





This isn't about optimists or pessimists. This is about realists.

"While the state of the global economy has taken a toll on most Americans, there's one group that is more optimistic than ever–today's bride."

-Bloomberg.com Feb 2009



"...instead of reducing their budgets, engaged couples have reprioritized and plan to spend their dollars on items that will last forever."

-Modern Bride Magazine Survey Jan 2009



"By communicating the intrinsic value of Platinum to the customer, manufacturers and retailers are taking advantage of this trend towards 'quality over quantity."

-National Jeweler Aug 2008



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It was hard to choose one winner, because there were so many wonderful designs. This kind of event gives everybody inspiration. To my mind, there are no losers. Everyone who takes part is a winner. They all entered and strived to do better. Designers were very, very creative this year.

Sissy Jones of Sissy's Log Cabin

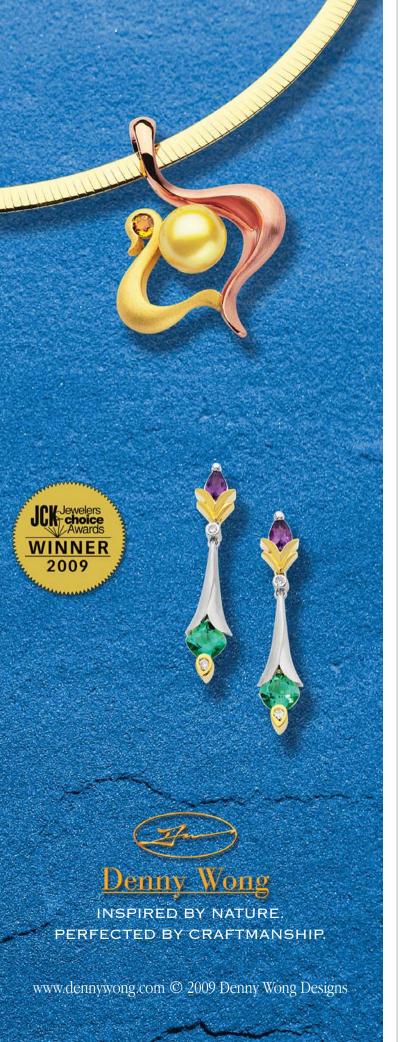
Honoring the Best of the Best... The JCK Jewelers Choice Awards

A great design lives beyond its moment, earning greater appreciation over time. A great jewelry design creates wearable art that expresses the sense of romance between a gift giver and the gift's recipient. The most successful retailers and designers understand the need for unique designs that not only set their brand apart but also capture the imagination of their customers. The JCK Jewelers Choice Awards are meant to inspire and recognize great design in a variety of materials, design categories and price levels. The winners of this year's competition are your choices for the best of the best.

An Inspired Concept

The Jewelers Choice Awards began almost two years ago with a brainstorm from JCK's publisher, Mark Smelzer. He adapted the idea of awarding the best of the best in design from a sister publication, and used the technology of the Internet to develop Jewelers Choice into its current form. Mark says the goal of the competition is to expose retailers to unique and superior product and allow them to choose their favorites from a wide cross section of manufacturers and designers. At its debut last year, Jewelers Choice drew an enthusiastic response.

"This year's voting participation was stronger than ever," says Mark. "The addition of a Jewelers Choice Awards Print Product Preview, which mailed to JCK retailers with the November issue. provided additional exposure for the 309 entrants while serving as a promotional kick-off to the online contest, increasing awareness and retail participation. Voting increased 41% over the prior year, and we were extremely pleased with the outcome."



The best of the best **JCA**

15,635 Votes, and the Winner Is ...

After selecting their favorite jewelry designs, retailers were provided a screen featuring their No. 1 jewelry selections in each category. From there they chose their overall favorite design. Their final votes determined this year's Grand Prize winner, Sylva & Cie, for their black diamond ring design in the Colored Diamond Jewelry ~ Under \$10,000 category.

"I am so excited, honored and amazed to win this award," says designer Sylva Yepremian. "To be able to do what I love and be rewarded in this way." Yepremian has been designing jewelry for her downtown Los Angeles shop for 20 years, creating limited-edition pieces that are often vintage-inspired yet with a harder modern edge. All pieces are hand-finished and detailed. "My goal is to take jewelry design back to its artisanal beginning with hand-made details," she explains. "I design for the women around me, and I want them to own something so luxurious it is unique."

