

September 2001

Precious Metals/News

Hollywood Divas

The Women's Jewelry Association's Diva Awards use Tinseltown for inspiration

Because movies are full of divas on and off screen, who better to inspire jewelry artists than this image-conscious group? The fifth annual Diva Awards for Jewelry Design competition awarded \$15,000 in cash prizes to three winners and three honorable mentions for creating renderings for jewelry to fit the theme "Hollywood Diva: Glamour Now and Forever."

The contest is growing in popularity, in part due to its democratic nature. Only renderings are accepted as entries, allowing all designers to compete, regardless of financial status. Entries were up 50% over last year, climbing from 197 to 297. "Our judges had an especially hard time this year," says Diva Chairperson Barbara Mooty. "Literally hundreds of qualified entries competed for top prizes." Along with the top six winners, the judges also honored 11 semifinalists.

The grand prize, second-place and third-place trophies were designed by a combination of sponsors. The sterling silver base was designed by Reed & Barton and created by Rhode Island Metal Spinning Inc. Crystals were donated by Swarovski. Chippenhook created and donated the three honorable-mention trophies and provided awards for all Hollywood Diva sponsors.

• Women's Jewelry Association, Fairfield, NJ; (973) 575-7190, www.womensjewelry.org.

— by Peggy Jo Donahue

All photos of renderings by Erica & Harold van Pelt



Grand Prize
Marsha Donahue

"Reel" Hollywood glamour was created with black velvet ribbon threaded underneath a diamond-studded 18k white gold film reel-like frame with brushed and high-polished finishes.



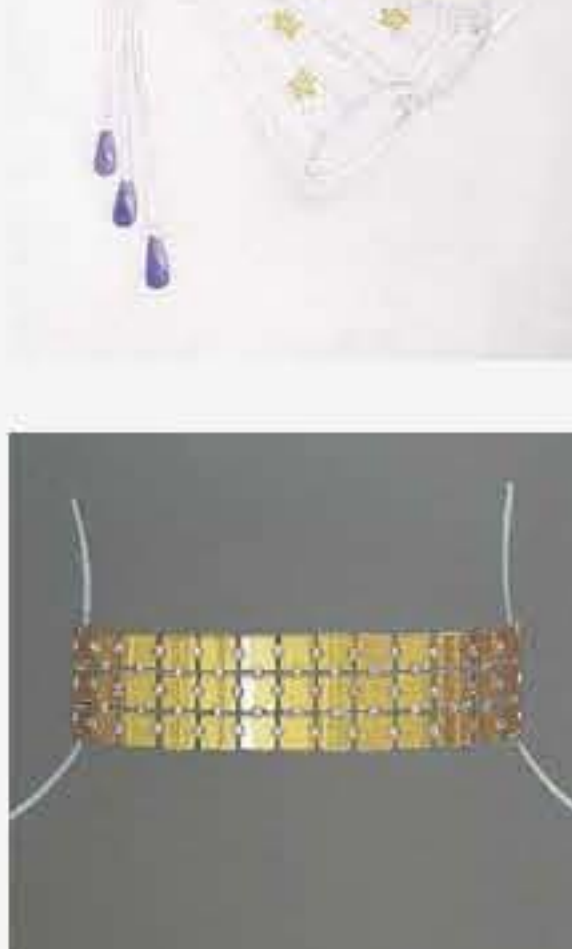
Second Place
Astrik Jarajian

"Eye Frame Diva With Wings and Vision" was designed for Cher, in recognition of her talent and creativity as an actor and singer, says Jarajian.



Third Place
Joeng-Eun Kim

Kim's "Necklace with Flower" was inspired by Audrey Hepburn. The artist says it would beautifully accessorize Hepburn's iconic simple black dress.



Honorable Mention
Shinka Kimura

This necklace was designed for Marilyn Monroe, who stays in peoples' minds forever, says Kimura.



