



OPAL PASSION

A 30-YEAR JOURNEY
DEALING IN OPAL COLOUR

BY PAUL SEDAWIE




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OPAL PASSION

Welcome to my journey of color.

From the day I bought my first boulder rough at 14 years of age, I have always loved Opals because of the natural beauty and dazzling colors, which seem to be alive with fire. In 1989, I moved to Lightning Ridge and purchased an Opal Claim, along with equipment and a caravan on the western fall of the four-mile-long Opal field. I mined there for many years and have some great memories I treasure still today. Although this was an incredible adventure, we did not find many stones, which ultimately gave me a healthy respect for mining. Fast forward to present day, I now only have a few partnerships and buy Opal rough from other miners instead. For many years I participated in shows worldwide, but now I sell stones only on Opal Auctions. I work with cutting factories in Asia for cutting Boulder Opals but I hand cut the best Black Opals myself, not just for precision but because I enjoy the work immensely.

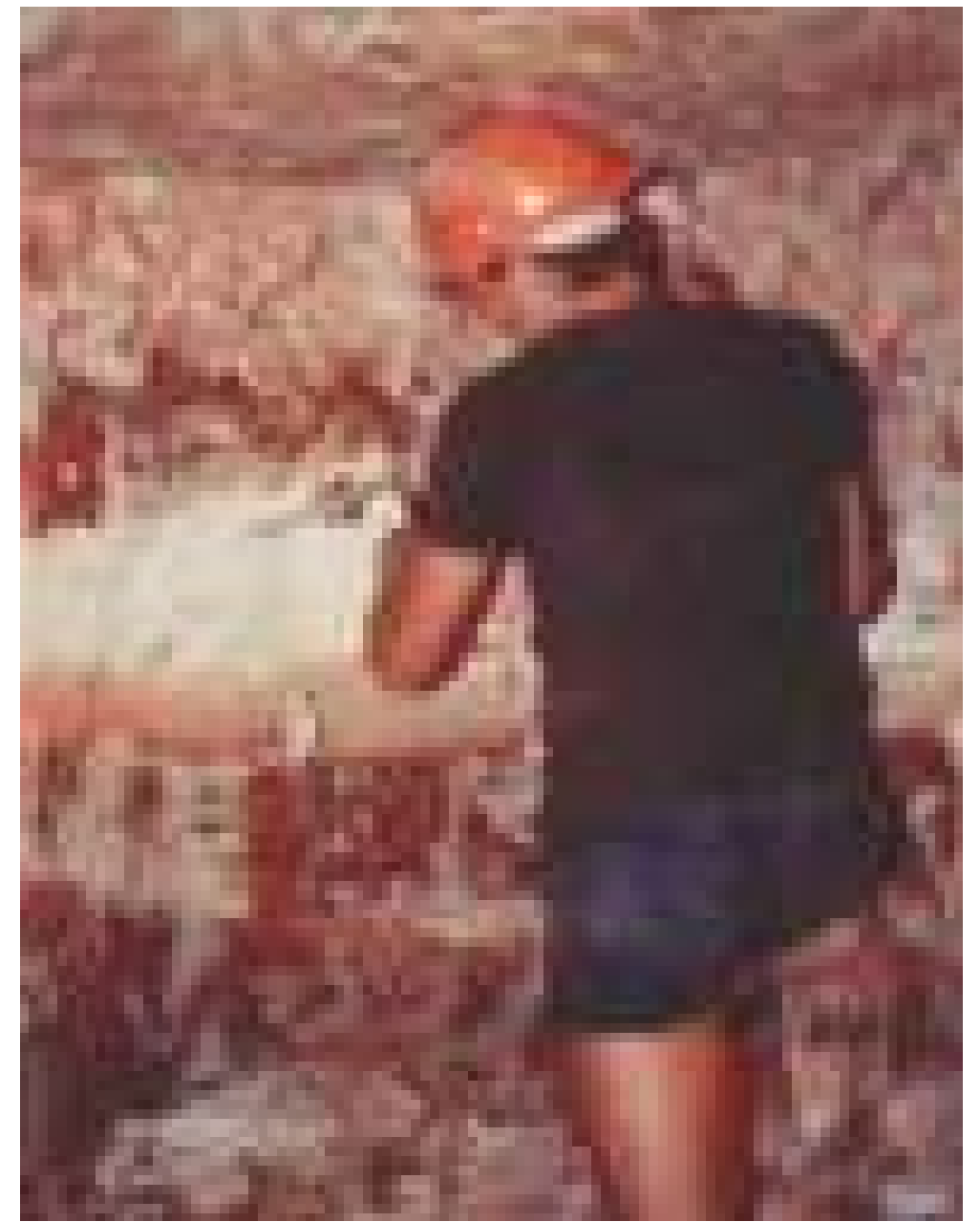
Both of my sons have joined the business and work alongside me to sell incredible Opal stones from both local and international manufacturers to customers worldwide. My youngest son, Ross graduated from the AIGS Gem School in Bangkok and primarily oversees the SEO work for our Auction site, which is run by my brother Wayne. My eldest son, Peter manages dispatching stock worldwide and does a lot of the Opal cutting. This E-book is just a small sample of some of the incredible stones I have been fortunate enough to own throughout the many years I have worked within the industry. I have no intention to sell the Opal fossils I have personally collected over the last 30 years and wish to keep them in Australia.

