



Gemmology Today

February 2018
Quarterly Publication



Let's Talk.....Gemmology



A natural or acquired talent? Capturing the true beauty of a gemstone is not an easy task. In this issue we talk to Dmitry Stolyarevich, an exciting photographer who is pushing all the right buttons

From Russia with Love - Dmitry Stolyarevich



GT: Natural talent or acquired through study?

DS: Some of my friends/clients tell me it's natural talent, but I used to think it's study. The first photo, which made me feel pleased/satisfied came after a year of persistent efforts, various experiments and courses/master classes. I admired photos of E. Laptev, E. Edvards and aimed to shoot at their level. Evgenii Laptev training enabled me to make a significant leap forward towards my ideals.

GT: Accomplished anglers always talk about the 'one that got away'. Is there one gemstone shot that has eluded you over the years?

DS: I've faced various difficulties in my experience, but one situation is particularly memorable. The task was to shoot two D/IF brilliants, emerald cut, made from one piece. It seemed pretty simple, but despite all my efforts these gems looked absolutely different in the frame. I'd spent all day working on this curious phenomenon, at one point half of the staff were following this struggle.

GT: What is the one most memorable gemstone you have photographed and why?

DS: It was 'Drop of Compassion' by Viktor Tuzlukov. It took me two days to convey a message hidden inside. I've discovered an amazing effect of facets reflection - I saw a man in a hat walking towards a temple (other people see palms combined together in a form of a candle). At this moment I found the soul of the stone and this brought me the most joy so far.

GT: Is there still a place for analog film in the world of gem photography?

DS: I believe that shooting with analog film will only complicate the process. Using it makes sense only in order to get some artistic effect but very few can appreciate that. I've nothing against it, but I have no reasons to try it myself.

GT: Are you a purist or do you use software, such as Photoshop, to bring out the best in your photographs?

GT: Who is Dmitry Stolyarevich? Tell us about your background?

DS: I was born and live in Moscow, my father worked as a gemmologist and I got used to hearing stories about gemstones and the way this micro-world works since childhood. After school I decided to follow my Dad's footsteps and entered Moscow State University thinking about starting my career at Gemmological Center after graduation.

GT: When did you first develop a passion for gemstone photography? Was there a defining moment when you realised this was what you wanted to do?

DS: Once I was helping our technician with shooting items for reports and came across a diamond so pure and beautiful that it impressed me so much I decided to do my best to show it's 'perfection'. It struck me, gems, jewellery are worth time and endeavours spent to reveal their splendour

DS: I stick to the principle to draw with light and by use of my camera, not with Photoshop or other software. I always try to communicate a vision exactly as I see it myself. To show the gemstone or piece of jewellery in the same way that I observe it with my eyes. So I use Photoshop to clean the dust or scratches. However sometimes a client asks to change something in the photo in this case the only way is to use Photoshop magic.

GT: Guitarists are always asked about the equipment they use and the ones they most prefer. What is your camera of choice and why?

DS: Frankly speaking I don't see much difference among cameras. First time it was quite exciting to compare models and argue which is better suited for a particular purpose, but in the end I came to the conclusion that the most important characteristics for me are the user-friendliness/ease of use and pixel range. My first camera - Nikon D5100, I liked it very much, and now nothing changed - Nikon D810. As for guitars, my choice is a Schecter Hellraiser

GT: Where do you see the future of gemmology ten years from now?

DS: Already we're witnessing the growing demand for disclosure and documenting of a gemstone's uniqueness. The relevance of gemmological knowledge for end-user, 'romanticization', and storytelling will become trends. Gemmology will become less subjective, new instrumental diagnostic methods will be developed, and other manual ones will be used less often. I believe that interest to high-quality photography will grow taking into account digitalization processes and market activity in the internet.

GT: If we were sitting here a year from now celebrating what a great year it's been for Dmitry Stolyarevich professionally, what would you say was the reason?