Last year's winner, Christopher & Co., reported strong retail reaction and sales growth as a direct result of capturing the top prize. "Of course it helped business," says Anette Conner, the firm's marketing director. "Retailers liked it and requested ad materials. It's impossible to estimate exact numbers, but we saw a pickup in sales of the style that won. At the show, people referred to it as 'the JCK ring." Christopher & Co. placed as a finalist in 2009 for a natural-color diamond ring. They are very positive about the impact of the Jewelers Choice Awards, calling it "a great program."

Retailers said this year's voting process was easier and the product selection diverse. "It was hard to choose one winner, because there were so many wonderful designs and wonderful ideas," says Sissy Jones, of Sissy's Log Cabin. "This kind of event gives everybody inspiration. To my mind, there are no losers. Everyone who takes part is a winner. They all entered and strived to do better. Designers were very, very creative this year."

Sponsors are equally enthusiastic. Duvall O'Steen, manager, jewelry public relations and promotion for World Gold Council, noted that it's more important than ever to remind customers of gold's intrinsic value and unique properties. "Designers are capitalizing on these lasting sentiments and creating classic styles of gold jewelry that feel fresh and relevant for today."







The best of the best **JCA**About the Awards

For an entry fee of only \$495, companies received print and online exposure, plus the opportunity to become a JCK Jewelers Choice Award winner. Winners were featured in the March 2009 issue of JCK; both winners and finalists are showcased in this supplement and will receive counter cards promoting their win.

Look for the JCK Jewelers Choice Award symbol on all advertising and at all trade shows this spring. And don't forget to stop by and see the display of JCK Jewelers Choice Award Winners at the 2009 JCK Las Vegas Show.

On the pages that follow you'll find the names and photos of the winners and top finalists within each product category and price point. On pages 46 and 47 you'll find a "Where to Buy" index—an alphabetical listing of all winners and finalists, the pages they're featured on as well as their contact information.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the JCK Jewelers Choice Awards. And a special thanks to all of our sponsors for their support, including World Gold Council, Platinum Guild International, Tanzanite Foundation, Palladium Alliance International, JCK Las Vegas and Duvenjian Graphics for the photography of all winning designs.

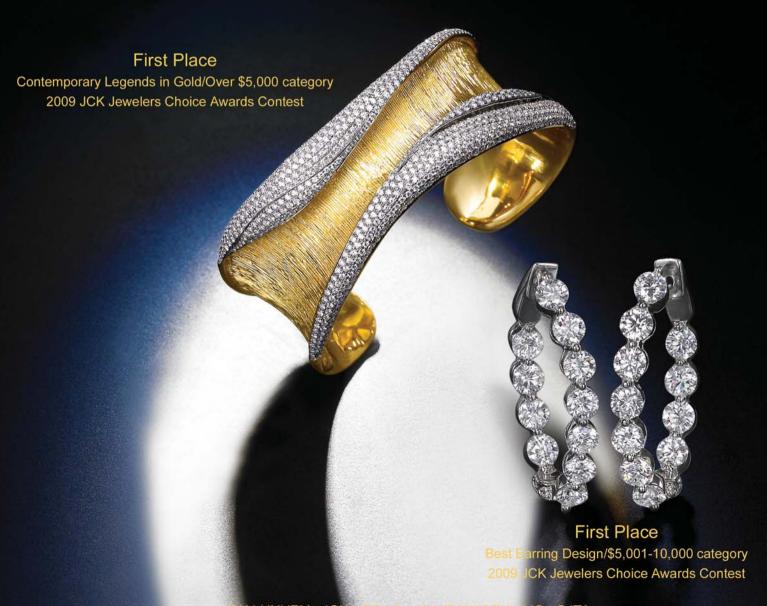






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Finalists







Michael B. (center stone not included)

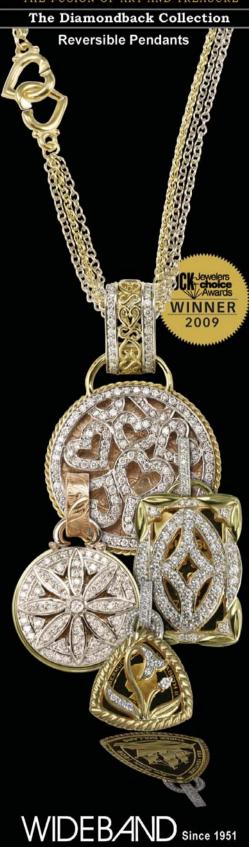


Goldstein Diamonds Inc.

