



**PRESENTS**  
**ALL ABOUT OPAL**  
**FRIDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2022**



# MEET DIONNE



- Dionne Ross is a strong lover of fitness, home decor, sign language, jewelry, and most importantly family
- During the spring of her final semester in graduate school, she interviewed for a host position with a brand-new company called Shop LC and was hired on the spot
- Dionne has grown with the company and has been given opportunities to travel to amazing locations like the United Kingdom, India, and Tanzania
- She went on to earn her AJP, Accredited Jewelry Professional Diploma, from the Gemological Association of America
- Dionne has created one of the best-selling, limited addition handbag lines exclusively available at Shop LC, called Lené!



# HISTORY

- Name evolved from the Roman word “Opalus”
- Opalus means “change of color”
- Queen Victoria was a fan of opals
- There are two broad classes of opal: precious and common. Precious opal displays play-of-color, common opal does not
- With an eternal kaleidoscope of fiery color, the opal is one of the most appealing and fascinating gems in the world





# FORMATION

- Formation of opal spans across centuries
- For hundreds of years, rainwater creates tiny silica which clings to sandstone or ironstone
- The water flushes these particles down into the cracks of the earth's surface
- As the water evaporates, it leaves behind dried silica. Over hundreds of years, the silica grows into a rough specimen
- Finally, when light hits the gemstone, fiery rainbow colors flash across the gem. This is known as play of color





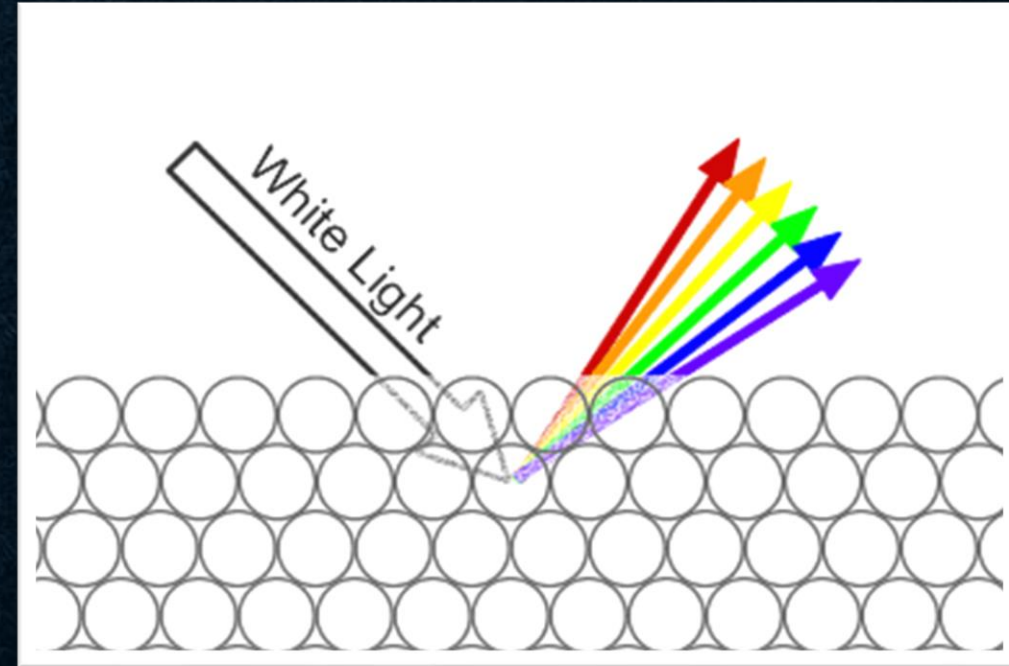
# FACTS ABOUT OPAL



- Opal is a hydrated amorphous form of silica; it consists of water
- Opal differs from other gems as it is formed from amorphous lumps of silica rather than that from naturally faceted crystals.
- Opal is known for its unique display of flashing rainbow colors called play-of-color and no two Opals are alike.
- Opal's hardness is 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs scale
- Opal is a birthstone for those who are born in October and 18th & 34th wedding anniversary stone.

