobs to other countries. Significant efforts are being made by industry to educate those in government on this very important issue to our industry and there is optimism on changes coming to us.

But until the FTC guidelines change, jewelry designers and manufacturers still must abide by them. If you don’t, what could happen? Several things could happen, including being sued by a competitor, or civil enforcement from the FTC, which will start with a request to fully review your books and records. If found in violation, the company would most likely be fined and required to do corrective advertising.

If you want to minimize their risk as much as possible, the first step is to become familiar with qualifiers that refer to the fact that not all materials in their jewelry originated in the U.S. Options include “Made in the USA from the world’s finest materials,” “Assembled in the USA,” “Designed in the USA,” and “Assembled in the USA from exotic materials from around the world.” Apple does this well: Since the company makes its iPhones, iMacs, and other products in China, it uses “Designed by Apple in California” labels.

BRINGING THE BLOCKCHAIN TO CONSUMERS

By Russel Shor, GIA Senior Industry Analyst



Supply chain integrity is a major issue today as consumers seek more assurances that they are getting what is advertised – responsibly-sourced products, free of undisclosed laboratory or lower quality substitutes, and with the color and clarity they paid for. Many think that the blockchain is the way to deliver that assurance.

Chow Tai Fook and GIA recently collaborated to provide the first consumer-facing blockchain application for its T MARK brand diamonds. In addition to seeing the diamond’s journey through the supply chain, they have access to a secure digital GIA diamond grading

report – all available on the T MARK mobile phone app. The grading report is secured in a tamper-proof blockchain ledger with all of the 4Cs information contained in the GIA report.

While the T MARK program recently launched in several of Chow Tai Fook’s retail outlets in Hong Kong, it has already listed more than 3,000 diamonds on the blockchain ledger.

When a customer buys a T MARK-branded diamond, the GIA grading report is registered to them and recorded on the blockchain ledger shared between Chow Tai Fook and GIA. The T MARK app also provides information such as the diamond’s country of origin and where it was cut and polished, as well as details of its design and setting.

The T MARK diamonds with blockchain-secured GIA digital diamond grading reports will be introduced into additional Chow Tai Fook stores in Hong Kong in the next several months.

The program is the first time GIA’s grading reports have been available in a digital format, secured by blockchain technology.

CRIME NEWS



On October 18th in Gulf News, Dubai, it was reported by Bassam Za'za' that a security guard was jailed for stealing a 9.33 carat diamond worth Dh73 million from the vault of a Dubai-based money transfer company. The diamond belonged to a U.S.-based jewelry retailer.

The burglar broke through three security gates to get to the company's vault at the Dubai International Airport, and was caught on CCTV. The burglar stole the diamond and placed it in a box that he later gave to a relative. The relative was able to smuggle the stone out of the UAE in a shoebox through a cargo company. The security guard was sentenced to 5 years in jail, but the relative has not been apprehended and the diamond is still missing.

As described by a police sergeant to the Gulf News, "On the day, he went to work wearing a jacket. He said he removed the diamond from its special bag and hid it in a special box that he hid under his jacket, and then left work. He replaced the diamond's box with another empty one so that nobody would recognize it, and then he went to the fugitive's house in Hor Al Anz where they put the diamond in a special shoe and consigned it along with some clothes. When his employer contacted him after the heist had been discovered, the other runaway defendant headed to the airport immediately and travelled out."

On October 21st Chris Perez for the New York Post reported that a man using fake credit cards was caught on camera outside the William Vale hotel in Williamsburg using the swanky jewelry dispenser. Though police did not say how much was purchased by the man, but items in the machine range in cost between \$165 and \$1,588. The dispenser was placed outside the hotel after it was unveiled at the Brooklyn Museum in November 2017.

WTOC-11 reporter Harley Strickland reported on October 22nd that when a Savannah, Georgia woman opened her package from Amazon she found a box with \$75,000 worth of jewelry inside addressed to JC Penny. After she was unable to reach anyone at JC Penny she called her local police. The box had close to 200 pieces of

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jewelry inside, including a \$7,500, 3-carat diamond ring. The box appeared to have been tampered with, and the police are currently investigating delivery companies to get to the bottom of it.

Matzav.com reported on October 25th that a man stole \$100,000 worth of bracelets from the Rafaello & Co. jewelry store on West 47th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

The July 30th theft started when a man was captured on video standing by a bracelet display. He looked around, and sensing that no one was watching, grabbed 19 bracelets and calmly walked out of the store. The police are trying to identify the man.

On October 30th it was reported on WNYTV that a jewelry store located at Watertown's Salmon Run Mall was being sued by New York State for defrauding soldiers. Harris Jewelry is accused by Attorney General Barbara Underwood of conning active-duty service members to entering illegal contracts for "vastly overpriced jewelry."

Attorney General Underwood said, "As we allege, Harris Jewelry used service members as pawns in a predatory scheme."

The scheme begins by getting services members to visit Harris Jewelry through an alleged charitable organization, "Operation Teddy Bear," in which the store sells teddy bears in military uniforms and promises to make charitable donations. The teddy bears are just a ploy to get service members to enter into high-priced, illegal in house financing contracts for jewelry that is monstrously overpriced.

In the New York Post on October 31st it was reported by Ruth Brown that a Yonkers jeweler was headed to prison after being busted for submitting forged documents to Google to have bad reviews of his business removed from search results.

Michael Arnstein, owner of the Natural Sapphire Company, was sentenced to 9 months and fined \$20,000 for forging a judge's signature on 10

counterfeit orders, which he sent to Google. Arnstein in 2012 was able to get a legitimate court order requiring some websites to remove negative posts about his business, but he ran afoul of the law when he tried to replicate that order 11 times.

On November 2nd the BBC's Dominic Casciani reported that £400,000 jewelry was seized by the National Crime Agency as part of an effort to combat international corruption through Unexplained Wealth Orders. The jewelry was purchased by Zamira Hajiyeva, who is from Azerbaijan, from Christie's auction house, and is part of a continuing investigation into how Hajiyeva spent £16m in Harrods. Hajiyeva has been ordered by courts to explain how she could afford £22m worth of property in the UK, among other purchases.

The court ruled that the National Crime Agency can hold the 49 pieces of jewelry for 6 months while the investigation into the family's wealth continues.

The National Crime Agency said to the BBC, "It is the view of the NCA that the source of the funds to purchase the jewellery requires further investigation. Christie's auction house co-operated with the investigation, complying with a formal request for information."

On November 5th Business Today reported that a couple that stole a 3.27-carat diamond worth about \$81,000 from a shop in Dubai, was able to smuggle it out of the UAE after the woman swallowed it. The couple was arrested in Mumbai as they tried to change planes on their way to Hong Kong.

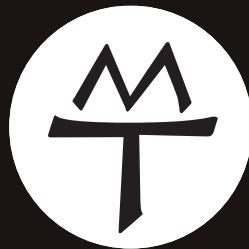
Video taken of the robbery at the store in Dubai helped identify the couple, and showed the man distracting the staff by asking questions about other stones. The woman opened a glass door of a display, quickly snatched the diamond and placed it under her jacket, and then left with her companion. The store owners did not notice the diamond was missing for three hours, which aided the couple in their escape.

An X-ray showed the diamond in the woman's stomach, and a doctor was called to administer a solution to get the diamond, according to Business Today.

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pierce it, string it, screw it,
refine it, enamel it, solder it,
mount it, clasp it, link it...

(you get the idea)

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