

# A man of many facets

Colin Weldon ist Edelstein-Wissenschaftler – und kämpft immer häufiger mit Diamanten aus dem Labor.

Interview: MELITA CAMERON-WOOD

MEDIUM AUDIO ÜBUNG SHEFT



Having trained as a **gemologist**, I'm able to identify **gemstones** and see the difference between natural stones and synthetic ones without lots of equipment. As a **jeweller**, I see fakes constantly, some of which are very good. Stones that are often used as fake diamonds are **cubic zirconia**, **moissanite** and white **sapphire**. Diamonds that don't have certification documents are usually **suspicious**.

The edges of gemstones are either **faceted**, polished or "bruted" — meaning they've been left in their natural state, which usually suggests a natural stone. My diamond tester isn't 100 per cent accurate, but it's a good place to start. It reads the **heat conductivity** of the stone and identifies if it's a diamond or a moissanite. I also look for the **fracture-filling** of **inclusions**. Fracture-filling is controversial and can make diamonds worthless.

Today, **lab-grown** diamonds have nearly the same quality as **mined** diamonds. This is both an opportunity and a problem. Lab-grown diamonds are more affordable, which is attractive to customers with less money to spend, and they're better for the environment. For my business, being unable to clearly see the difference between mined diamonds and lower-value lab-grown diamonds is challenging. Diamonds are **graded** from D to Z — from white to yellow, depending on the lack or presence of **nitrogen**. For a D-colour two-carat **flawless** diamond with no certification, the difference in value could be €80,000, depending on whether it's mined or lab-grown. NASA is helping to develop better diamond detectors, as high-quality diamonds are used in space-based instruments, and this **research** could have a big **impact** on the jewellery sector.

Before Brexit, I worked with lots of dealers in Hatton Garden, London, but **customs duty** has made this too expensive. I now work with dealers from all over the world, based in a range of places, from Miami to Antwerp. At jewellery **trade fairs**, such as INHORGENTA Munich, I can see pieces that I otherwise wouldn't see and stay informed of international trends, which is essential to success in this industry.

## "I see fakes constantly"

COLIN WELDON is a Dublin-based gemologist, a graduate of the Gemological Institute of America and a private jeweller



Lab-grown diamonds have nearly the same quality as mined diamonds. Testers read heat conductivity

### gemologist

[dʒeɪ'mɒlədʒɪst]  
• Gemmologe/  
Gemmologin

**gemstone** ['dʒemstəʊn]  
• Edelstein

**jeweller** ['dʒuːələ]  
• Juwelier(in)

**cubic zirconia** [ˌkjuːbɪk zɜː'kəʊniə]  
• Diamantimitation mit kubisch kristalliner Form

**moissanite** ['mɔɪsənɪt]  
• Moissanit

**sapphire** ['sæfəɪə]  
• Saphir

**suspicious** [sə'spɪʃəs]  
• verdächtig

### faceted

['fæsɪtɪd]  
• facettiert

**bruted** ['bruːtɪd]  
• naturbelassen

**heat conductivity** [ˌhɪt'kɒndʌk'tɪvətɪ]  
• Wärmeleitfähigkeit

**fracture-filling**  
• Verfüllen von Rissen

**inclusion** [ɪn'kluːʒən]  
• Einschluss

**lab-grown** (ifml.)  
• aus dem Labor

**mined** ▶ geschürft

**grade sth.**  
• etw. klassifizieren

### nitrogen

['naɪtrədʒən]  
• Stickstoff

**colour**  
• hier: Farbgrad

**flawless** ▶ makellos

**research** [ri'sɜːtʃ]  
• Forschung

**impact**  
• Auswirkung(en)

**customs duty**  
• Zollgebühr(en)

**trade fair** ▶ Messe

### graduate

['grædʒuət]  
• Absolvent(in)