

[15:48] Photoman (~Photoman@141.158.42.58) joined #yg.
[15:48] <TnPearl> hey cat
[15:49] <openmind> hello Cattrix
[15:49] <Alain> OK people Robert is here
[15:49] <Alain> welcom Photoman
[15:49] <Jen_> hi cat and photoman
[15:49] <africanuck> Welcome Photoman
[15:49] <openmind> hello Photoman
[15:49] <TnPearl> hello Photoman
[15:49] <Scott> welcome photoman
[15:49] <Cattrix> hi
[15:49] <Annie> welcome Robert
[15:49] <YourGemologist> Good morning Robert. This is Robert James and I want to thank you for joining us
[15:49] <Photoman> Hi everyone! I am here and quivering with anticipation
[15:49] <YourGemologist> IT is a special treat to have you here to share with us
[15:49] <Krystyna> does photoman wear a red cape? :)
[15:50] <Photoman> Thank-u
[15:50] <YourGemologist> Alain, I will turn it over to you. Robert...brace yourself :-)
[15:50] <Photoman> Only whcalled to action... such as now.
[15:50] <Photoman> OK!
[15:51] <africanuck> Who wants to start off with the questions?
[15:51] <Alain> Photoman, this will be a very informal chat and if at anytime you are in a tough spot to answer, just say so and we'll move on
[15:51] <Photoman> Very well.
[15:51] <Krystyna> question
[15:51] <Photoman> shoot!
[15:51] <Alain> Photoman, could you start with a little story about how you got from a GG to a writer/photographer
[15:51] <Krystyna> any new exciting finds?
[15:52] <Photoman> There have been some exciting finds in Namibia of deep amethyst. Overall the market is very slow... both in what is avail and commerce in general.
[15:54] <Photoman> Regarding new finds.... there is the spinel material coming out of Tanzania (exact location a mystery) but the gems are spectacular pink-orange and rival spinels from jjust about anywhere, including those from Pamir, Afghanistan
[15:55] <Krystyna> i wish they were a little less sleepy and expensive
[15:55] <africanuck> Are these the ones that rival the Namya spinels in colour?
[15:56] <Photoman> Alain, I missed your question, and I will go back to that now. I started as a student at GIA, then, as you can imagine graduated completely broke.... So I decided to work for them. THis was still in Santa Monica. A few years later, JCK magazine needed an editor so I leapt. After 8 yrs with them, joned the crew at Professional Jeweler
[15:57] <Alain> Was it an accidental carreer or were you always involved in writing/photography as a teen?
[15:57] <africanuck> question
[15:57] <africanuck> that was my question
[15:57] <africanuck> lol
[15:58] <Photoman> Regarding the spinels, affirmative to both Krystyna and Africanuk. They are expensive, but they are magnificent. Some are sleepey, others not. I have photographed some that would take your breath away.

[15:58] <Krystyna> lovely hot hot pink, there's one on pala's site right now

[15:58] <Photoman> I was...deplorable at math, always. That's what math rejects do. They write.

[15:59] <Alain> heh

[15:59] <openmind> question

[15:59] <Alain> Go openmind.

[15:59] <openmind> I've seen many of your photos of gems and jewels, and they are always impressive. I bet that you must see exceptional gems on a regular basis when you are requested to photograph them. Which ones were the most impressive as far as you can remember?

[15:59] <Photoman> The photography part has always been a hobby. Well, now it is more than that, but I love every second of looking through a camera.

[16:01] <Photoman> Openmind (love the name) I appreciate your comments. I once photgraphed King Fahd's gems..... well, his BIG green diamond. That was impressive.

[16:01] <africanuck> question

[16:01] <Alain> At his home?

[16:01] <Photoman> There are so many, I am hardpressed to remember others. Some are real challeneges too

[16:02] <Photoman> No, the green diamond had gone to GIA for color analysis.

[16:02] <Alain> Go africanuck.

[16:02] <africanuck> what is the most difficult gem to photograph?

[16:02] <Photoman> emeralds

[16:02] <Krystyna> why?

[16:02] <africanuck> is it easier with digital?

[16:03] <Frank> question

[16:04] <Photoman> Ah, wondr'd if you'd ask. I beleive it is the chromium content. The better the emerald, it seems, the mreo challenging to get the color right. Film does not read the greens we see in emerald... and digital does only marginally better. The magic comes with Photoshop.

[16:04] <Alain> Go Frank.

[16:04] <Frank> what about lighting? what type,

[16:05] <africanuck> question

[16:05] <Photoman> Lighting temperature is an issues as well. I use incandescent quartz halogen lights. The new LCD lights I have not tried, but since most are blue balanced, the color may be better.

[16:05] <Photoman> Go ahead Africanuk

[16:05] <Alain> africanuck, your question please.

[16:06] <africanuck> what percentage of your photographs end up photoshopped to give the same color as you see with your eyes?

[16:07] <Photoman> Ah, great querie. Few of them, really. It is an image once removed, and it is 2-D as opposed to what happen when you hold a gem in your hands, move it around and play wit hthe light entering it.

[16:07] <Krystyna> question

[16:07] <Photoman> OK K

[16:08] <Krystyna> do you fimd that some stones photograph better under other types of light?