2019 marks my 30-year anniversary of working within the Opal business. I have sold over 100,000 stones and parcels online at Opal Auctions to date. I hope you enjoy my passion for Opals and become as addicted to them as I am!

Best regards,
Paul Sedawie



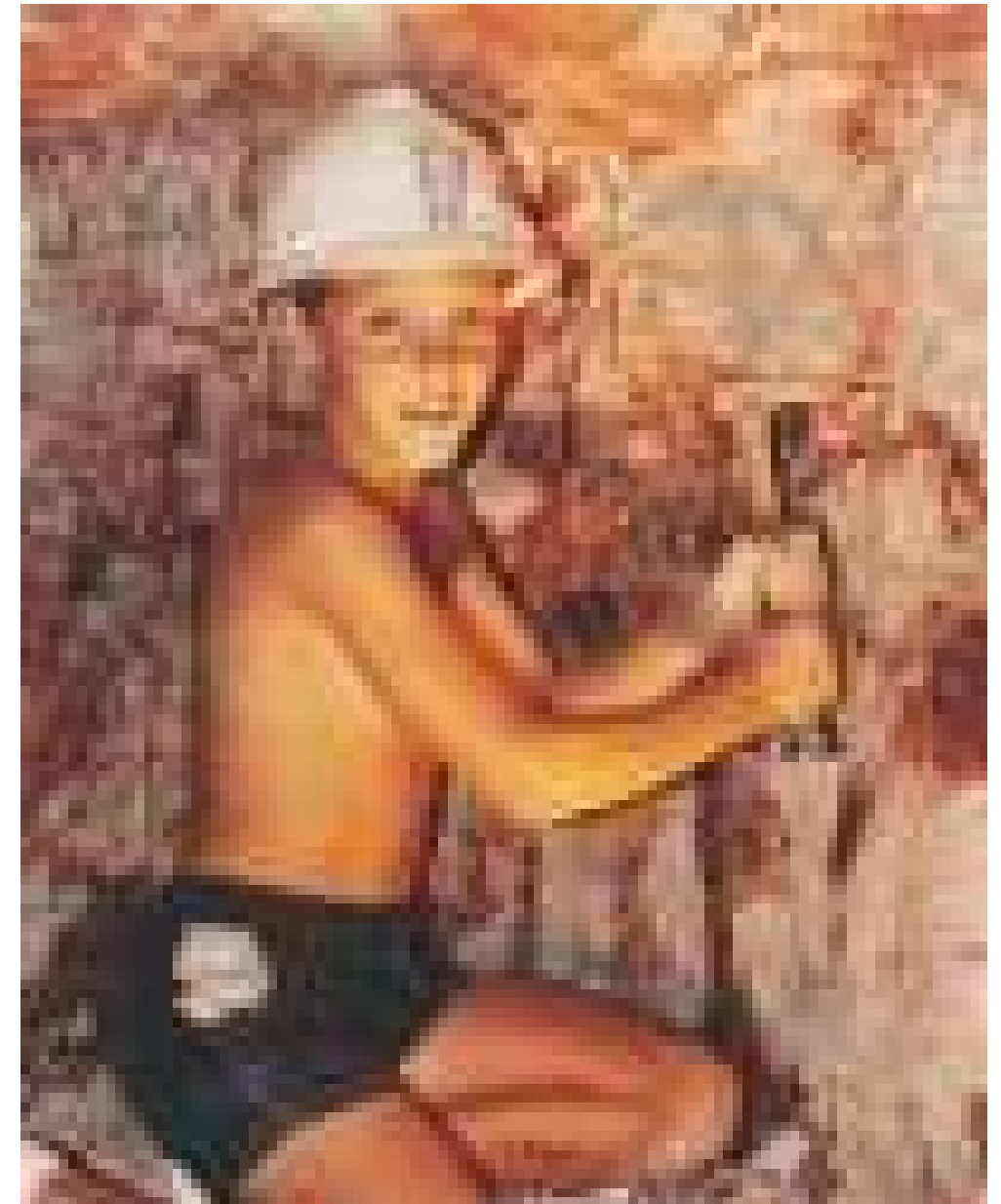
Paul Sedawie (right) and his brother Wayne Sedawie (left) holding a hand-woven Kashmir Carpet with 400 opals sewn on, at Lightning Ridge Opal Show in 2008.



Paul Sedawie mining Opal at the 4 Mile Opal Field, with the very basic equipment, in 1989



Paul Sedawie receiving some advice from three wise men, in 1989. 30 years later and still no graffiti on the wall.



Paul's eldest son, Peter helping with the mining in Lightning Ridge, during the school holidays in 1989.



Paul Sedawie mining at the 4 Mile Opal Field in Lightning Ridge and storing his celebratory wine underground.



There are three generations of Sedawies in the opal business, with Paul's late father (pictured) and two sons both active within the business.