# PLAY OF COLOR

- "Precious opal" is the name used for any Opal that exhibits "play-of-color", Play-of-color is the familiar flash of bright colorful light that a person sees when viewing opal
- Black opal, white opal, crystal opal, boulder opal, and matrix opal are all varieties of "precious opal"
- Play-of-color is an optical phenomenon that occurs when light enters an opal, interacts with its internal structure, and leaves the opal in a flash of spectral colors
- White light enters an opal, interacts with the tiny silica spheres that make up its internal structure, is diffracted into its component colors, and exits the opal in a flash of spectral colors

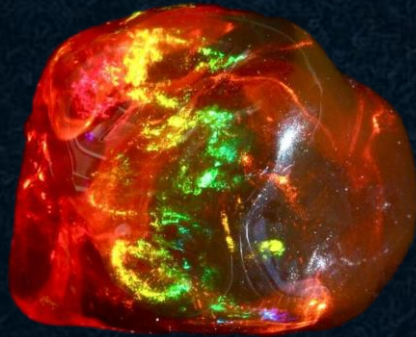




# TYPES OF OPAL



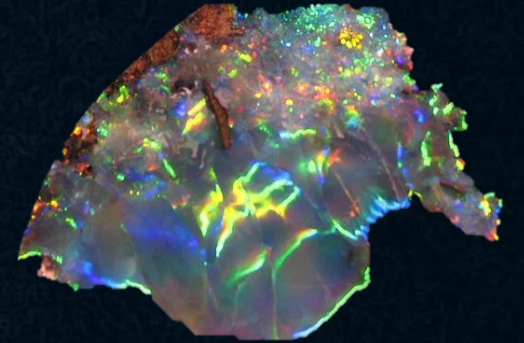
**ETHIOPIAN OPAL**



**FIRE OPAL**



**PINK OPAL**



**AUSTRALIAN OPAL**

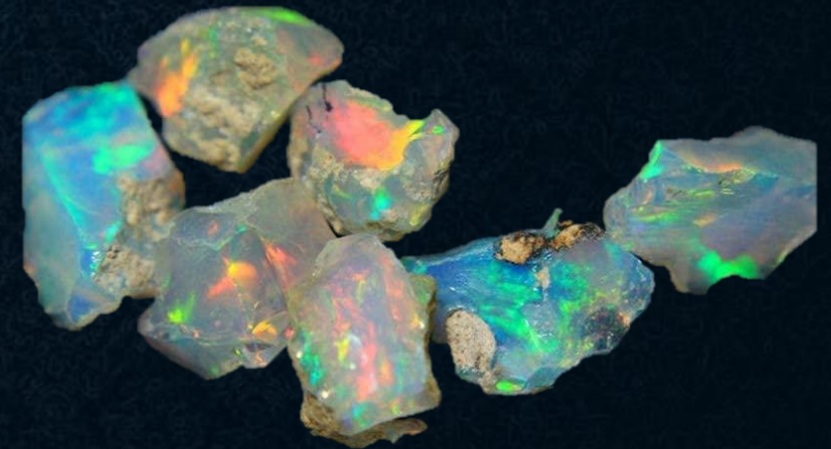


# ETHIOPIAN WELO OPAL

- Ethiopia is one of the oldest inhabited areas on earth and as per anthropological reports, Opal tools date back to 4000 BCE
- Despite having a long history, modern mining for Ethiopian Opals are a recent development
- Ethiopian hydrophane opals were discovered in the Welo region of Ethiopia in 2008
- Ranks 5.5 to 6.0 on Mohs hardness scale



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# FIRE OPAL

- Origin- Mexico
- Treatment- Natural
- The name “fire opal” is all about the body color - fiery yellow, fiery orange or fiery red. It's not about “flash”
- It is a variety of opal that has a bright yellow, bright orange or bright red background color
- Three color ranges of fire opal  
Salamanca ,Crimson, Cherry