[16:08] <Krystyna> like daylight, fluorescent, etc

[16:09] <africanuck> question

[16:10] <Photoman> You know, now with digital you can change the way your camera interprets color on the fly. I used to tell people nott to shoot in fluorescent lighting. But in an office with fl, if the color balance is well regulated, you can get some nice shots because fl is quite diffused. Sometimes I shoot in daylight as well. You can't move the sun around very easily, though.

[16:11] <Photoman> Yes, A?
[16:11] <africanuck> if green beryly is coloured by vandium, and emeralds by chromium, is it possible to separate the two using only a digital camera?
[16:11] <Frank> Question
[16:12] <Alain> That is a very interesting question africanuck.
[16:12] <africanuck> because I'm lazy
[16:12] <africanuck> lol
[16:13] <Photoman> Another great question, A. Yes, but not diagnostic. As you know it is mostly a color call anyway. And emeralds, I think it has been agreed CAN be colored by vanadium as well
[16:14] <Alain> Yes, that's true
[16:14] <Alain> I think Frank is up.
[16:14] <Frank> You said that photography was only a hobby.what are / were your primary interests interest
[16:15] <Photoman> Re laziness, I know what you mean, Africanuc. I photograph gems so I don't have to keep such extensive written records.
[16:16] <Photoman> By the way... pearls are very tough to photograph successfully.
[16:16] <africanuck> :) photoman
[16:17] <Photoman> Thank-u
[16:17] <TnPearl> question
[16:17] <Photoman> OK Tn
[16:17] <TnPearl> why are pearls hard to photograph
[16:17] <Krystyna> lol
[16:18] <Krystyna> you photo ok pearl :)
[16:18] <TnPearl> lol
[16:19] <Photoman> Wondr'd if you'd ask. Pearls are spherical, have optical properties that are hard to interpret, such as bodycolor, surface characteristics, etc. BUT: I LOVE shooting pearls.. with a camera, that is.
[16:19] <Krystyna> question
[16:19] <Alain> I think Frank's question is still open: You said that photography was only a hobby.what are / were your primary interests interest
[16:19] <Annie> maybe because its white or ...
[16:20] <Krystyna> try as i may, i can't get color change stones right with my digital, whether it's alex or cc garnet. how do you photo them?
[16:20] <Photoman> Back to Frank. Sorry old chap, I'm not prone to answer ?'s about me. I read a lot, hike and ride a bicycle. I have a daughter (12) and two Jack Russel terriers plus two cats and that keeps me busy. Ah, and my wife too
[16:21] <Annie> question
[16:21] <Frank> Ok. sorry I meant what were your other proffesional interests
[16:22] <Alain> But we loved to hear you're a family man aswell.
[16:22] <africanuck> lol
[16:22] <Photoman> K, color change gems are ... how do we say this politely? a challenge to photograph. In the old days, touch-up did wonders. These days, Photoshop does it all.
[16:22] <Photoman> LOL!
[16:22] <Krystyna> forget poloite, they're a pain in the you know where
[16:22] <keemoog99> question concerning camera equipment.
[16:23] <africanuck> I think annie had a question
[16:23] <africanuck> and Franks is still kind of open
[16:23] <Photoman> Professional interests? Interviewing people, attending conferences around the globe where I can really get a feel for what the issues in our business are.

[16:23] <Photoman> OK, Annie
[16:23] <Annie> Frank, does that suffice your answer.
[16:24] <Frank> yes thanks
[16:24] <Annie> Robert, I wondered about Diamonds, how well do you need to adjust the lighting since they are such dispersive little beauties
[16:24] <Photoman> I have many interests. Going to gem localities and photographing the PEOPLE who work the gem localities is also very important to me.
[16:25] <Photoman> A dispersive and brilliant answer.
[16:26] <Annie> Robert, you are such fun to talk to... is that the answer to my question
[16:26] <africanuck> i think that was the teaser
[16:26] <Frank> question
[16:27] <Photoman> Annie, diamonds and other gems with high refractive indices are somewhat challenging. I sometimes find that when shooting a jewel, the diamonds are overexposed, while the deeply saturated colored gems are underexposed. How to bring the two to fuition? Get an average reading and then bracket, over and under. You MAY get a suitable photo, or you migt have to resort to cutting and pasting in Phtoshop. That said, it is possible to overuse Photoshop.
[16:28] <Photoman> Yes Frank?
[16:28] <africanuck> keemoog, your question
[16:28] <Frank> What kind of set up do you have for your inclusion photography
[16:28] <Annie> thank you
[16:28] <keemoog99> thank you. can you tell me what cameras you use. 35mm large film format, digital and especially what film asa etc.?
[16:30] <Photoman> I use a Leica binocular scope (moot of course since one photographs though a single ocular) I have it mounted on a very stable surface, and I use a device on the camera to attach to the microscope lens. The I focus using the microscope.
[16:30] <Frank> thanks
[16:31] <Photoman> Cameras: 2 35mm Nikon SLR's, 1 digital Nikon SLR, Pentax medium format film, Horseman 4x5 and traveling Zon eVI 4x5 film cameras.
[16:31] <africanuck> question
[16:31] <Photoman> Yes, Africa
[16:32] <Alain> Photoman, this is turning out in a hard working session for you, tell us when you want a coffee break
[16:32] <africanuck> background colours vs the colour of the stone, which with which?
[16:32] <Photoman> I'm oK, thanks. On the edge of my seat!
[16:32] <africanuck> ah, too much coffee already, LOL
[16:33] <Annie> we have freshly brewed coffee ready, anytime you wana break
[16:33] <africanuck> it's 5:30 pm here, I'm having a glass of wine personally
[16:34] <Photoman> Africanuk, another winner. I tend to photo in a way that shows the gem, not the background. Black or white are generally used, but alos some colors that contrast slightly with the gem. I find that for phot jewelry, blue works well.
[16:34] <Photoman> Too early for wine now. But the martini is just fine
[16:34] <Alain> Photoman, I have a question regarding locations: do you do your photographing work more at the studio or on location?
[16:34] <Annie> cheers,
[16:34] <Photoman> Hiccup!
[16:34] <Alain> heh