JCK Jewelers Choice Awards 2009 13



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Choice Awards
Colored Diamond Jewelry Over \$10,000

Le Vian

Simon G

Denny Wong Designs

Finalists





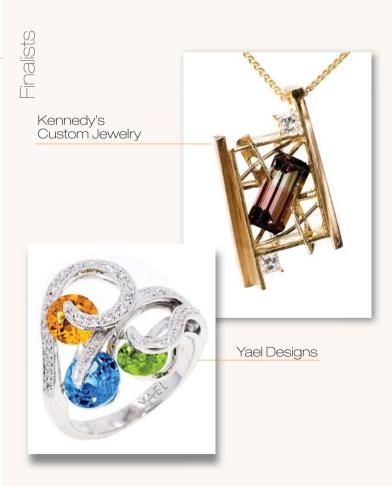
Christopher Designs











Finalists

Winner





Colored Stone Jewelry Over \$10,000









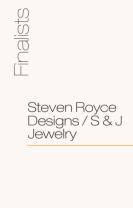
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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ENTERED, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

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WINNER

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SECOND Steven Royce Designs/ S & J Jewelry

Suggested Retail: \$21,799 A beautiful 15.18 ct trillion tanzanite, surrounded by pavé set diamonds. in 18k gold



THIRD Van Lachman

Suggested Retail: \$50,000 Tanzanite ring with a 20.60 ct, 19 x 13mm tanzanite, accented with 186 full cut diamonds, 1.46 ct, with engraving on the shank, 18k white gold

TANZANITE JEWELRY UNDER \$10 000



WINNER

Simon G Suggested Retail: \$6,490 18k white gold, 0.70 ct diamonds, 3.05 ct tanzanite



SECOND

Erica Courtney® Suggested Retail: \$9,800 Platinum and 0.52 ct diamond with 3.05 ct tanzanite ring



THIRD House of Tanzanite

Suggested Retail: \$6,950 Exquisite tanzanite and diamond ring Round and marquis diamonds 1.05 ct Tanzanite 2.50 cts 18k white gold



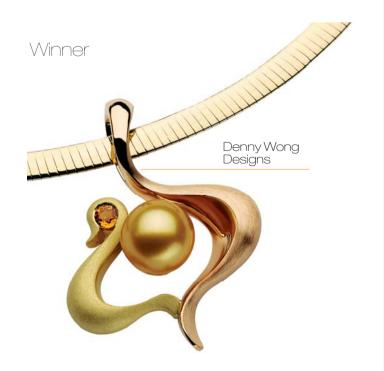
CONGRATULATIONS TO ERICA COURTNEY FOR WINNING BEST PLATINUM JEWELRY OVER \$10 000 WITH HER DROP DEAD GORGEOUS ® TANZANITE FLOWER BURST EARRINGS.















choice Awards

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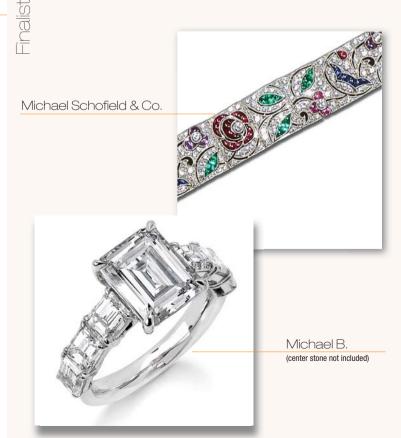
















Kirk Kara (center stone not included)

Simon G (center stone not included)



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Richard Korwin for WIDEBAND 1st Place Gold Under \$3,000



Erhan Gursen 1st Place Gold Over \$3,000

GENERAL GOLD CATEGORY



Le Vian Gold™ 1st Place Under \$1,500



Nina Basharova 1st Place \$1,500-\$3,000



Jye's International 1st Place Over \$3,000

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Finalists

Winner





choice Awards

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Choice Awards Gold Jewelry Over \$3,000





Choice Awards _ Palladium Jewelry Under \$2,000











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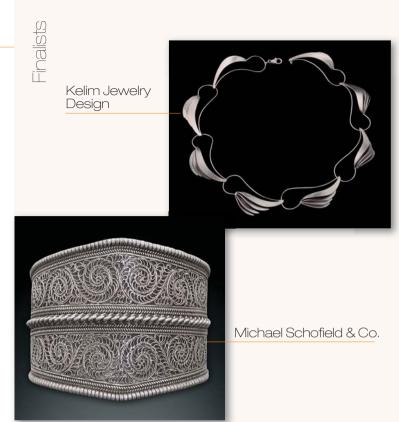
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Nina Basharova

