

**WILENSKY**  
EXQUISITE MINERALS

## Magnificent Emeralds: Fura's Tears

September 26 – December 30, 2019





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For over 5,000 years, emeralds have been a human obsession: worshiped, worn as talismans, cut and polished for ornamentation, and crafted into jewelry. Countless written works have discussed the history, geology, and gemology of this gemstone. They have been a touchstone for artists, and a springboard for art. Emeralds are timeless and live in many spaces.

This exhibition is focused on the natural crystal formations of emeralds. Important emerald gemstones and jewelry can be found in every gem collection around the world. The same cannot be said about exceptional natural emerald specimens. We estimate that there are less than twenty-five in the world that would qualify. Of those twenty-five, two-thirds of them are part of this exhibition.

The significance of having two-thirds of the world's finest known emerald specimens cannot be overstated. This has never occurred in the history of mineral collecting. This exhibition invites the viewer to experience the wonder that is emerald.



## The Legend of Fura & Tena

The Muzo God of creation, Are, brought to existence the beautiful mountains, valleys, and rivers near the city of Muzo (modern day western Boyacá, Colombia). Are then created one female, Fura, and one male, Tena, as caretakers for his garden. For as long as they stayed faithful as a couple, they would enjoy indefinite youth together in paradise.

The couple relished in joy and fruitfulness for centuries. This all changed when a handsome man, Zarbi, appeared. He was seeking a rare flower to cure all illness. Fura decided to help. In doing so, she fell in love.

One day, Tena noticed that Fura had aged. This was an indication that the vows of fidelity had been broken. Because of this, Are's spell of ageless life was no more. Heartbroken and distraught, Tena stabbed himself in the heart.

Fura cried for many days over her dead lover. Her screams turned into butterflies as it echoed through the forests while her tears turned to green stones. The first emeralds had been born.

Are then turned the couple into mountains to forever immortalize their love. Zarbi, out of anger, transformed into a river that would forever separate the two. This is the legend of the first emeralds.



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopi Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

9 cm tall x 5 cm wide

Rice Northwest Museum Collection

This specimen was unearthed in 1992 and is considered one of the most significant emerald clusters in the world.



## Emerald on Calcite

*from the most famous of all emerald mines*  
Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5 cm tall x 5 cm wide

ex. James Horner Collection  
Currently in the Irv Brown Collection

Emerald crystals of this color and quality are of the highest level, and are rarely found still attached to matrix. This specimen was on exhibit at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA).



## Quartz with Emerald inclusion

Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

7.3 cm tall x 3.1 cm wide

Private Collection

According to the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), this is the only known example of a gem quality emerald included in quartz.

This specimen has been featured on the National Geographic documentary titled, "400 Million Dollar Emerald (TV Episode 2012)". It also appears in *Emeralds: A Passionate Guide* by Ronald Ringsrud.

"The 400 Million Dollar Emerald." *National Geographic Explorer*.  
National Geographic Channel, 29 Jan 2012. Television.

Ringsrud, Ronald. *Emeralds: A Passionate Guide*. Oxnard: Green View Press, 2009. Print.



## Emerald, "Angel of the Andes"

Chivor Mine, Chivor Municipality,  
Guavió-Guatéque Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

8.9 cm tall x 4.5 cm wide

ex. Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran, Rex Harris  
Currently in the Wilensky Gallery Collection

This emerald was discovered in the legendary Chivor Mine in Colombia in the 1980s. It was christened "The Angel of the Andes" by the miners who unearthed it.



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

6.5 cm tall x 6.2 cm wide

Scott Rudolph Collection

This emerald was featured on the cover of *The Mineralogical Record* magazine titled "Colombian Emeralds".

Moore, Thomas, and Wendell Wilson. "Colombian Emeralds."  
*The Mineralogical Record*, vol.47, no.1, 2016, pp. 3-68.





## Emerald on Calcite

Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopi Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5.8 cm tall x 8.9 cm wide

Private Collection

This piece was discovered in the early 1990s and displays a singular fine emerald on a finely crystallized calcite matrix.



