

PRESS RELEASE

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34,000-CARAT FACETED TOPAZ ARRIVES AT HILDGUND JEWELRY KAHALA

Kama'aina jewelry boutique is the new home of hefty gem sculpture, Blue Moon

Honolulu, HI, April 20, 2018: Hildgund Jewelry will be unveiling and exhibiting a topaz ring sculpture at their Kahala Hotel & Resort store on Saturday, April 28. The installment is the creation of American artist Lawrence Stoller, internationally renowned for creating sculptures with magnificent megagems. The sculpture highlights a GIA-certified faceted light blue-green Brazilian topaz that boasts a substantial weight of approximately 34,654 carats hoisted onto a bronze "ring" mounting fortified by a jade boulder foundation. The gem is believed to be the largest polished blue topaz in the world.

The piece, now named *Blue Moon*, has long been in the musings of Bruce Bucky, President and CEO of Hildgund Jewelry, who first eyed the art in 2002 at an industry show where Stoller was exhibiting. It took nearly two decades and a happenstance coffee break at another gem show in Tucson for Bucky to be reunited with the stone. Bucky met an associate of Stoller's at the chance encounter that eventually led to the acquisition of the sculpture.

Hildgund Jewelry welcomes the *Blue Moon* in time for this Spring's unveiling and the company's 145th anniversary.

"*Blue Moon* is the perfect representation of Hildgund," Bucky exclaims, "just the right combination of Hawaii's natural beauty and a pinch of European flair." The light shade of the topaz is a reminder of the clear blue waters that surround the islands, and its dramatic size and setting is a nod to the late Hildgund Bucky, the company's founder. Originally from Vienna and quite the fashionista, Hildgund favored statement jewelry with large, colorful gems that was the fashion staple of Europe's elite at the time.

Blue Moon will be on display through the end of June at Hildgund at Kahala Hotel & Resort, 5000 Kahala Avenue. Hours of operation are 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily.

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