BLACK OPAL

THE QUEEN OF GEMS

OPAL PASSION

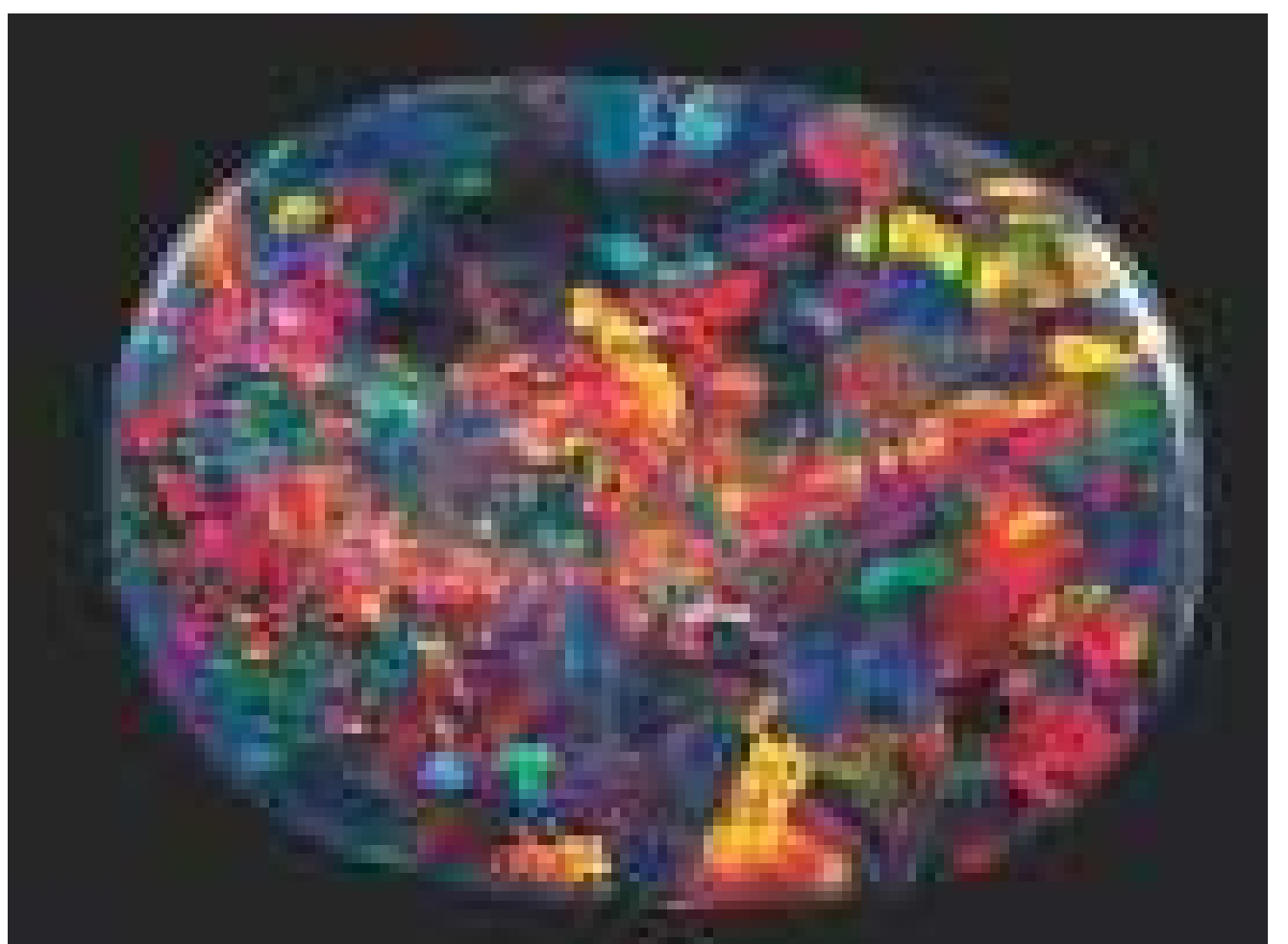


FOREST FIRE

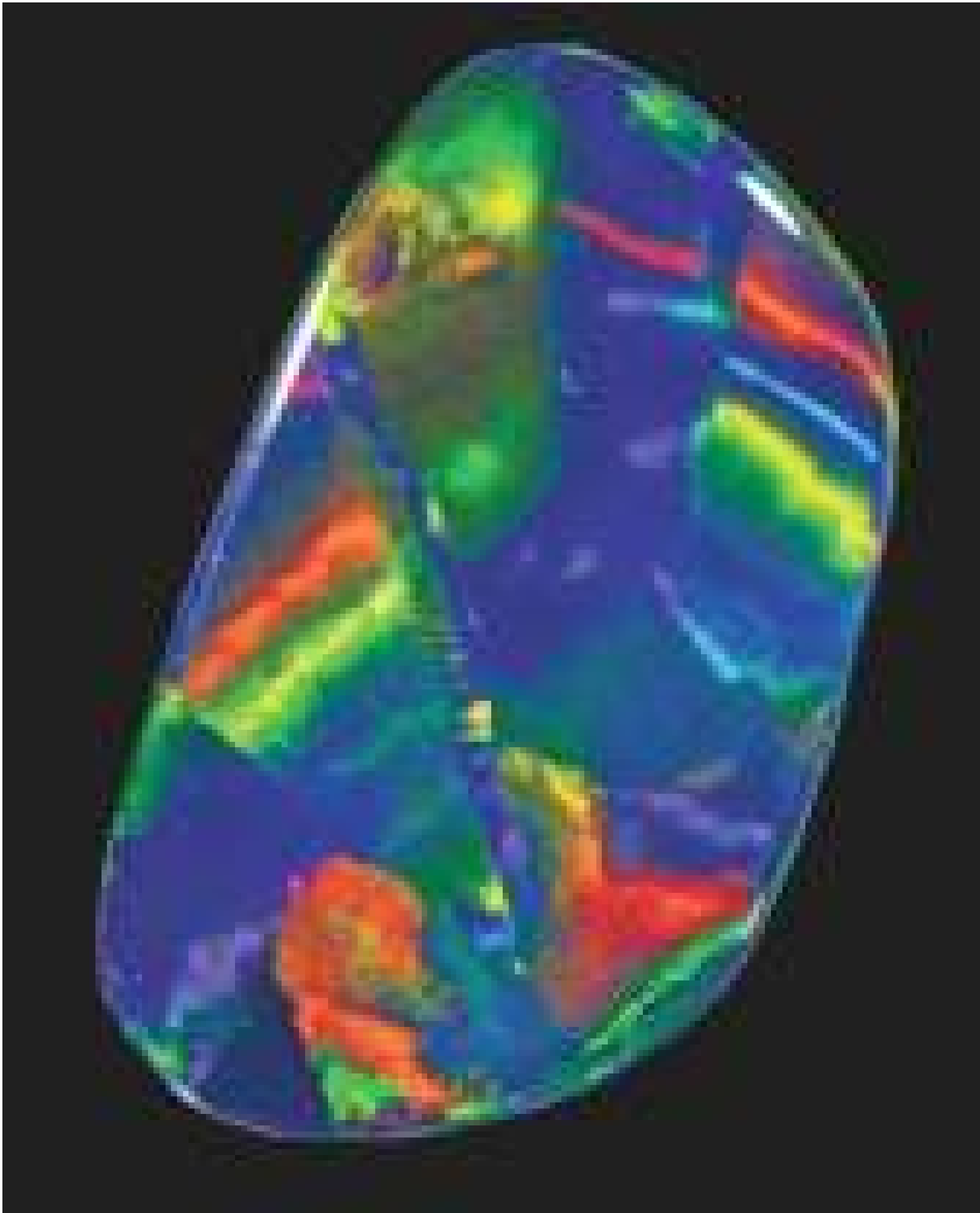
This Black Opal, which I named 'Forest Fire' because its red flashes reminded me of burning logs, has such an amazing pattern that we even made a jigsaw out of it. Weighing in at 12.45 carats, this stone actually has a second color bar underneath. There were seven stones in the pocket and I cut them down to the second bar, which was better, although I am not game enough to rub the beautiful pattern away on this stone!