## Emerald

Coscuez Mine,  
Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

4.3 cm tall x 4.2 cm wide

Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran  
Collection

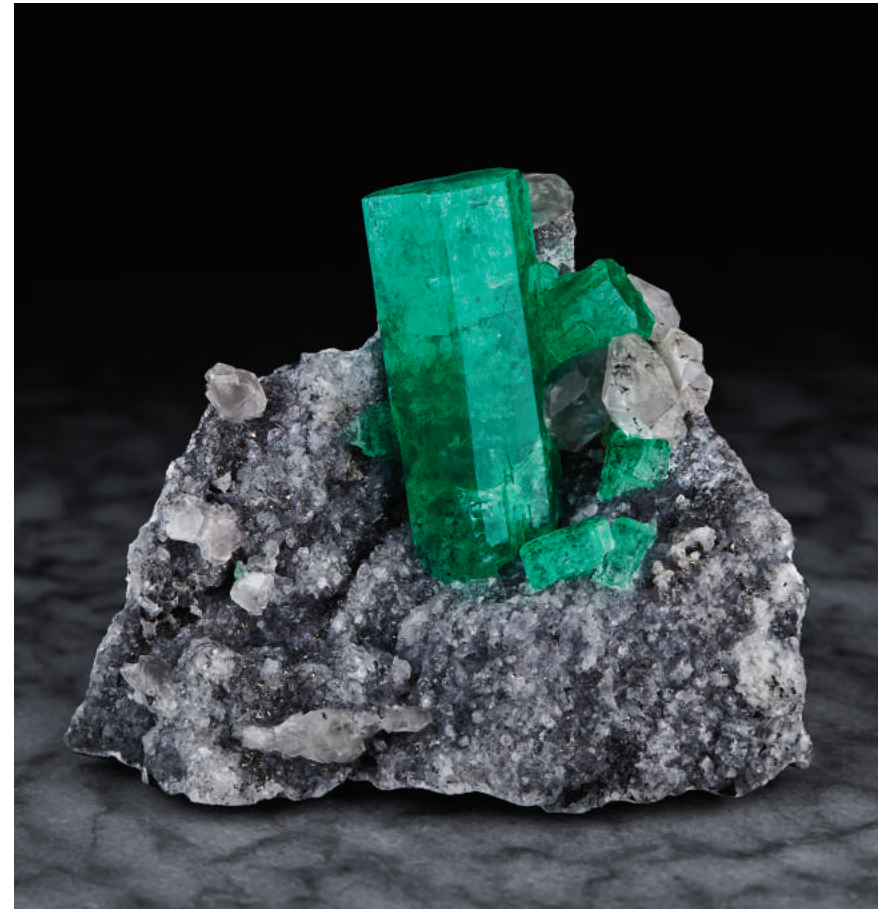


## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine,  
Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5 cm tall x 5.5 cm wide

