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## A glittering showcase

Rare gem connoisseurs DeGem promises to mesmerise visitors with some of the most beautiful, untreated and natural rare gemstones during SIJS and its showcase features three extremely rare, magnificent gems.

The first is a stunning 92-carat sapphire that changes colour naturally: it is blue-violet in the daylight and turns light purple under incandescent light. Certified by the Gemfields Gem Lab in Switzerland, this spectacular sapphire is worth a whopping \$2.18 million.

DeGem will also showcase another rare and exquisite piece – the 55-carat natural and untreated green tsavorite that comes with the same certification and is valued at almost \$1.6 million.

Another breathtaking highlight is a set of three quartz gemstones: a 40-carat stone on a pendant and a 25-carat pair fashioned into earrings, all worth a total of \$1 million.

Ms Au Yeong Siew Pheng, marketing manager of DeGem, says: "The demand for precious, coloured gemstones is certainly increasing as newer gems, such as peridot and tourmaline, make their way into mainstream jewellery, adding more variety and allure to the market. The surge in demand is also due to the maturing of the market, like in Singapore, where buyers are becoming more informed and more knowledgeable about these rare, beautiful and sparkling gems."

The trend for bold, statement pieces continues this year as jewellery lovers favour eye-catching designs that stand out.

Leo Hwa Jewellery marks this trend with the event's theme, which celebrates nature and all its beauty. Created exclusively for SIJS, the Primavera statement necklace (\$14,240) features 10 jewelled "flowers", each comprising a purple amethyst encircled by yellow gold petals that are framed by a striking interplay of black thulium and brilliant diamonds. Held by a white gold chain, the necklace cascades sensuously down the neckline. A matching Beaufort Florida ring accompanies this magnificent piece.

"This year, we are highlighting the natural beauty of gemstones, complemented with stylish designs," says Ms



Adorned pendant by Leo Hwa Jewellery

Clairie Ng, senior brand manager of Leo Hwa Jewellery.

The exquisite beauty of the blue topaz is brought to the fore in the Primavera collection, as the shimmering gem is embraced by the graceful curves of an intricate, geometric design crafted in white gold and sprinkled with dazzling diamonds.

Leo Hwa Jewellery's signature Purple Gold makes their appearance this year, with the Adorned collection that features the sensual contours of the purple gold accentuated by sparkling round diamonds. The hold is also gold at Tianfo, which charms visitors with its homage to Mother Nature. Its signature piece, the Botanical necklace (\$23,000), is inspired by the capriciousness of the Arctic and has like citrine, champagne and topaz set against an artfully beaded necklace.

"The natural occurrence and infinity prompted the design as the similar way a gemstone with her strong and gentle natures of Tianfo, her key design in line with the 'for' theme. Flamingo is a 9K gold necklace with citrine, emerald and white gold diamonds." says Ms Joseph Wong.

Tianfo is also showcasing the "alternates" theme. Inspired by the white gold diamond necklace (set and peridot) Malibu, a 14K white and rose gold, synthetic "metal", aptly named "Prick" ("water") is an 18K white gold necklace with white and yellow diamonds while Laguna Vibes ("wood") is an 18K white and black gold necklace with white and yellow diamonds.

Indeed, SIJS is a shimmering showcase that promises to enthral jewellery lovers with its collection of rare gems and unique jewellery designs.



Award-winning rings – La Valle (top) and Card Game in the men's jewellery category.



Blue-violet in daylight, this 32-carat sapphire from DeGem changes to light purple under incandescent light.

# Inspired designs

Winners of the Singapore Jewellery Design Award are influenced by life and nature

By Leo Hwa Jew

AMONG the five winners of the Singapore Jewellery Design Award (SJDA) 2011, one aspiring jewellery designer is particularly over the moon with her double win in two categories. This is the second year that Ms Silvia Tjahjadi, 33, has repeated her winning streak.

Her creation of the La Valle ring with green sapphires and diamonds in the men's jewellery category is inspired by condensing elements of an urban lifestyle with the natural environment.

"The green shows symbolic nature while its concave contour represents a green valley. The clean lines with two shades of gold signify the modern and systematic elements in our lives."

Her other winning design is the Balling bangle in white and yellow gold with diamonds and ruby in the category of women's jewellery with kinetic movement. It is inspired by batik patterns with two different shades of gold to create contrast.

"I tried to reinvent designs using the basic or fundamental elements in life that were often overlooked and sometimes forgotten. Winning the SJDA has certainly given me a positive boost in my journey as a jewellery designer," says Ms Tjahjadi who gets her inspiration from visiting various exhibitions, travelling and meeting people from different cultures.

Ms Debi Lian (Ms Debi, 22, came up with the Elair de vie, a detachable ring that can be used as a pendant. It is one of two winning entries in the multi-faceted men's jewellery category. Made with 18K white and yellow gold, baguette diamonds and rubi crystals, the design is inspired by a butterfly emerging from a cocoon and getting ready to take flight. She says: "With the completion of my studies, I am ready to fly high to show my talent, just like a butterfly that first emerges after metamorphosis."

Ms Rachel Linn (Ms Rachel, 30, also won little more category with her design of a Nanu-inspired ring-ear-pendant using white gold and blue sapphires. She says: "I was very excited to learn that I have won the SJDA as it was unexpected and I feel encouraged by the win to develop myself further in this line."

Her schoolmate, Ms Lo Lai Man, 20, is the other winner in the men's jewellery category. Inspired by the popularity of gaming at parties, she created Card Game, a fun and contemporary ring that comprises notable parts that represent luck and the element of unpredictability. Its yellow gold symbolises wealth, while its red and black sapphires and white diamonds represent the colour of card games. "Climbing the award has left a deep impression as it means that my design is appreciated and it provides me with the confidence to advance further in this field," she says.

Another winner in the women's jewellery with kinetic movement is Ms Anya Almir A, 31, a Nanayang Academy of Fine Arts student. She scores with De libellule, which is French for dragonfly. The sleek design of the diamond-encrusted ring is inspired by the beauty of dragonflies taking flight. Attributing her passion for jewellery design to her love of playing with beads since she was eight years old, she says: "This is an achievement and encouragement to push myself harder to become even better."

According to Ms Ho Nai Chien, president of the Singapore Jewellers Association, the top two winners of each category will receive a cash incentive amounting to 10 per cent of net sales during the year the results are announced, apart from the award trophy and certificate.

"This year's winners had to contend with 66 participants from China, Hong Kong and Singapore. The winning designs are showcased at the Singapore International Jewellery Show (SIJS) 2011, and sit proudly among the collections presented by international jewelers," he adds.

Elair de vie (top) and the Nautilus-inspired accessory in the multi-function jewellery category.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION

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The 2011 show gets its inspiration from *The Elements of Mother Earth*. The beautiful gems and metals they are set in are all gifts from Her. The dramatic designs you will see in this year's show take their inspiration from *Metal, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth*.

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