The jigsaw pattern

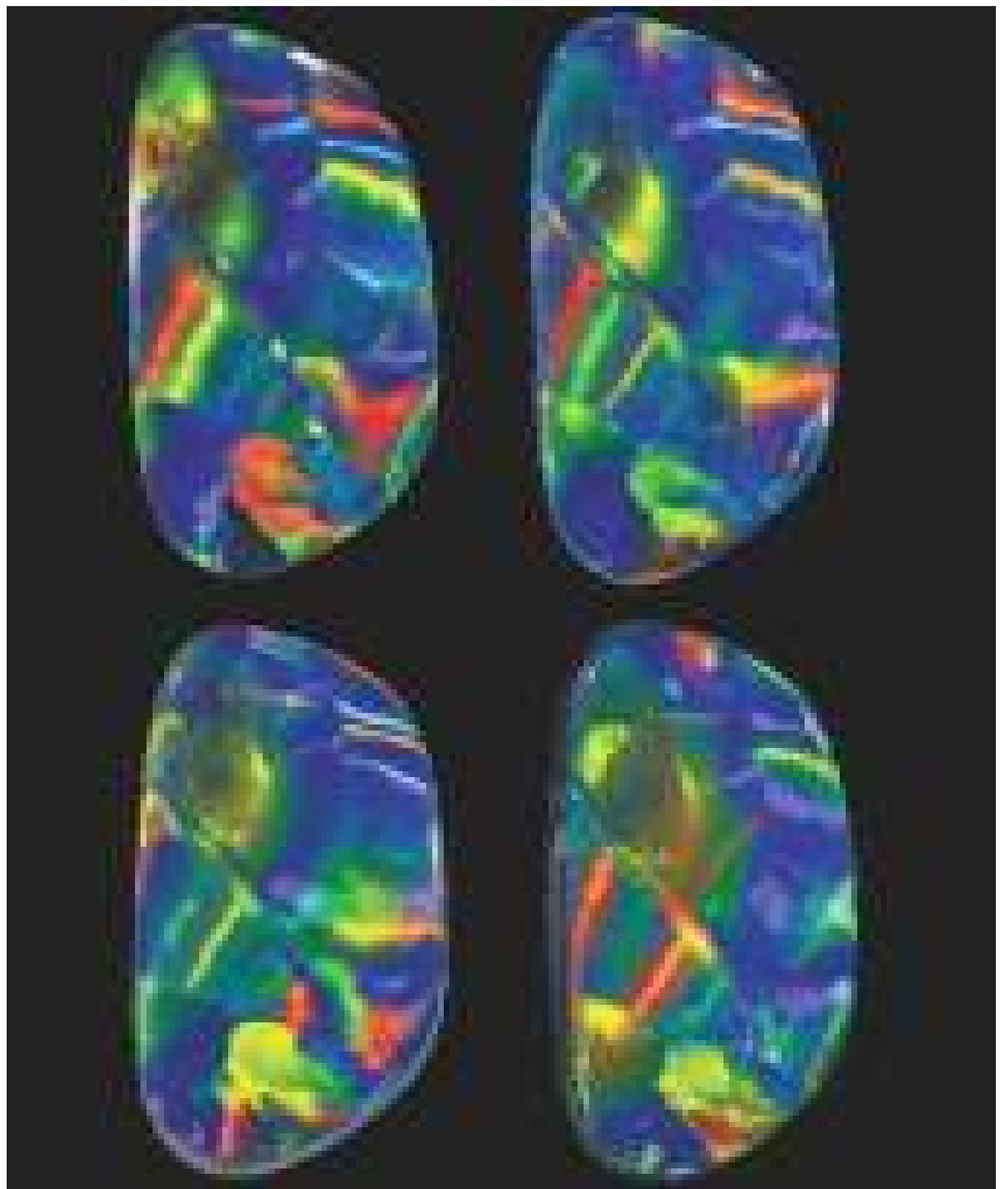


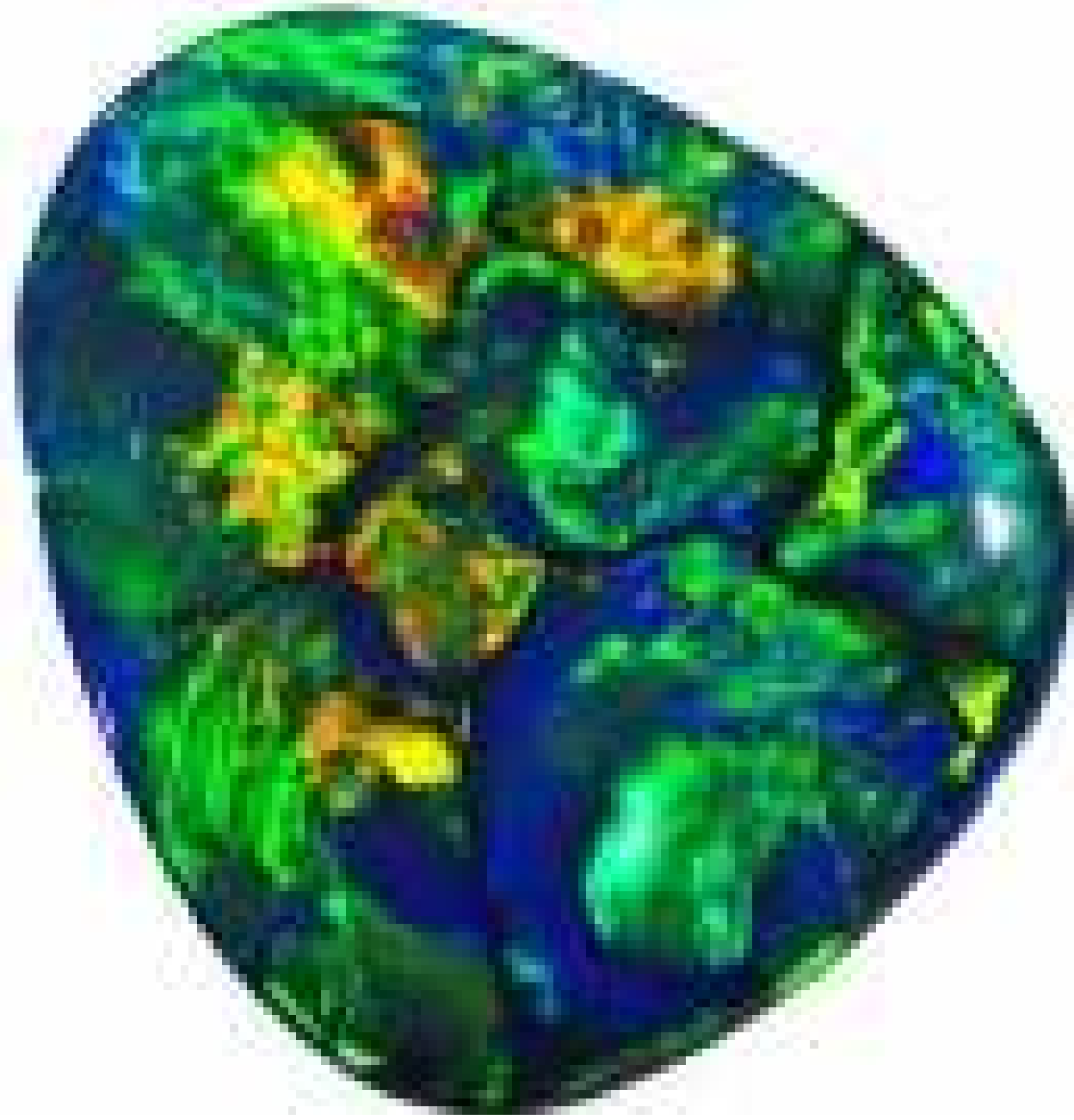
With a black background



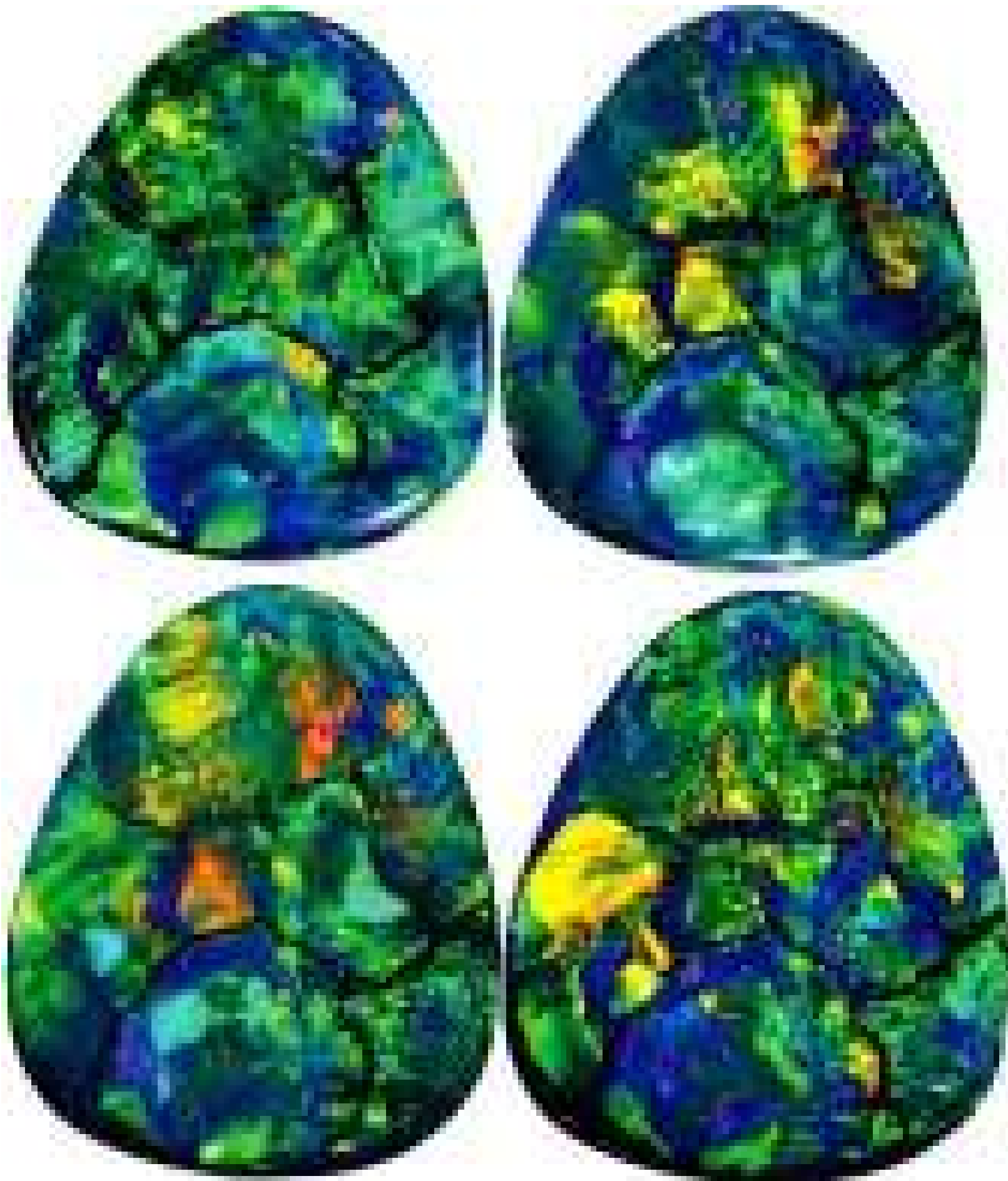
This Opal has a stunning rolling pattern within it and weighs 3.70 carats. I share mutual involvement of this stone, with my mining partner Chris Gawthorpe from Opal Rush (left).

The pattern change of the Opal is clearly shown through these 4 images of the Black Opal (right).