[16:36] <Photoman> Alain, great ? I like both. The studio is a controlled environment, so when you want to get the gem to face up nicely it is best. I love the wildness of shooting in the field, but the results are rarely acceptable.

[16:36] <openmind> question

[16:36] <Photoman> And I mean acceptable for publication...

[16:36] <africanuck> question

[16:36] <Alain> Do you improvise a lot with see through clothes etc?

[16:37] <africanuck> Alain...you are so Dutch!

[16:37] <Photoman> Sorry, did I join the wrong session?

[16:37] <Alain> heh

[16:37] <Alain> I meant to diffuse the light

[16:37] <africanuck> cloth Alain

[16:37] <Photoman> Ooooooh!

[16:37] <africanuck> not clothes

[16:37] <africanuck> hehehe

[16:37] <Alain> oops sorry

[16:38] <Krystyna> question

[16:38] <Photoman> No, I stick to using plastic (plexiglass) diffusion panels. Not to worry Alain, I NEVER use see thru clothing myself.

[16:38] <Krystyna> how do i become a famous gem photo like you Rob? :)

[16:38] <Alain> heh, thank you

[16:38] <Photoman> Yes, K?

[16:38] <cityfire> improvise with cloth for lighting

[16:39] <africanuck> openmind also had a question earlier

[16:39] <Krystyna> thanks for sharing that Photoman

[16:39] <cityfire> question

[16:39] <Photoman> Yes, some parachute material that is stark white can work well. In fact many of the commercial tents use it.

[16:40] <Photoman> Please openmind, ask away

[16:40] <openmind> Buying gems over the Internet can be a bit of a problem. Many people rely on what they see (photos) to make up their minds and buy, so with your expertise in gems and photographing them, what do you think about the photos of gems posted over the Internet, such as in online auction sites? Can you tell easily if a photo has been tampered with, cropped, chopped, beautified, enhanced, treated, colorized, Photoshopped beyond recognition and I don't know what else?

[16:40] <openmind> I don't know what others think about this, but sometimes it feels like there should be in the description of their items a part to disclose gem treatments and another one to disclose photo treatments as well.

[16:40] <africanuck> then I had one, and then cityfire had one

[16:41] Frank (~Frank@172.170.214.127) left irc: Read error: Connection reset by peer

[16:41] <Krystyna> good question openmind!

[16:41] Frank (~Frank@172.170.214.127) joined #yg.

[16:42] <Photoman> Openmind, that was just excellent. Yes, this is one of the problems with the digital age. Forget about gem treatments! The "treatment" a gem often receives in a photolab is huge. It is: easy to remove inclusions, soften chips, change color, add facets, etc. SO: Do NOT trust what you see online. Always verify in person first, if you can.

[16:43] <Photoman> Frank? are you with us still? Don't leave!!

[16:43] <africanuck> he's back

[16:43] <Alain> africanuck, your question please.

[16:43] <Frank> got booted...back now :)

[16:43] <africanuck> how much photoshopping can be done without it becoming something else than what you photographed, (from a professional viewpoint)

[16:44] <africanuck> this coming back to the altered beyond recognition photos on ebay

[16:44] <Photoman> Rules: ALWAYS represent the gem as best you can. If you are tampering with what one sees with one's eyes, that is a no-no.

[16:45] <africanuck> how do you maintain the brilliance when u edit?

[16:46] <YourGemologist> question

[16:46] <Photoman> There's more. Some gems are not well represented by simple photography, no matter how good you are. Emeralds are a case in point. Due to sharp depth of field used, inclusions appear compressed in a single plane. Also the color is way off, generally. Those aspects it is best to try and change in Photoshop, so that you can represent the gem for what it is

[16:46] <Alain> cityfire, your turn for a question.

[16:46] <cityfire> When photographing gems in a studio setting what film speed and type do you use. Do you step down as far as your lens will allow or do you shoot flat

[16:48] <Photoman> Cityfire, and then Africa: I use film with as low ISO as possible, like Kodak 64T, since I shoot with incandescent lights. In combination, I use a light meter I trust, a tripod and continuous lighting

[16:48] <Photoman> Africa, I am not sure I understand the question.

[16:49] <africanuck> the dispersion, if you are editing a photo, and deepening the colour, how do you not blunt the dispersion as well

[16:50] <Photoman> In Photoshop there is a tool known as "levels" This is a bar scale you can play with before you decide. You can also select an area of the photo and play with that.

[16:50] <africanuck> YG, your question. Thanks photoman

[16:50] <Alain> YourGemologist, I believe it's your turn.

