American jewelry designers and phenomenal gemstones are featured in this exclusive exhibit from the gem vaults of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Regular Museum hours & admission.

**JULY 22**

“Start Your Rockin’ Collection!”
Create your very own, personalized rock collection! Cartons and materials for decoration are provided. Each child can choose several rocks to start or fill in their collection carton. Rocks from home can also be brought in for identification.

Workshop - 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes
Ages 5 to 10 yrs.
Fee: $5.00 per person
Museum Members Free
Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**AUGUST 19**

“Volcanoes”
Geologist Sara Kurth presents an interactive lecture on volcanoes. Discuss how volcanoes work, and compare different eruption styles. Focus on recent eruptions and explore how volcanoes can effect local and global communities.

Lecture - 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes
Youth to Adult
Regular Museum Admission
Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended

**SEPTEMBER 10**

“Marvels In Marble”
Discover Parchin Kari the art of colored stone inlay in marble. The Taj Mahal is India’s most exquisite example of stone intarsia. Sakina Bharani, gemologist and Museum docent, presents the history and modern techniques of this fascinating form of lapidary art. See beautiful specimens on display at the program.

Lecture - Youth to Adult - 2 p.m.
60 minutes
Regular Museum Admission
Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended

**SEPTEMBER 23**

“Rockin’ Jewelry for Kids”
This beginner’s class allows children to make their own gemstone jewelry to keep. Choose two different types of jewelry to make and learn how to work with jeweler’s tools. Parties of 10 or more are encouraged to schedule a private class. Email: educator@lizzadromuseum.org. Volunteer forms are available.

Lecture - 1:30 p.m. - 75 minutes - Ages 8-16 years
Fee: $10.00 per person
Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**JULY 14**

“Fossil Collecting Field Trip”

Lecture - Youth to Adult - 2 p.m.
60 minutes
Regular Museum Admission
Museum Members Free
Reservations Recommended

**AUGUST 26**

“Soapstone Carving”
Lapidary Lorel Abrell teaches soapstone carving using simple tools and techniques. Learn the basics from design to final polish. Take home a carving of your own creation. All materials are provided.

Activity - ages 9 yrs to Adult
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Fee: $15.00 per person
Museum Members $10.00
Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART**

**220 Cottage Hill Ave. Elmhurst, IL 60126 630-833-1616**

We would like to hear from you.
Please direct questions or comments to: info@lizzadromuseum.org

Volunteer forms are available.

**Museum Hours**
Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays & Major Holidays.
Closed July 4th.

**Admission**
$3.00 Adults
$2.00 Children 7 to 12 yrs
$1.00 Children under 7 yrs
Free for children under 7 yrs.
Friday is a Free day.

Visit us and Shop online at: lizzadromuseum.org

The Museum has facilities to provide access for physically disabled visitors.

Members of the Lizzadro Museum and active members of the Armed Forces are admitted free of charge on any day the Museum is open to the public.

**Group Tours**
Tours can be arranged for groups with special interests or needs. Reservations are necessary for guided tours.

ExploreElmhurst.com
“Smithsonian Gems” American Designers & Phenomenal Gemstones
By Dorothy Asher
Photos and jewelry information courtesy the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

The Special Exhibit “Smithsonian Gems” will open on July 5 and run through March of 2018. The exhibit was put together with the help of the Smithsonian’s gemologist curator Russell Feather. This exhibit brings together twelve pieces from the National Museum of Natural History’s gem vault that highlight American jewelry designers and American gems along with a variety of phenomenal gems. Many of the pieces represent recent additions to the Smithsonian’s gem collection.

American Designers on Display
The exhibit includes some famous designers such as Harry Winston, Tiffany & Company and Baily & Company, among jewelers to the stars Kazanjian Jewelers from Beverly Hills, Brenda Smith from Atlanta, Georgia and Susan Helmich from Colorado Springs, Colorado and others. “Smithsonian Gems” blends unique gems with original designers, jewelry that will truly be seen outside the walls of the Smithsonian. Look for special programs relating to this exhibit this Fall. Phenomenal gems in the exhibit will be featured in the Fall newsletter. Here is a preview of select pieces in the exhibit.

Midnight Dreamscape is a brooch designed and fabricated by jewelry designer Susan Helmich featuring a gem intarsia created inlay, where pieces of the same thickness are precisely shaped to fit closely together without gaps or gaps. The brooch was a gift of Mr. Edward R. Patton in 2015.