# PERUVIAN PINK OPAL

- The pink opal derives its color from trace amounts of organic compounds known as quinones
- This stunning pastel pink gemstone is mined in the Andes near San Patricio Peru
- These stones are naturally pink and do not require any coloring treatment to enhance their color
- Peruvian Pink Opal's hardness is 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs' scale and they are 100% natural



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# ASSEMBLED OPAL

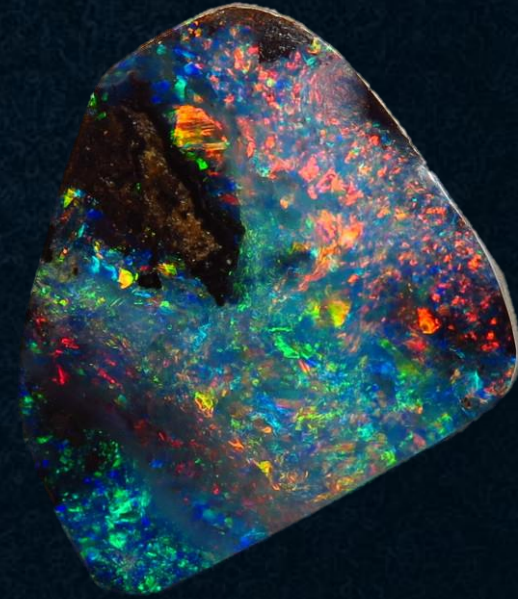
- Some opal is cut from solid pieces of rough, but when only small or thin pieces of rough are available, assembled stones are sometimes made
- An "opal doublet" consists of a thin slice of precious opal glued to a solid base (often made of black Onyx)
- An "opal triplet" consists of a thin slice of precious opal glued to a black base, and covered by gluing a cap of clear quartz atop of the opal
- We use Boulder opal for doublet and triplet





# AUSTRALIAN BOULDER OPAL

- Australian boulder opal is a single-source gemstone and only appears in deposits among the Cretaceous rocks in the western part of Queensland, Australia
- With high density due to ironstone content, Boulder Opal is more resilient than other opals
- Australia produces almost 95 percent of the world's opals of which only 2% is boulder opal



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# MINING

- All types of opals come from different places like China, Australia, Tanzania, Norway, Mexico, Ethiopia, Brazil
- Australia has become the world's primary source of opal since the 1880's as it produces roughly 95% of the world's precious opal, including black opal
- **Modern Mining Methods:**
  - It usually involves advanced equipment such as clawed drills for shaft digging and tunneling machines or front-end loaders for horizontal tunneling
  - Automatic bucket tippers or gigantic pipe vacuums transport the mullock excavated by machine
  - This soil is then either transported to a drum mounted on a truck to be emptied later or shot out by the vacuum into a pile close to the shaft



# OPAL ROUGH



The asymmetric  
nature of rough of  
opals



# CARE

- Since opals are neither a hard nor tough stone, they should be treated with care. A few tips:
  - Remove your opal jewelry before playing sports, gardening, household cleaning and bathing
  - Opal jewelry should be cleaned gently with mild detergent in warm water and a soft toothbrush or cloth
  - Avoid bleach, chemicals and cleaners
  - Doublets & triplets may be wiped with a damp soft cloth and mild detergent, but should never be soaked or immersed
  - Opals have a 6–10 % water content and, like many other gems, will “dry out” and form cracks if they are subjected to extended dry storage. If you need to store your Opal for an extended length of time, just place it in a padded cloth bag and dampen the cloth before storing it for protection



## HOW TO CARE FOR OPAL JEWELRY





# CELEBRITIES WEARING OPAL



Jenna Dewan wore amazing Queensland Boulder Opal and diamond earrings from Irene Neuwirth with her teal dress.



Andamooka Opal, also known as Queen's Opal was set with 150 diamonds into an 18-carat palladium necklace.



A massive 14k vintage opal ring featuring a huge crystal opal surrounded by diamonds, was purchased by Elvis Presley in the early 1970's.



THANK YOU!