[16:50] <tnpearl> question

[16:50] <YourGemologist> Have you done much with video? And if so, what kind of lighting do you find to work best?

[16:50] <Photoman> Sorry YG, I'm a still man! But not dead yet.

[16:51] <Scott> question

[16:51] <Photoman> OK Scott

[16:51] <africanuck> I'll bet it's not a hurricane lamp YG :D

[16:51] <africanuck> I think TN had one too

[16:51] <YourGemologist> understood. thought I might get some pointers on the DVD production we are doing

[16:51] <Photoman> TN, yes?

[16:51] <YourGemologist> and no hurricane lights for us fortunately :-)

[16:51] <tnpearl> do you ever do any developing of your own

[16:52] <Photoman> Oh, things are ALWAYS developing around here. I used to have a wet lab. Sold it. My aim is to generate images and not spend so much time in a toxic lab. I do miss the control one has in a lab, though.

[16:53] <Annie> Scott had a question

[16:53] <Scott> Not to change the subject but did you have a mentor or just someone you looked up to when you started with gemology and photography?

[16:53] <Photoman> Yes, Scott?

[16:53] <africanuck> question

[16:54] <Photoman> Yes. Mr. Liddicoat, and Tino Hammid. I visited RTL in his office regularly and he LOVED gems, from the most insignificant quartz, to the whopping rubies. I loved him for that. I just studied Tino, that's all. I never saw how he did it.

[16:55] <Photoman> Yes, Africa?

[16:55] <africanuck> are there any gems that systematically show up BETTER on film than to the naked eye, and if so, do they get photoshopped "down"?

[16:57] <Photoman> Jeez, A, another great querie. Burmese rubies often fluoresce to incandescent lights... and ofet look better than they are. It is importnat to see the gem while you are manipulating the image. Of course, keep in mind that one monitor may not show things the way another one does. That si another reason NOT to trust images online.

[16:57] <Alain> Photoman, something completely different .. during your February visit to Myanmar you couldn't get into the mines. Could you fill us in a bit about the situation there and did Hughes behave?

[16:58] <Photoman> Oy vey, let me think about this...

[16:58] <Alain> About if Hughes behaved?

[16:59] <africanuck> LOL

[16:59] <Krystyna> not a chance lol

[16:59] <africanuck> this is a trick question Photoman, because we already did a chat with Hughes

[16:59] <africanuck> you should read the log of it sometime

[16:59] <africanuck> hehehe

[17:00] <Photoman> Yes, we were not able to see the mines. So I wrote a rather political story (which you can see on the ICA website) I believe it is critical in this business to look at the human and political factors sometimes. Our business involves people. Richard Hughes was an EXCELLENT, repeat EXCELLENT guide. Who else could see Burma as clearly as this man? And yet, we do not see eye to eye regarding politics.

[17:01] <africanuck> better not read the log then

[17:01] <Photoman> LOL

[17:01] <Photoman> I hae my own "log" with Richard.

[17:01] <africanuck> he was fun

[17:02] <Krystyna> lol

[17:02] <Alain> What was the main reason you couldn't get into the mines?

[17:02] <Photoman> Correction: he IS fun

[17:02] <Alain> Yah he is.

[17:02] <Photoman> The Burmese generals decided not to let us go.

[17:02] <africanuck> why not?

[17:02] <Photoman> Ask them

[17:03] <africanuck> baksheesh?

[17:03] <africanuck> or lack of?

[17:03] <Photoman> meaning of baksheesh?

[17:03] <Alain> Is it a situation in which you need to go through all kinds of middlemen?

[17:03] <africanuck> like a tip

[17:03] <Annie> you mean 'tips'

[17:03] <africanuck> yes, of course, to the americans here, I mean "tip" because of course it's illegal to baksheesh

[17:03] <africanuck> lol

[17:04] <Krystyna> aka bribery

[17:04] <africanuck> too long in Africa, sorry

[17:04] <africanuck> not bribery K

[17:04] <africanuck> often, u have to pay them to do their jobs

[17:04] <Krystyna> oh ok

[17:04] <africanuck> and nothing more

[17:04] <Krystyna> that's fair

[17:05] <africanuck> well, their gov't hasn't paid them for a year or so sometimes

[17:05] <Photoman> Moolah, as they say in America. Under the table grist. Well, that probably would have helped but we didn't do it. Our group was BIG (15 people) and the generals don't lik anything they can't control..

[17:05] <africanuck> too many cameras?

[17:06] <Photoman> Yes, that too. Burma is a magnificently beautiful country, as are its people. It is a tragedy they have to live under that brutal regime.

[17:06] <cityfire> alain the format has broken down

[17:06] <Alain> That's ok, Photoman is doing great

[17:07] <africanuck> question

[17:07] <Photoman> ja wohl?

[17:07] <cityfire> yeah africa!

[17:07] <Alain> heh

[17:07] <Annie> lol

[17:07] <africanuck> Do you find that being an American has made it more difficult to travel to places like this lately? Or not?

[17:07] <Photoman> heh

[17:07] <africanuck> hehehe

[17:08] <Photoman> Yes. You see, we now weat these large, red, concentric circles on our backs/

[17:08] <keemoog99> question

[17:08] <Photoman> Uum hum?

[17:08] <africanuck> can I have a follow up?