Larson Family Trust Collection

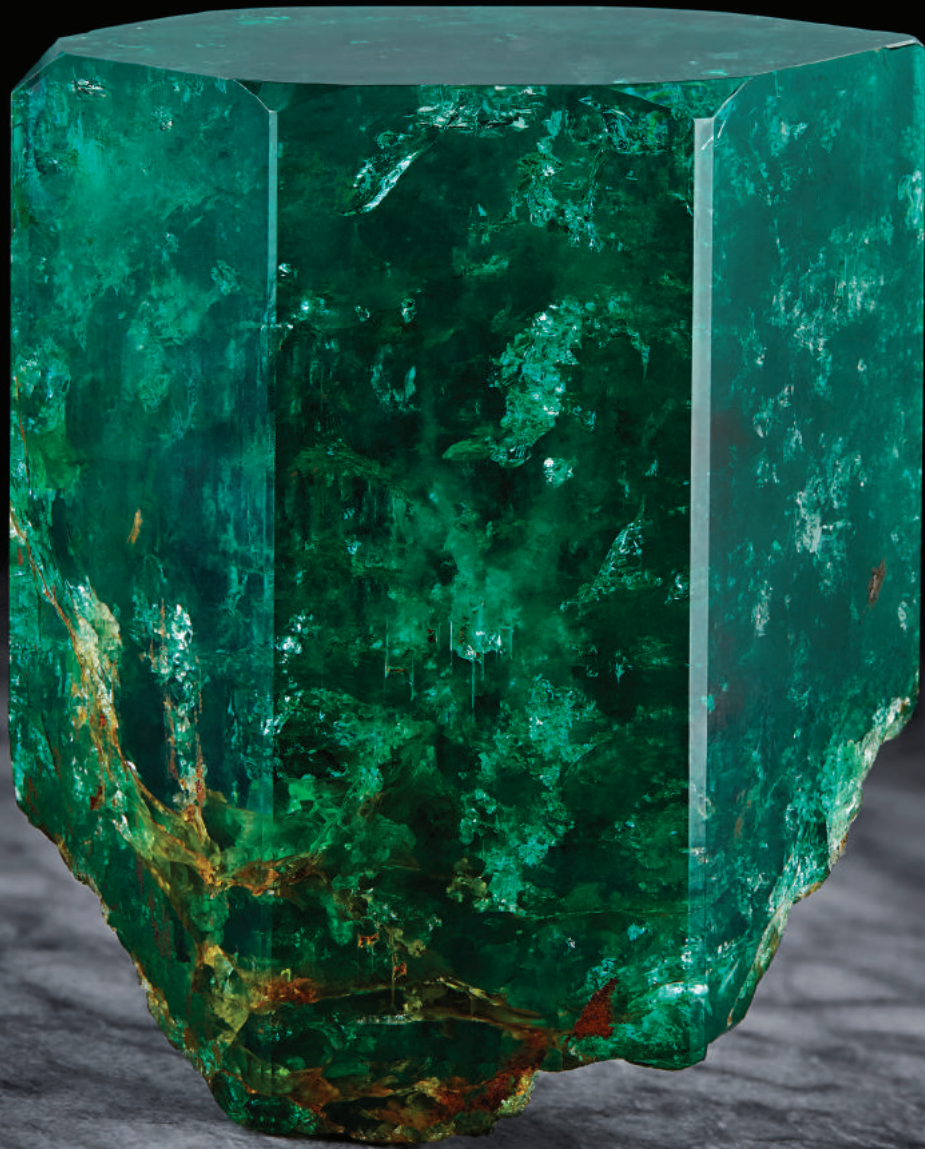


## Emerald on Calcite

Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

6 cm tall x 7.5 cm wide

Dr. Stephen Smale Collection



## Emerald

Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopi Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

6.1 cm tall x 5.5 cm wide

Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran Collection

This crystal is amongst the largest finest quality emeralds that have not been cut for jewelry.



## Emerald on Calcite

Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

8.2 cm tall x 9 cm wide

J. Christopher Burch Collection



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5.7 cm tall x 8.5 cm wide

Daniel Trinchillo Collection



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5.7 cm tall x 6.35 cm wide

The Pinnacle Collection



## Emerald on Calcite

Muzo Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

8.2 cm tall x 11.7 cm wide

Lyda Hill Collection

This specimen was mined in 1978 and was kept in the personal collection of the most famous of all emerald mine owners; Víctor Carranza Niño, also known as “The Emerald Czar.” Carranza was considered one of the most powerful people in all of Colombia with his own personal army. He was at the center of the emerald trade in Colombia until the day he died in April 2013. He named this emerald specimen after his youngest daughter, Yamile.



## Emerald

Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

7.5 cm tall x 1.8 cm wide

Private Collection



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine,  
Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5 cm tall x 6.5 cm wide

George Hickox Collection



## Emerald

Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

3.6 cm tall x 3 cm wide

Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran Collection





Emerald on Calcite, "The Emperor"

La Pita Mine, Maripí Municipality,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

8.5 cm tall x 6.5 cm wide

Christopher Nohl, Dr. Shannon Graewin & Michael Hull Collection



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5.7 cm wide x 4.5 cm tall

Private Collection



## Emerald

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

3.5 cm tall x 4.2 cm wide

Jim & Gail Spann Collection



## Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

8.2 cm tall x 9 cm wide

John Gillespie Collection



### Emerald on Calcite, "The Three Amigos"

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopi Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5 cm tall x 4 cm wide

ex. Cargill Family Collection  
Currently in the Mr. Irv Brown Collection

This emerald specimen displaying three fine quality crystals, known as "The Three Amigos", was on exhibit at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA).