Susan Helmich takes her inspiration from natural elements, string instruments, historical pieces, and wants to connect to elements and the past through her pieces. She has won multiple awards in the US and Abroad including the MSA “American Designer of the Year” 1991; Women’s Jewelry Association “Design Excellence Award” 1996; Japan International Pearl Association design competition awards 1990, 1991, 1992; Invitation to Exhibit: Munsteiner Atelier, Germany, 2002.

Nicola Medvedev is a master of intarsia and world renowned for his intarsia boxes, objects of art, and jewelry. Several of his boxes are in the Lizzadro Collection and two are on permanent display at the Museum.

Midnight Dreamscape brooch by Susan Helmich, intarsia by Nicola Medvedev.

“Midnight Dreamscape” brooch by Susan Helmich, intarsia by Nicola Medvedev.

Southern Charm pearl earrings were designed and donated by jewelry designer Brenda Smith in 2016. The earrings were inspired by the wrought iron gates in Charleston, South Carolina and utilize natural freshwater pearls from the Tennessee River. The earrings are hand fabricated in blackened sterling silver with 18k yellow gold hand-forged leaves plated in 22k yellow gold for contrast. The earrings feature 26.49 carat weight pearls obtained from the Latemers Family Collection, acquired between 1949-1980.

Southern Charm Tennessee river pearl earrings by Brenda Smith.
“Smithsonian Gems” American Designers & Phenomenal Gemstones

By Dorothy Asher

Photos and jewelry information courtesy the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

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Midnight Dreamscape brooch by Susan Helmich, intarsia by Nicolai Medvedev. The 18k yellow gold brooch is accented with diamonds (0.17ct total) and a 10mm South Sea pearl. The jewelry designer Susan Helmich featuring a gem intarsia created inlay, where pieces of the same thickness are precisely shaped. Intarsia is the term applied to both the art of stone and wood and many of the pieces in the exhibit.

Majestic Northern Lights necklace, opal from Idaho. The opal deposits in Spencer, Idaho, about 70 miles west of Yellowstone National Park, formed in a rhodolite-ubiquinon rock filled with gas pockets or cavities. The opal, a form of silica, was hydrothermally deposited with vapor activity brought silica rich water to the earth's surface over 4 million years ago. As this water seeped into the hollow cavities, the opal formed in successive layers. The thin layers of opal that formed are extremely high quality with great transparency and a vivid play-of-color. Approximately 10% of the material is thick enough to cut a solid opal cabochon; however, most of the material is too thin and therefore is fashioned into opal doublets and triplets. Opal doublets are thin slices of precious opal glued with epoxy onto a matrix material, usually black basalt. Opal doublets are often-times covered with a thin rock crystal quartz cap to make them more resistant to scratches and breakage. This is known as an opal triplet.

Southern Charm pear earrings were designed and donated by jewelry designer Brenda Smith in 2016. The earrings were inspired by the wrought iron gates in Charleston, South Carolina and utilize natural freshwater pearls from the Tennessee River. The earrings are hand fabricated in blackened sterling silver with 18k yellow gold hand-forged leaves placed in 22k yellow gold for contrast. The earrings feature 26.49 carat weight pearls obtained from the Lizardo Collection, acquired between 1949-1980.

Brenda Smith likes to work with organic forms and specializes in custom pieces, working with gold, platinum, silver and all natural gemstones. She teaches jewelry design at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia and silversmithing in the Atlanta area. Her designs have been worn at the Academy Awards and chosen by celebrity stylist, Michael O’Connor. She was commissioned to design pearl jewelry for the documentary film, “Circling the Pacific” by the Cultured Pearl Association of America. Her awards include the International Pearl Design Competition by the Cultured Pearl Association of America.

Midnight Dreamscape is a custom designed gold necklace set with an opal triplet measuring approximately 31.5 x 22.0 x 7.9mm. The opal from Spencer, Idaho represents one of the finest stones from this locality showing vivid flashes of red, yellow, green and blue play-of-color. Bob & Susan Thompson, owners of Opal Mountain Mines, Inc. in Spencer, Idaho donated the necklace to the Smithsonian in 2005.

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Southern Charm pear earrings by Brenda Smith.

Sapphire cobblestone-style bracelet is made of blackened 18k gold and set with 288 cabochon cut blue sapphires totaling 209.3 carats. The cabochons are well-matched in color and are a mix of round, oval, and heart shapes. There are also 45 round brilliant cut diamonds set in white gold with a total weight of 0.36 ct. Each gem is set with four prongs in an open framed cell that is wire-wrap connected for flexibility. The bracelet was a gift to the Smithsonian from Laurence Blickman in 2016.