[17:08] <Photoman> Sure

[17:08] <Alain> Do you really feel that when abroad .. the bullseye?

[17:09] <africanuck> that was it, actually

[17:09] <Annie> keemoog99 has a question, I think

[17:09] <keemoog99> is there any room for freelance photojournalists gemologists in print media like jck etc? will they accept articles not specifically asked for?

[17:10] <Photoman> I will answer Alain first, then Keemoog. Just a little bit. It is a generalization to say all Americans are loathed everywhere. My guess is that just as many people wqelcome us.

[17:11] <cityfire> question

[17:11] <Photoman> Keemoog, the answer is YES! You have to write thing sup and submit them. You dont always succeed. Also itis good to have some writing skills.

[17:11] <africanuck> LOL

[17:11] <Alain> cityfire, go ahead

[17:12] <cityfire> are you saying that when you travel people will treat you as you treat them?

[17:13] <Photoman> Excellent response. And that goes for all nationalities!

[17:13] <cityfire> eg if your a jerk in your own country stay home

[17:13] <Photoman> Yup

[17:13] <africanuck> question

[17:13] <Photoman> By the way, most of the jerks stay home. They don't travel, ergo they are jerks.

[17:14] <Alain> lol

[17:14] <africanuck> Do you study a bit of the culture before you go to a new country so as not to make mis-steps?

[17:15] <Photoman> It reminds me of a story about India. There, whie visiting a diamond factory, I was invited to lunch. There were no utensils so I did what any red-blooded American would do: I ate with both hands... till I realized mu hosts were only using their RIGHT hands. And I now know why.

[17:15] <africanuck> lol, me too

[17:16] <tnpearl> why

[17:16] <Alain> lol tnpearl, they whipe with the left

[17:16] <tnpearl> oh

[17:16] <Annie> lol

[17:16] <tnpearl> lol

[17:16] <Photoman> Look, you can't go around everywhere trying to please everyone. I believe tat certain traits are appreciated: respect, consideration, acknowledgement.

[17:17] <africanuck> agreed

[17:17] <cityfire> question

[17:17] <Photoman> OK CF?

[17:17] <Alain> Photoman, of all people you interviewed, who made the biggest impact on you?

[17:17] <cityfire> what about physical apperance i am 6'2 and 275 black with grey beard

[17:18] <Krystyna> ????

[17:18] <Annie> lol

[17:18] <Photoman> Alain, let me answer CF first. I have to think about your question. CF,would u like me to post the measurements?

[17:19] <africanuck> are you asking about racism or intimidating people cityfire?

[17:19] <Krystyna> :X

[17:19] <keemoog99> question.

[17:19] <Photoman> Let me answer Alain first.

[17:19] <Alain> I think cityfire should play baseball :)

[17:19] <tnpearl> football

[17:20] <cityfire> i'm talking about people making judgements based on looks I am also american strike two?

[17:20] <Photoman> Even a gemologist could be that big.

[17:20] <cityfire> back hair not skin

[17:21] <Alain> Not in Europe cityfire, you would be respected.

[17:21] <cityfire> black

[17:21] <tnpearl> I dont think people out of America think the way we do cityfire

[17:21] <africanuck> In Africa, grey hair is an advantage, it's associated with wisdom

[17:21] <Photoman> Discrimination has a habit of appearing ANYWHERE. See it, avoid it, eschew it.

[17:21] <tnpearl> not many Bubbas overthere

[17:21] <Krystyna> i'm gonna stop dying my hair africanuck

[17:22] <Krystyna> dyeing

[17:22] <Photoman> Bubbas, rednecks and heehaws can appear on ANY continent.

[17:22] <africanuck> and being less than skinny is associated with being successful

[17:22] <Krystyna> and dieting too

[17:22] <africanuck> no one diets in Africa skinny = poor

[17:22] <Photoman> My guess is that we should gently nudge this back to gemology or reporting.

[17:22] <africanuck> yes

[17:23] <africanuck> sorry :-S

[17:23] <cityfire> i am a poria here in southen Ca.

[17:23] <Alain> I'll repeat my question Photoman

[17:23] <keemoog99> question. gem favorite that you would buy your wife. don't answer if too personal.

[17:23] <Alain> Photoman, of all people you interviewed, who made the biggest impact on you?

[17:23] <Photoman> I love unusual quartzes... as I hinted before.

[17:24] <Krystyna> question

[17:25] <Photoman> Alain, it is hard to say. My favorite interviews have been with people in our trade who havem ade a difference. Either stylistically or through technology or through breakthroughs. Steve Kretchmer, the designer always blows my mind when I interview him.

