



Fancy vivid colored diamonds: Beautiful. Elusive. Rare.

Color in diamonds is not only elusive, it is also an illusion – an optical illusion created by a partnership between nature and the skilled hand of man. Cutting a piece of rough to capture, to retain, to enhance its color requires an intense and specialized knowledge of optics limited to a mere handful of talented mortals.

This elusive element seems to be right in your hand – you can see it – and then it seems to slip through your fingers.

HOW CAN THAT HAPPEN?

Few men know these maddening facts as well as Bruno Scarselli whose five fancy vivid colored diamonds are currently on view in the Gem Hall of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

This third generation Italian jeweler, diamond cutter, and above, fancy colored diamond aficionado, has nurtured these five diamonds to colorful perfection.

For the investor, these incomparable diamonds are more than the ‘best of the best.’ They represent the ultimate combination of extraordinarily rare material combined with the ultimate in diamond cutting. Each of the five is the epitome of its color group and each posed a unique cutting process.

THE 1.01 CARAT FANCY VIVID ORANGE-YELLOW stone began life as a four carat rough. While most rough is reduced by half in the creation of a beautiful faceted gem, for this gem, Scarselli reached into the heart of the rough, bringing out the remarkable, warm yellow tone that was lurking within. “We enhanced the primary color,” he explains, because the yellow is such a powerful, golden color.”

THE 1.02 FANCY VIVID BLUE-GREEN diamond presented a different challenge. “Green,” Scarselli explains, “is a very difficult color to obtain in nature. It is a deformation of the lattice structure of the diamond, due to a natural radiation source.” The dilemma is in proving that the radiation in the stone is indeed natural. The 3.15 carat rough went to the GIA before the cutter touched it, beginning a long and stringent certification process. Every position of the diamond was studied, particularly the radiation patch that gives the stone most of its color. By leaving a tiny bit of the skin

on the finished stone, the origin of its color remains intact. Cutting this stone took more than a year, a necessary investment to accomplish the task at hand.

THE 2.13 CARAT FANCY VIVID BLUE began life as a six-carat rough from Africa. “When we started to cut the blue,” Scarselli says, “It was coated with a black surface. We intended to cut a larger stone but as we worked, it revealed itself as a grey blue. To remove the modifying grey, we decided to cut it further. We changed the shape at least twice in the cutting process.”

This is the moment when a cutter must depend on his years of experience in extracting the maximum brilliance and color from a rough, for as Scarselli says, “If you take this diamond the wrong way, you can wind up with a white diamond. This is the mystery of the unknown.” Getting a vivid certificate for a blue is a tremendous achievement since the family of blues has a larger disparity of color than any other diamond group.

THE 2.17 CARAT VIVID PURPLISH PINK is truly a triumph of the cutter’s skills combined with the knowledge needed to coax a “vivid” out of a previously finished “intense.” Scarselli bought a 2.34 carat faceted stone certified vivid purplish pink, which was the 2nd largest diamond at the Argyle’s tender of 2005, and put it back on the polishing wheel. Losing a mere 17 points, he created a 2.17 carat vivid purplish pink with SI1 clarity. Scarselli notes, “This diamond has a lot of red flashes. Measured against other diamonds, this is the closest to a fancy reddish purplish pink. It is an explosive formation of color blends.”

Rounding out this remarkable collection of vivid colored diamonds is the 2.34 CARAT VIVID ORANGE, one of the rarest colors ever seen. Orange represents the narrowest part of the color spectrum, wedged between the large yellow and brown groups. Of the multitudes of fancy colored diamonds that arrive at the GIA each year for certification, fewer than five can be called orange.

BRUNO SCARSELLI has been nurturing these diamonds, coaxing them to perfection and holding them in his vault until this moment. Now he is proud to share them with the world at the American Museum of Natural History. These fancy stones are the ultimate purchase for the collector who understands and values a unique work of art.

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