

GIA UNVEILS 167 CARAT AURORA DIAMOND BUTTERFLY

18 May 2008

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) is exhibiting the famous 'Aurora Butterfly of Peace', following a special opening night celebration for the launch of the 'Facets of GIA' exhibit which will showcase the history of the Institute and highlight services the Institute provides to the public and jewelry trade.

The Aurora Butterfly of Peace, formerly on display at the Smithsonian Institute, is a collection of 240 natural, fancy colored diamonds in various sizes, shapes and cuts and weighs a total of 167 carats.

"Viewing the Aurora Butterfly of Peace will be extraordinary, not only because the collection itself is so splendid, but also because the lighting will change from natural light to ultraviolet light at regular intervals to demonstrate how the diamonds appear under different lighting conditions. Many of the diamonds fluoresce when exposed to ultraviolet light. The opportunity to view such an amazing work of art and nature is singular, spectacular and not to be missed. Showing the magnificent Aurora Butterfly of Peace is the perfect start in unveiling our Facets of GIA exhibit which will provide guests, students and the public comprehensive knowledge about the history of the Institute, what GIA offers the public and the trade, and insight into the gem and jewelry world," says Elise Misiorowski, Director of the GIA Museum.

"This unique work of art gives a new twist on the tradition of diamonds which has been linked to love, passion and marriage in the past. I wanted to bring in an element of humanity and a "non-materialistic" appreciation of nature's beauty," says Alan Bronstein, owner and curator of the Aurora Butterfly of Peace.