By Dorothy Asher, Director of the Museum and gemologist co-curator of the Special Exhibit “Smithsonian Gems” and along with Russell Feather, co-curator of the Lizardo Collection in early 2012. The baluster form vase is impressive for its large size and quality of stone. The unadorned vase portion is lustroously polished with some opaque inclusions and veins. A pair of mythical beast-head handles each suspend a loose ring. The cover finial is carved in an intricate openwork design that provides a pleasing aesthetic contrast with the plain surface. The vase sits on a wood stand and measures 14 1/8 inches in height. The vase is a unique addition to the jade collection on permanent display. It was purchased by the Lizardo Family Foundation at Sotheby's in Hong Kong and was previously the property of a distinguished Asian family collection.

Large high quality jade boulders began to be sent as tribute gifts to the Qing Court during the reign of the Qianlong Emperor, after the Qing army's conquest of the Northwest Territories in the mid-18th century. These boulders, which came from the jade-rich territories of Khotan and Yarkand, were then selected to be carved by artisans working in the Palace Workshop, in the jade workshops of Suzhou or in those belonging to the Huai Family Foundation at Sotheby's in 2005. The finished product was later presented to the court for approval before being displayed in the Palace.

During the 19th century China's political, economic, and social conditions sank into devastation. As demand for jade remained high, the unemployed palace artisans set up workshops in Beijing. Some cities became centers of economic prosperity, such as Shanghai. As a port city under foreign control, Shanghai was exempt from Chinese law. The wealthy and nouveau riche continued to collect both traditional forms of jade and new styles. Many serious Chinese collectors who came to Shanghai focused more on ancient Chinese art and contemporary works that reflected antiques interests. A whole new group of archaistic style objects were created for these collectors in China's various treaty ports.

References

Sotheby’s Hong Kong.
Later Chinese Jades Ming Dynasty to Early Twentieth Century, Michael Knight et al., 2007.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2017**

**JULY 22**

*“Start Your Rockin’ Collection!”*
Create your own, personalized rock collection! Cartons and materials for decoration are provided. Each child can choose several rocks to start or fill in their collection carton. Rocks from home can also be brought in for identification.

**Workshop - 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes**

Age 5 to 10 yrs.
 Fee: $5.00 per person,
Museum Members Free
Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**JULY 23**

*“Marvels In Marble”*
Discover Parchin Kari the art of colored stone inlay in marble. The Taj Mahal is India’s most exquisite example of stone inlay. Sakina Bharani, gemologist and Museum docent, presents the history and modern techniques of this fascinating form of lapidary art. See beautiful specimens on display at the program.

**Lecture - Youth to Adult - 2 p.m.**

60 minutes
Regular Museum Admission
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Reservations Recommended

**AUGUST 26**

*“Soapstone Carving”*
Lapidary Lorel Abrell teaches soapstone carving using simple tools and techniques. Learn the basics from design to final polish. Take home a carving of your own creation. All materials are provided. Activity - ages 9 yrs to Adult

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
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Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**SEPTEMBER 16**

*“Fossil Collecting Field Trip”*
Travel by motor coach to Vulcan Quarry featured in this exclusive exhibit and phenomenal gemstones are from the gem vaults of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

**Field Trip - Ages 8 yrs. to Adult**


**Regular Museum Admission**
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**Workshop - 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes**

Ages 8-16 years
 Fee: $10.00 per person,
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Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**SEPTEMBER 23**

*“Rock & Mineral Identification”*
Geologist Sara Kurth presents an introduction to rocks and minerals. Learn to identify minerals through basic hands-on identification including observation skills and hardness tests, great for rockhounds, Boy & Girl Scout merit badges and Professional Development credit.

**Lecture - Youth to Adult - 2 p.m.**

75 minutes - Ages 9 yrs. to Adult
10:30 a.m.
 Fee: $5.00 per person,
Museum Members $3.00
Reservations Required: (630) 833-1616

**LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPISTRY ART**

**NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUMMER 2017**

**“Majestic Northern Lights”**
necklace, opal from Idaho.

**Museum Hours**
Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Mondays & Major Holidays.
Closed July 4th.

**Admission**
$5.00 Adults, $4.00 Senior Citizens
$3.00 Students & Teenagers
$2.00 Children 7 to 12 yrs.
Free for children under 7 yrs.
Friday is a Free day.

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**Volunteer forms are available.**

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220 Cottage Hill Ave.
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**Smithsonian Institution Affiliates Program**

**LIZZADRO MUSEUM OF LAPIDARY ART**

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**ExploreElmhurst.com**

**Museum**

Closed July 4th.

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