[17:26] <africanuck> why?
[17:26] <Photoman> follow-up: the best interviews are generally with the LESS well-known. The least successful interview asre with those who believe they are dieties of some kind.
[17:27] <Alain> So your favorite angle is more on great jewelery/lapidary than the everlasting rumours about blood diamonds etc?
[17:27] <Annie> Robert, sorry, if I squeeze in, how about jennifer lopez with her 5 ct pink diamonds
[17:28] <Alain> heh
[17:28] <africanuck> :)
[17:28] <Photoman> Africa, Steve Kretchmer is one America genius designer who is constantly working with metals t make thm do interesting things: tesniosn settings, mokume gane, magnetic platinum.... u name it, he's done it and how!
[17:28] <africanuck> someone to Google, I think...
[17:28] <africanuck> thanks
[17:28] <Photoman> yes.
[17:28] <Krystyna> What's the latest in the sapphire market, re treatments, etc. how dodgy to buy without knowing vendor very well or without cert?
[17:29] <Catrix> Question
[17:29] <Alain> Wasn't magnetic platinum caused by Irridium?
[17:30] <Photoman> Look, stories are one thing. J-Lo is nteresting as are CONFLICT diamonds. Finding unique angles to these stories is more challenging.
[17:30] <Photoman> Alain, I'm not sure. Proprietary.
[17:31] <Alain> Jack Ogden reported on that last week, I should read again.
[17:32] <Photoman> I believe teh sapphire market is headed for a soft spell. Would you invest heavily in sapphires not knowing what is going on with them?
[17:32] <Krystyna> hell no
[17:32] <Photoman> Thanks for sharing
[17:32] <Krystyna> yer welcome :)
[17:32] <africanuck> Catrix, your question
[17:32] <Catrix> What kind of unusual things in Quartzs.. have you seen color shifting quartz?
[17:33] <Photoman> I love..inclusions in quartz. I love that quartz can almost llok like anything else. I love that it is mostly inexpensive. I love it because it is so complex.
[17:34] <Alain> Ghost inclusions and such?
[17:34] <Photoman> I have not seen color shift quartz. Pray tell us more.
[17:34] <Annie> Cat, you know colour shift term is no longer used here
[17:34] <Krystyna> that answers the cc amethyst question i guess
[17:35] <africanuck> we had a thread on our forum about a "colour change" amethyst
[17:35] <Catrix> oh pardon me Annie
[17:35] <Annie> lol, i am Robert does not mind
[17:35] <Annie> lol, its ok
[17:35] <africanuck> question
[17:35] <Photoman> I love rutile needles, mica, 3 phase, aventurescent etc. etc.
[17:36] <Frank> I loved the bored out rutilated quartz with the garnet crystals and gold nugget in them :)
[17:36] <Photoman> Amethyst, I love that too -- from the very pale lavender through the ruddy pruples that just make you swoon.
[17:36] <Photoman> Yes indeed, Frank!
[17:37] <cityfire> question

[17:37] <Photoman> OK

[17:37] <africanuck> coming back to backgrounds, we have a number of the forum members who try to post pictures, and some gems come out better on a black background (chrome diopside), others on a white. Do you have a rule of thumb?

[17:38] <Photoman> Rue of thumb: darker stones on lighter backgrounds (including chrome diopside) and lightre on darker backgrounds (like pale amethyst)

[17:38] <Alain> cityfire, your question please.

[17:38] <cityfire> where do you see the diamond market going after debeers large site release?

[17:41] <Photoman> The market is democratized. DB controls 45%. Lev leviev is a HUGE influence, as is Black empowerment movemnsnt in South Africa. Demands from China and India also figure.

[17:42] <Photoman> Also watch if DB is able to enter America again. Then you will see GREARTE changes.

[17:42] <Alain> On Leviev, do you have any idea on what companies he has a stake in? .. it always dazzles me

[17:43] <Photoman> Yup, he's dazzling. He has obvious % in diamonds: Russia, Angola, Botswana and more. He has Gottex, a swimwear factory. He owns construction companies, banks, railroads and an oil company. But he loves diamonds best. I'd go for Gottex, myself.

[17:44] <Photoman> Not Botswana (yet) but Namibia

[17:44] <Alain> Gottex does diamonds?

[17:44] <africanuck> rhinestone bikinis Alain

[17:44] <Krystyna> is he single? :)

[17:44] <Photoman> gems of a different variety

[17:44] <Alain> oh I misread

[17:44] <Alain> lol

[17:44] <africanuck> he

[17:44] <Photoman> Nope, he's mariied and has about 12 children. Aged 50.

[17:45] <Krystyna> yikes, fertile

[17:45] <Photoman> Well, we know his wife is.

[17:45] <Alain> You'll be pregnant from even looking at him.

[17:45] <africanuck> Does he have his diamond mines in Angola up and running?

[17:45] <Photoman> As are most diamond producers.

[17:46] <Photoman> By the way HE was a facsinating interview. About 3 years ago. You can read about him on the professionaljeweler.com website

[17:47] <Alain> Yes i read it, it's a 2 page interview if i remember correctly.

[17:47] <africanuck> question

[17:47] <Photoman> Two separate stories. One about his rise to power, one about his future.

[17:47] <Photoman> Yes, Africa

[17:47] <africanuck> Which countries have you travelled to in your professional life? Do you encounter problems getting in or out with your equipment?

[17:48] <Alain> And he gave you a follow-up, Canada.

[17:49] <Photoman> Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, SA, Thailand, Burma, Canada, lots of Europe, India and Sri Lanka, Russia.

[17:49] <Photoman> No, I go in as a tourist

[17:49] <africanuck> did any of them shock you?

[17:50] <cityfire> question

[17:50] <Photoman> like with a cattle prod?

[17:50] <Alain> besides Amsterdam.

