

### AGTA Spectrum Awards™ Move to Summer 2016

The American Gem Trade Association announced the prestigious annual design competition, the AGTA Spectrum Awards™, is moving to Summer 2016. Deadlines for entries will be June 17, 2016, with the New York drop-off taking place on June 28, 2016.

“The Spectrum Awards are one of our biggest promotional efforts and we are always looking for ways to increase participation and to make participating even more beneficial to the entrant,” stated Douglas K. Hucker, AGTA CEO. “We felt if we changed the dates to summer, this would be better for the designers and manufacturers, because it wouldn’t remove their inventory during the holiday selling season. And, what better publicity during that time, than to promote a Spectrum Award-winning piece!”

In its 33rd year, the AGTA Spectrum Awards™ is the world’s premier colored gemstone and pearl jewelry design competition with categories in Evening Wear, Bridal Wear sponsored by The Knot, Business Day Wear, Classical Wear and Men’s Wear. AGTA Spectrum Awards™ also feature the Platinum Honors™ sponsored by Platinum Guild International and the newest category, the Savor Silver Awards™ sponsored by the Silver Promotion Service.

The AGTA Cutting Edge Awards™ honor loose colored gemstones in everything from Classic Gemstones to one-of-a-kind Carvings, Pairs and Suites to amazing Objects of Art. The competition is open to U.S. and Canadian designers and cutters.

For further information regarding the AGTA Spectrum Awards™, please contact Megan Whitmire at [megan@agta.org](mailto:megan@agta.org) or 800-972-1162.

### Quality Smart Phone Gem Pictures With DiaScope

The DiaScope allows you to take high quality photos of diamonds, gemstones and jewelry at close range. The idea is not to replace the sophisticated photo/video labs that already exist, but to have a useful, portable and affordable tool that is easily accessible and small in size.

The DiaScope is totally App Free. It can be used with iOS, Android and Windows smartphone devices so that you can store the photos and easily send them out to potential clients and colleagues.

DiaScope addresses a number of the issues that make image capture of diamonds so difficult. Diamonds are not consistent: They vary in size, shape, color and clarity, and many diamonds have some kind of fluorescence which is usually blue but can be yellow or white, and varying in intensity.

Diamonds act as a reflector, reflecting any color in its surroundings. For example: If you are wearing a red shirt, the red can more than likely reflect in the diamond’s facets and show up in the picture.

The DiaScope lens has built in high quality LED lights which offer two levels of LED brightness for taking photos of diamonds. Powered by rechargeable lithium battery.

The cost of the DiaScope is \$199 plus shipping. For more information call 877-990-0100.



### The American Society of Appraisers Offers Introduction to Personal Property Valuation

The American Society of Appraisers announced the offering of its Introduction to Personal Property Valuation course to be held



on Saturday, June 4 - Tuesday, June 7, 2016 in Purchase, NY. This is the first class of the Principles of Valuation course of study for Personal Property and Gems and Jewelry Appraisers.

This is the first of four required courses. The course provides individuals with an introduction to the profession and helps attain basic concepts necessary for appraisal practice. These concepts are expanded throughout the three remaining courses.

Registration and more information about the courses is available online at [www.appraisers.org](http://www.appraisers.org) or by calling 800-727-5258.