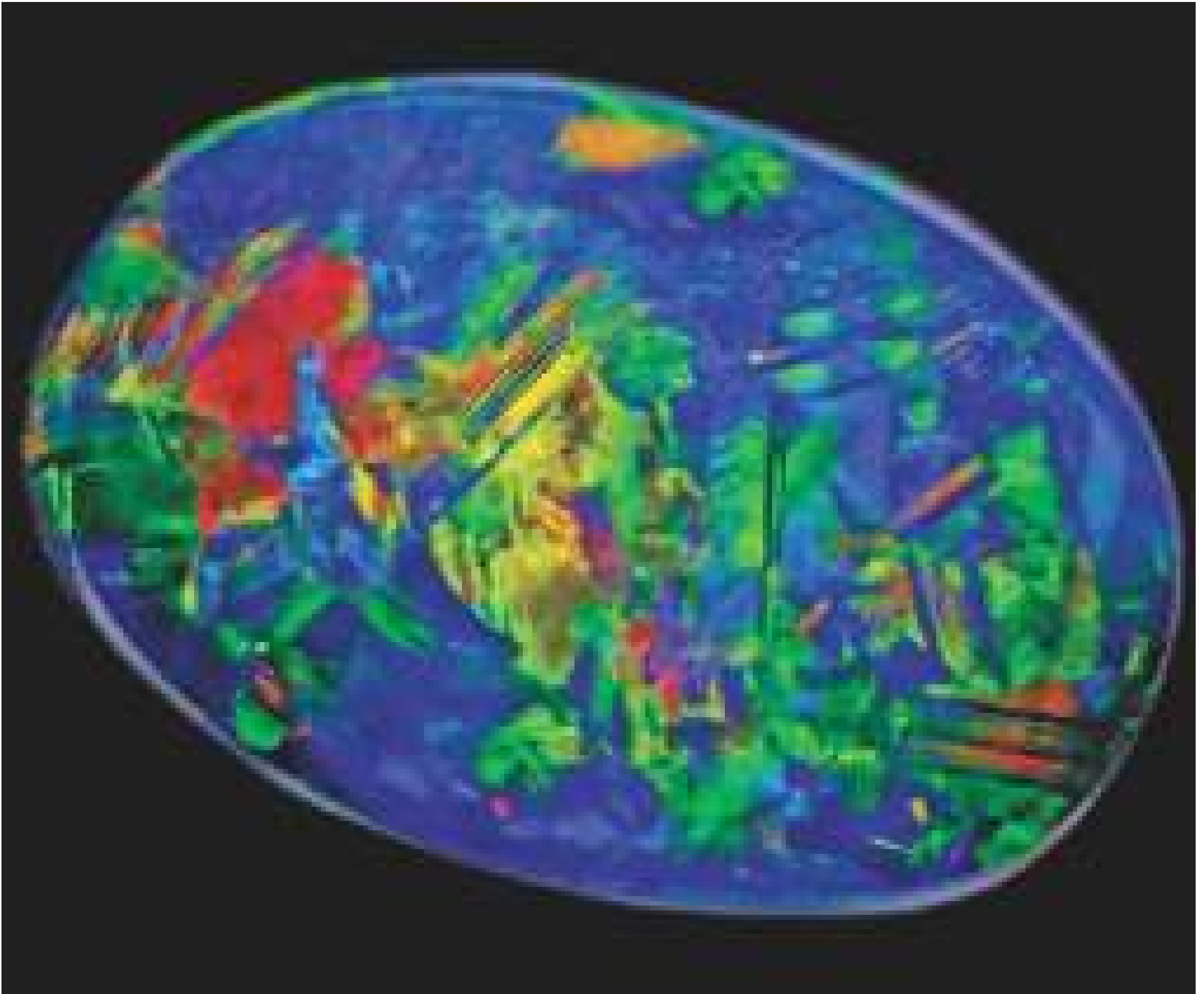




BLACK OPAL WITH CHANGING COLOUR PLAY

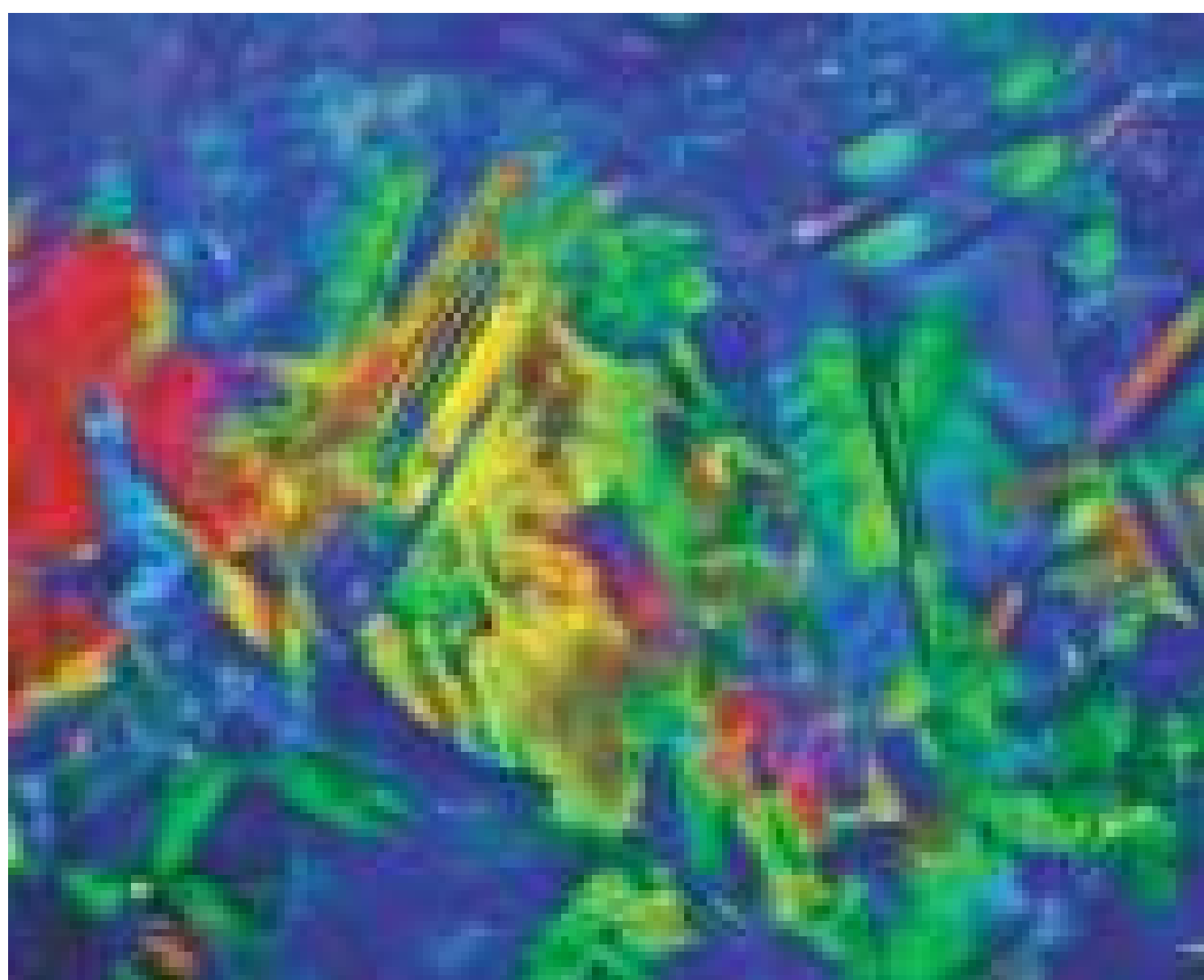


There is a magical color change within the potch