[17:50] <africanuck> lol Alain
[17:50] <africanuck> no, I meant the conditions in the country
[17:50] <Krystyna> lol Photoman
[17:50] <Annie> You haven't visited Australia ?
[17:51] <Photoman> Absolutely. I have seen poverty in Africa that was unimaginable, especially in Angola. 30 years of civil wars will do that. India has some prettyv appalling poverty too, though the country as a whole is on the rise.
[17:51] <Photoman> No Australia. Wah! That's next.
[17:52] <Annie> :-) yippie, we have some great art here too
[17:52] <africanuck> I have a friend in Angola who was horrified, despite having spent about 20 years elsewhere in West Africa.
[17:52] <Alain> There's your chance Annie, but remember he's married
[17:52] <Photoman> I like art.
[17:52] <Annie> i will take you to the museums of art
[17:52] <cityfire> annie will show you her etchings
[17:53] <africanuck> Are all colour change gems difficult to photograph?
[17:53] <Photoman> Oh, the responses that are trembling on my fingertips!
[17:53] <cityfire> lol
[17:53] <Annie> i have a lovely colourless quartz with a beautiful tourmaline inclusions, he may want to photograph
[17:53] <africanuck> LOL
[17:53] <keemoog99> as well as the diamond etched stones
[17:54] <Photoman> Etching schmetzings. We'll see some color together.
[17:54] <africanuck> she'll show you her tanzanites... :)
[17:54] <cityfire> bravo clean yet fum
[17:54] <cityfire> fun
[17:55] <Annie> yep my tanzy will be a surprise dazzler
[17:55] <Alain> Photoman, what are your main sources of information for news .. I can imagine it's very hard to keep up.
[17:55] <africanuck> I have one last question
[17:55] <Photoman> re: tanzanites... Should we submit those to some heat treatment?
[17:55] <africanuck> LOL
[17:55] <Alain> heh
[17:56] <Photoman> Ok, OK.
[17:56] <Alain> And I thought I goofed with my see through bras
[17:56] <Krystyna> but we digress....:)
[17:56] <africanuck> clothes Alain, you're making it worse... lol
[17:57] <africanuck> ok, are there colour change stones that are easier to photograph than others?
[17:57] <Photoman> Regrding sources. I have been doing this for 16 years. In most cases now, the stories kind of show up. In the old days, I was on the phone a lot scaring (literally) up stories
[17:57] <africanuck> and how do you deal with the background colour for those?
[17:58] <Photoman> Color change.... alexadrites are toughest. Color change garnet is easiest. I think because the color change tends to be so dramatic with the garnets.
[17:58] <cityfire> question
[17:58] <africanuck> have you photographed the diaspora from Turkey?
[17:58] <africanuck> CC
[17:59] <Photoman> When I am not sure about backgrounds I go for white. And yes, I photogrpahed Turkish diaspora, and sweated from every pore.
[17:59] <africanuck> go ahead cityfire
[18:00] <cityfire> which country would you suggest for a newbies first trip?

[18:00] <Krystyna> i have a cc garnet that goes from spruce green to reddish purple and can't get the green to show no matter what i do ...photoshop time

[18:00] <Photoman> Re-reading this I am embarrassed. Annie, you WILL still show me your Tanzy, yes?

[18:01] <Annie> of course, Robert

[18:01] <africanuck> Don't worry, we edit the logs if you ask

[18:01] <africanuck> lol

[18:01] <Alain> Don't worry Photoman, we say much worse things here

[18:01] <Photoman> Cityfire, that depends on what you want to see.

[18:01] <Krystyna> oh mrs weldon.... yoo hoo

[18:01] <africanuck> LOL

[18:01] <Photoman> Quick shut this down!

[18:01] <Alain> heh

[18:01] <Krystyna> rofl

[18:02] <africanuck> I have a very important question

[18:02] <Annie> Robert, its 2.82ct flawless, nice colour, you will photograph it , won't you

[18:02] <africanuck> what kind of wine do you drink?

[18:02] <Photoman> No, not really.... I am aving great fun. did I miss someone?

[18:02] <Krystyna> (your name will then change to well-done)

[18:02] <Alain> heh

[18:02] <Photoman> I'd be delighted and honored to photo it.

[18:03] <Annie> it may get published one day... its my queen

[18:03] <Krystyna> Rob i want you to photo my tsilaisite after it's cut :)

[18:03] <Photoman> Africa, I love French wines. I like merlots best. Come to think of it, I am not choosy about wine locality. I love sme California wines too

[18:04] <Photoman> Tsilaisite? Please tell me that's a gemstone?

[18:04] <Krystyna> canary yellow tourmie

[18:04] <tnpearl> lol

[18:04] <Photoman> Whew. Yes, sure!

[18:04] <cityfire> Sones cut to purchase rough and mines

[18:05] <africanuck> Have you heard anything about a colour change gem from Tanzania that goes from emerald green to lemon yellow?

[18:05] <Krystyna> just gems no bodyparts peralie lol

[18:05] <Krystyna> er pearlie

[18:05] <cityfire> stones cut to purchase rough and mines

[18:05] <tnpearl> lol

[18:05] <Photoman> LOL indeed!

[18:06] <Krystyna> i see you and mr hughes are bad in different ways ...ahem

[18:06] <Photoman> No I have not heard of color change tanzanite. The most exotic zoisite I ever photographed were matching pair, BUBBLE GUM pink lovelies...