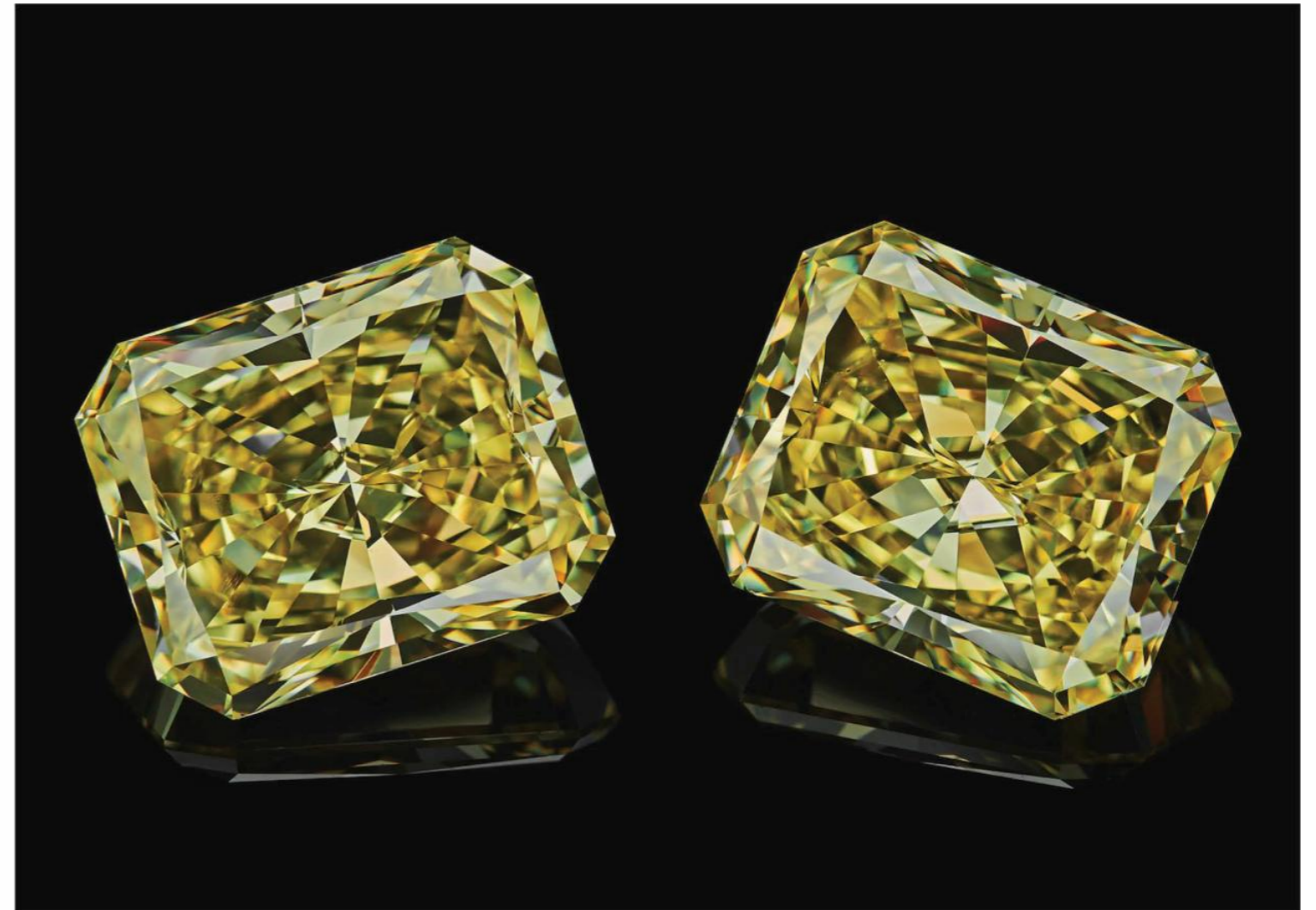
DS: Last year I worked extensively with Alrosa in shooting unique brilliants, including uncut named diamonds. These photographs look spectacular, and got spread over the web. I believe these images can become kind of a 'Business Card' for me along with photos for Viktor Tuzlukov.