Honorable Mention
Aiko iwashita massoud

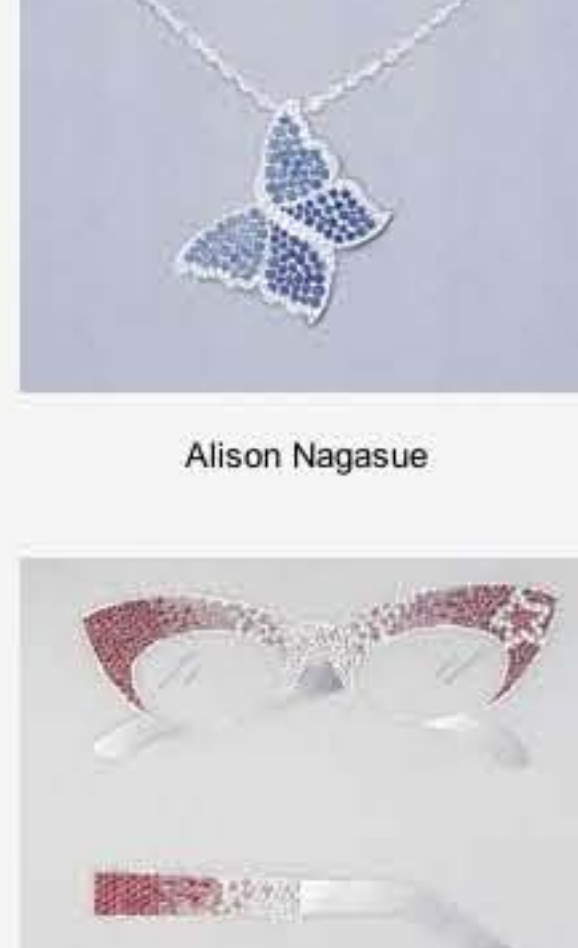
The necklace with three drops was designed as an image of a spotlight, says Massoud.



Honorable Mention
Maria Canale

The necklace is a fashion statement in gold, sparkling with small diamonds and flexible like fabric, says Canale.