[18:06] <africanuck> It wasn't tanzy

[18:07] <Photoman> It was pink zoisite

[18:07] <africanuck> No, I mean the yellow to green stone

[18:07] <Photoman> Hmmm. what is it? I feel a story stirrng....

[18:07] <africanuck> it was something else. I'll have to look up the name, it was on our forum at one time

[18:07] <africanuck> one second

[18:07] <Photoman> Awww!

[18:08] <africanuck> we had pix and everything

[18:08] <Photoman> Lovely. But no identity?

[18:08] <Alain> She's searching now, knowing her.

[18:08] <africanuck> it did have one, but it was a brand new stone
[18:09] <Scott> Sorry to chime in here but I must take my leave and part with a big THANK YOU for chatting Robert. I hope to read and see some of your great articles and pictures in the future and listen to you chat here again sometime. Take care all.
[18:09] <Photoman> I'm very interested. THis is how stories start.
[18:09] <Frank> wasn't it masai gems who posted it afric?
[18:09] <tnpearl> bye scott
[18:09] <Alain> Bye Scott
[18:09] <Photoman> Cheerie o, Scott, and thanks
[18:09] <Frank> cya scott
[18:09] <Annie> bye scott, take take
[18:10] Scott (~Scott@202.131.179.244) left irc: Scott
[18:10] <Alain> Are you aware of our forum Photoman?
[18:10] <Photoman> I'm aware but have not enetred it yet.
[18:11] <YourGemologist> We would love to have you join us there. A good group from many countries
[18:11] <Photoman> Delighted.
[18:11] <tnpearl> plus you will get to see how pretty Annes is
[18:11] <Photoman> Tell me how!
[18:11] <Photoman> What u post pics?
[18:11] <Alain> Pretty, she's mine though :)
[18:11] <Frank> Sorry all but I'm going to have to go too...Thanks a lot for coming Robert..It would be nice to have you as a forum member (easy access)
[18:11] <Annie> do not worry, about that,, we could use your expertise
[18:12] <Alain> bye Frank
[18:12] <tnpearl> lol
[18:12] <Photoman> Cheers Frank, and thanks!
[18:12] <tnpearl> bye frank
[18:12] <openmind> bye, Frank
[18:12] <Annie> bye Frank, take care of yourself
[18:12] <Frank> bye all ... thanks again Robert It's been a pleasure
[18:12] Frank (~Frank@172.170.214.127) left #yg.
[18:12] <YourGemologist> The link is on the front page of YourGemologist.com. It will take you through the registration process.
[18:13] <Krystyna> i gotta go, gem show time! are you still available for tucson tours Photoman?
[18:13] <Photoman> OK. Look, I would be happy to answer any other questions you may have. Is it winding down?
[18:13] <Alain> I think we can safely say that you were our most fun guest so far Photoman, all the others were great aswell but you are very handy with the chat protocol
[18:13] <Photoman> (grovel) Oh, thank-you!
[18:13] <africanuck> I have no more questions, and once I track down the name of that stone, I will ask Alain to forward it to you
[18:14] <YourGemologist> Robert, this has been excellent. Thank you very much for taking time out to spend with us
[18:14] <africanuck>
<http://yey.be/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=270&highlight=tanzania+gazette>
[18:14] <africanuck> here is a pix
[18:14] <africanuck> and the forum link
[18:14] <Photoman> Will looksee. Thanks!
[18:14] <africanuck> I'll dig up the name
[18:14] <YourGemologist> Just a quick note to everyone that we did set up the dealer status with OPL. Should have products in within a couple of weeks
[18:14] <africanuck> This has been a great chat

[18:14] <Photoman> Tanks, Krystyna!!
[18:15] <Annie> Robert, thank you it was great to have you join us
[18:15] <africanuck> YG, that is great news
[18:15] <Krystyna> thank you Rob!
[18:15] <YourGemologist> Thank you Robert. And a good day to all. I have to go at this time. Everyone...well done!
[18:15] <africanuck> Thank you so much Robert
[18:15] <tnpearl> Thank You Robert
[18:15] <Alain> bye YourGemologist
[18:15] <Photoman> It has been a pleasuer. I stirred wife, family and dogs with the constant guffawing!
[18:15] <Krystyna> lol
[18:15] <tnpearl> Bye YG
[18:15] YourGemologist (~YourGemol@24.243.11.138) left irc:
YourGemologist
[18:15] <africanuck> my husband was looking at me funny "why are you laughing"
[18:16] <Krystyna> cya all .. bye Rob!
[18:16] Krystyna (~Krystyna@72.129.118.42) left irc: Krystyna
[18:16] <Photoman> Mine too. My wife, I mean
[18:16] <Cattrix> Thank you Mr. Weldon I hope you do log on to the forums..
[18:16] <openmind> good bye to all... nice seeing you today!
[18:16] <Photoman> THis is my last message: Thank-you so much everyone!
[18:16] <Alain> Are all leaving now?
[18:16] <Annie> bye openmind
[18:16] <tnpearl> Thanks again I really enjoy the chat Mr Weldon
[18:16] <openmind> and thanks specially to Mr. Weldon!
[18:16] <africanuck> bye and thanks
[18:16] <Alain> bye Photoman and THANKS
[18:16] <Annie> Robert, thank you very much once again
[18:17] Photoman (~Photoman@141.158.42.58) left irc: Photoman