Tanzanites (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of Gem Lovers)



Diamond Octahedron (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Natural Yellow Diamonds (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Blue Sapphire with Tsavorite Garnets and Diamonds (Designed by Julia Irtyuga) (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich)



Rubies, Blue Sapphires, Emeralds, Diamonds and Turquoise (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of Anton Shevnin)



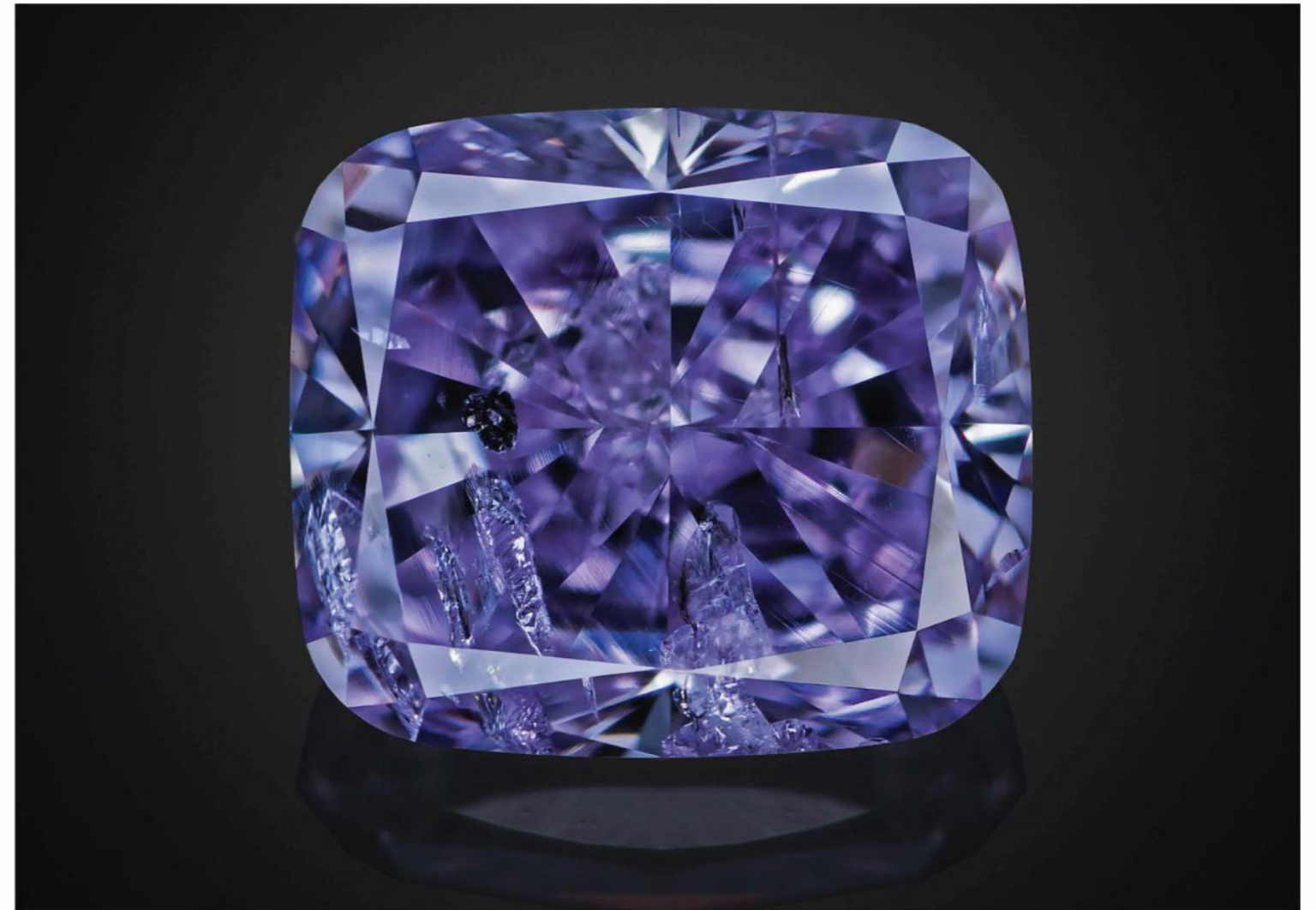
Rough Pink Diamond (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Natural Yellow Diamond (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Natural Sri Lankan Blue Sapphire, Pink Sapphires and Diamonds (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of Gem Lovers)



Natural Purple Diamond (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Rough Diamond (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Diamond Octahedron (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of ALROSA)



Opal 'FireBird' (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of Anton Shevnin)



Glorious Opals (Photo by Dmitry Stolyarevich) (Courtesy of Anton Shevnin)