

# **The Eyes Have It!**

**Kerry Gregory, FGA**

Whether you are conducting research at a trade show or have been called to examine an item away from the standard environment of your office, you can always count on three critical aspects of gemology—Observation, Observation and of course, Observation!

Observation is the key that opens the door to accurate gem identification. The critical phase of any gem ID should be done by taking the time to get to know the stone in front of you. This is a quality relationship, not speed dating!

Testing should only be done once you have taken the appropriate time to see what the stone has to show you. It is done to confirm your hypothesis of what the stone looks like. When you truly look at stones, you recognize their features in the way you recognize your loved ones.

How shiny is it, what is the cut like, is there color zoning, can you see dispersion? All the features of a gemstone build a profile, a character, a picture of the stone that you can, and should, recognize.

Every stone will share its answers. But if you just test without looking, you can miss a really important feature. And get it horribly wrong. Instruments only provide information, it is your knowledge based on your observations, which will tell you if that information is logical for what you see in front of you.

In this class, you will get the opportunity to meet and get to know many stones.

What can you see, and what conclusions can you draw from that? What most likely stone is and what stone is it not? Working with both common, commercial, rare, and unusual stones.

You will observe the gems and produce a hypothesis for what it is based on observation alone, then document what tests you would do to prove it is what you think it is, and not a similar looking stone.

How do you tell the difference between scapolite and citrine, morganite and kunzite, sapphire and kyanite for instance.

Learn that techniques that Kerry Gregory, FGA, has refined and relied on during her career. Once you master robust observation, you can quickly use the most efficient tests to prove what the stone is.

This NAJA Workshop will be held at the Tucson Convention Center, Maricopa Room

When: Saturday, January 27, 2024

Time: 1 - 4 PM, 3 hours

Cost: \$100 Class size is limited

There will be some gem testing equipment available for delegates to share, but to get the most benefit please bring your own loupe and other handheld instruments (pen light, Chelsea filter, Hanneman filters, spectroscope).