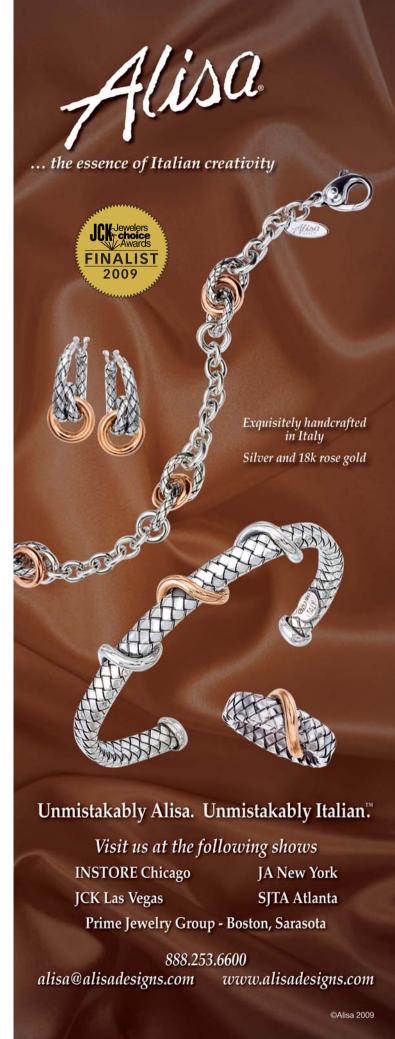




















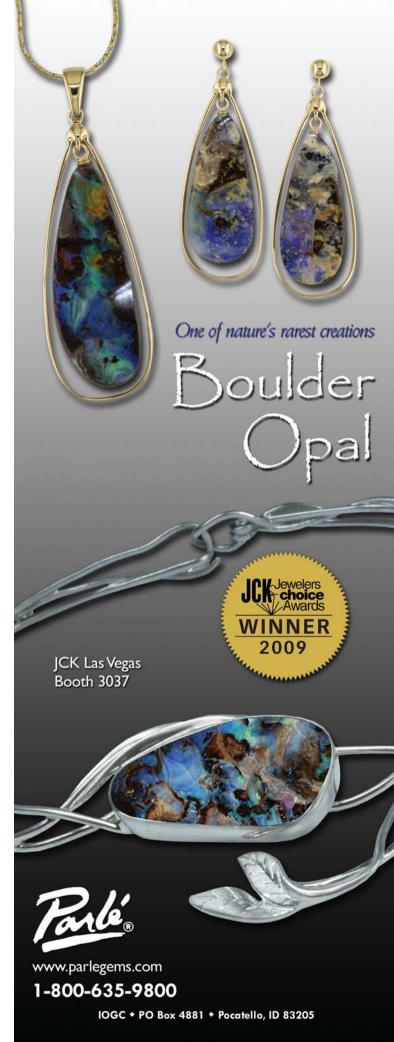












JCK Jewelers Choice Awards 2009 35





Choice Awards Men's Jewelry Over \$1,000











Armenta

STARDUST Diamonds

Choice Awards Best Bracelet Design Under \$2,500













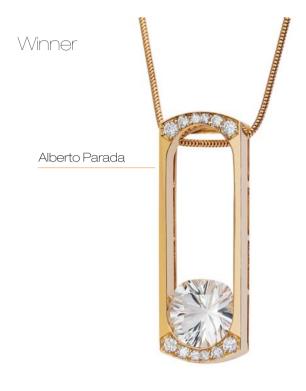


Choice Awards
Best Necklace Design Under \$2,500













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Choice Awards Best Earring Design \$5,001 - \$10,000











Best Ring Design Under \$2,500

Winner



Gabriel & Co.

Finalists



Natalie K. / M.K. Diamonds & Jewelry



Winner



Parade Designs, Inc.





F. R. Hueb



Durnell







Winner



Finalists

Julia Behrends Design



MaeVona (center stone not included)

Finalists

Rahaminov Diamonds Inc.





Norman Silvern Diamonds, Inc.



Choice Awards
Best Bridal Design \$2,501 - \$5,000









Choice Awards Best Bridal Design Over \$10,000

Winner



Finalists

Norman Silverman Diamonds, Inc.





GN Diamond

choice Awards Where to Buy Index

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