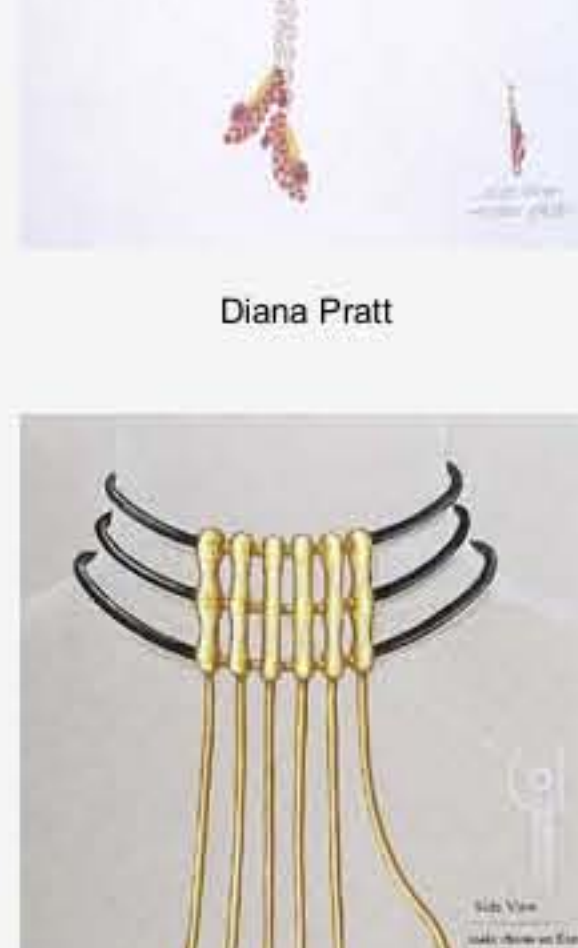
Semifinalists



Marsha Donahue



Hau C. Ly



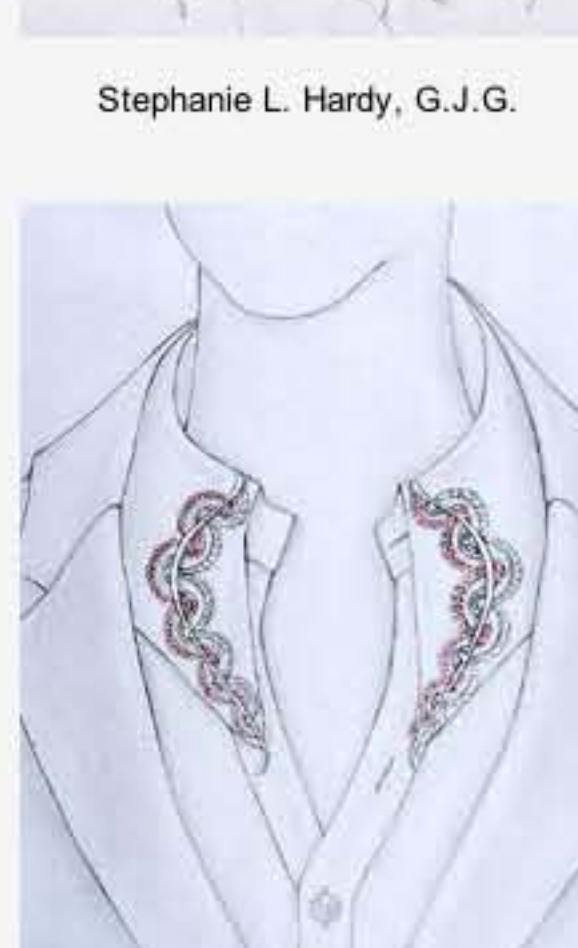
Alison Nagasue



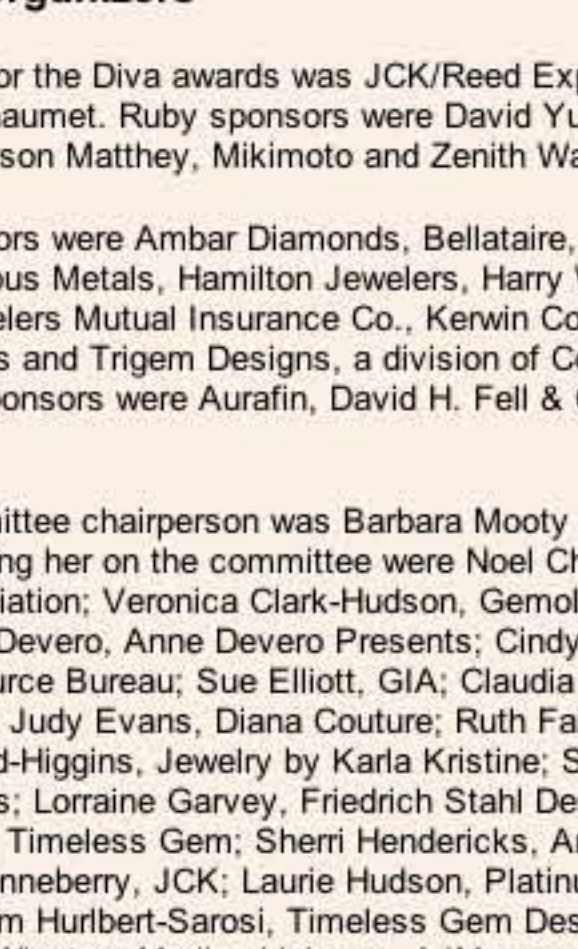
Maytal Hofman



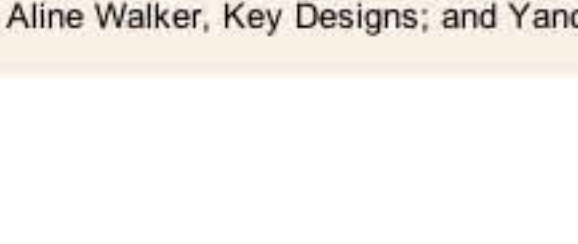
Mirjam Butz-Brown



Diana Pratt



Ema Takahashi



Christina Jeong Lee

Shinka Kimura

Stephanie L. Hardy, G.J.G.

Sophie M. Gardner

Sponsors, Organizers

Major sponsor for the Diva awards was JCK/Reed Expo. Emerald sponsor was Chaumet. Ruby sponsors were David Yurman, In Style magazine, Johnson Matthey, Mikimoto and Zenith Watch Co.

Sapphire sponsors were Ambar Diamonds, Bellataire, Dunbar Armored Air, Fleet Precious Metals, Hamilton Jewelers, Harry Winston, IJB Insurance, Jewelers Mutual Insurance Co., Kerwin Communications, London Jewelers and Trigem Designs, a division of Columbia Gem House. Pearl sponsors were Aurafin, David H. Fell & Co. and Jewels by Jack.

The Diva Committee chairperson was Barbara Mooty of AJM magazine. Joining her on the committee were Noel Cheney, California Jewelers Association; Veronica Clark-Hudson, Gemological Institute of America; Anne Devero, Anne Devero Presents; Cindy Edelman, Jeweler's Resource Bureau; Sue Elliott, GIA; Claudia Endler, Claudia Endler Designs; Judy Evans, Diana Couture; Ruth Falter, David H. Fell & Co.; Kris Field-Higgins, Jewelry by Kara Kristine; Sande Finkel, London Jewelers; Lorraine Garvey, Friedrich Stahl Designs USA; Miranda Hayes, Timeless Gem; Sherri Hendericks, American Gem Society; Pat Henneberry, JCK; Laurie Hudson, Platinum Guild International; Kim Huribert-Sarosi, Timeless Gem Designs; Lisa Labrado, Harry Winston; Marilyn Liebman, AJM magazine; Elsa Martinez-Phillips, Roberto Martinez Inc.; Jana McDonough, Family Jewels; Cheryl Pellegrino, J. Walter Thompson; Fran Pennella, Reed Expo; Maria Piano, Shreve & Co.; Estela Posternak, ERP Enterprises; Colleen Rafferty, Christensen & Rafferty; Janice Rovito, Finley Fine Jewelry Corp.; Gillian Schultz, Metronet Safe & Sound; Judi Shechter-Lankford, GIA; Caroline Stanley, Jewelers Vigilance Committee; Billie Sutter, LuxuryFinders.com; Akiko Wakabayashi, Nancy B & Co.; Aline Walker, Key Designs; and Yancy Weinrich, AGS.