### Emerald on Calcite

La Pita Mine, Maripí Municipality,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

5.1 cm tall x 3.5 cm wide

Private Collection



### Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine,  
Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

2.3 cm tall x 2.5 cm wide

Larson Family Trust Collection



### Emerald

Brumado, Bahia, Brazil

7.8 cm tall x 2.7 cm wide

Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran  
Collection



### Emerald on Calcite

Coscuez Mine, Muzo Municipality,  
Vasquez-Yacopí Mining Dist.,  
Boyacá Dept., Colombia

8 cm tall x 10 cm wide

Irv Brown Collection



## Emerald

Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

8 cm tall x 6 cm wide

Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran Collection

This specimen is amongst the finest known matrix examples to come from the Swat Valley, Pakistan. The Swat Valley, sometimes called "The Switzerland of Pakistan," is home to some of the most important emerald mines in Asia.



## Emerald

Jos Plateau, Plateau State, Nigeria

14.5 cm tall x 2.8 cm wide

Daniel Trinchillo Collection

Discovered in the late 1980s, Nigerian emeralds are colored by the presence of vanadium rather than the elements that color most emeralds, chromium and iron. This crystal is considered to be the largest ever found.





## Emerald

Jos Plateau, Plateau State, Nigeria

6.5 cm tall x 1.5 cm wide

Dr. Eugene & Roz Meieran Collection



## Emerald on Quartz

Kagem Emerald Mine, Kafubu Area, Zambia

10.3 cm tall x 9.8 cm wide

Private Collection

Zambian emeralds were found in large chunks of quartz. Each quartz "lense" was chipped, ground and air abraded to reveal the emeralds inside. No where else in the world have such long gem quality emeralds been found on matrix.



## Emerald on Dolomite with Muscovite

North American Emerald Mine (Rist Mine),  
Hiddenite, Alexander Co., North Carolina

14 cm tall x 12.5 cm wide  
1,869 carats

Houston Museum of Natural Science Collection



### Emerald on Dolomite with Muscovite (cont.)

“Unearthed in December 2003, this rich green emerald crystal from North Carolina weighs approximately 1,869 carats making it the largest emerald crystal ever recovered in North America. While the size of the crystal is notable, even more remarkable is the fact that it is, by several orders of magnitude, the finest quality emerald crystal ever recovered in North America, and, by virtue of its overall aesthetic beauty, considered by many connoisseurs as the finest emerald specimen ever found anywhere in the world.”

- Joel Bartsch, 2004

Bartsch, Joel et al. *Masterpieces of the Mineral World: Treasures from the Houston Museum of Natural Science*. Harry N. Abrams, 2004.



## Emerald

Rist Mine,  
Hiddenite, Alexander Co., North Carolina

*Left: "LKA Emerald"*  
11.2 cm tall x 4 cm wide

*Right: "Stephenson Emerald"*  
7.15 cm tall x 5 cm wide

Private Collection

The LKA Emerald mined in 1984 weighs 1,686 carats.  
The Stephenson Emerald mined in 1969 weighs 1,438 carats.  
They are the second and fourth largest emeralds ever mined  
in North Carolina, USA.

This exhibition would not have been possible without the gracious participation of all those who lent Wilensky Gallery their emeralds.

Wilensky Gallery would like to thank the following for their generosity:

Mr. Joel Bartsch, President, Houston Museum of Natural Science

Mr. Irv Brown

Mr. Christopher Burch

Mr. John Gillespie

Dr. Shannon Graewin

Mr. Julian Gray, Curator, Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals

Mr. George K. Hickox, Jr.

Ms. Lyda Hill

Mr. Michael Hull

Mr. Barry Kitt, The Pinnacle Collection

The Larson Family Trust

Dr. Robert Lavinsky

Dr. Gene & Roz Meieran

Mr. Christopher Nohl

Mr. Ron Ringsrud

Mr. Scott Rudolph

Dr. Stephen Smale

Mrs. Gail and Mr. James Spann

Mr. Dylan Stowitz

Mr. Nicholas Stowitz

Mr. Daniel Trinchillo

A percentage of profits from this exhibition will be donated to  
"Clayhands - Estructuras de Tierra" [www.clayhands.org](http://www.clayhands.org)

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