lines of this Opal, which is captured in the above 4 photographs. The stone weighs 5.35 carats.

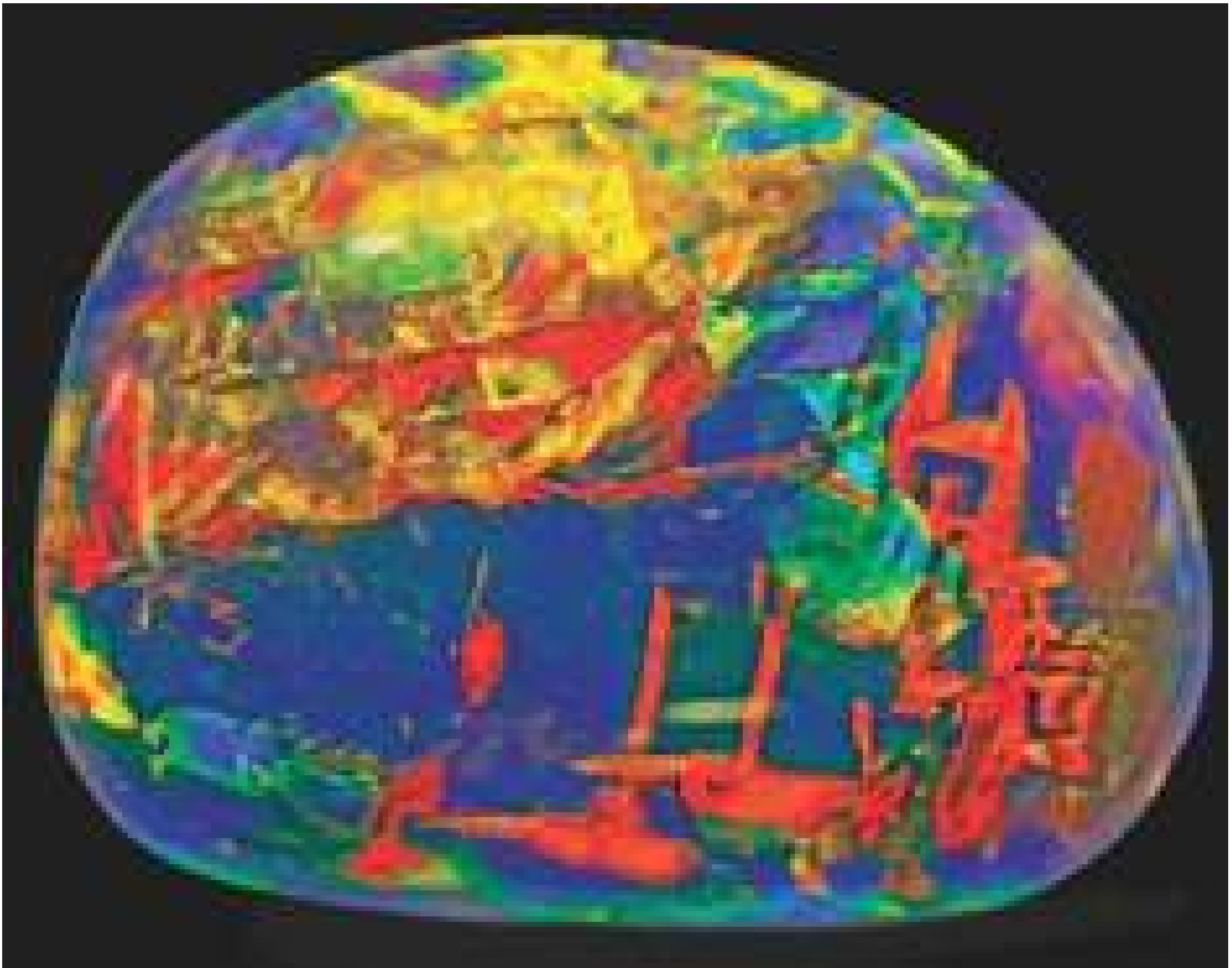


BLACK OPAL WITH CHAFF PATTERN

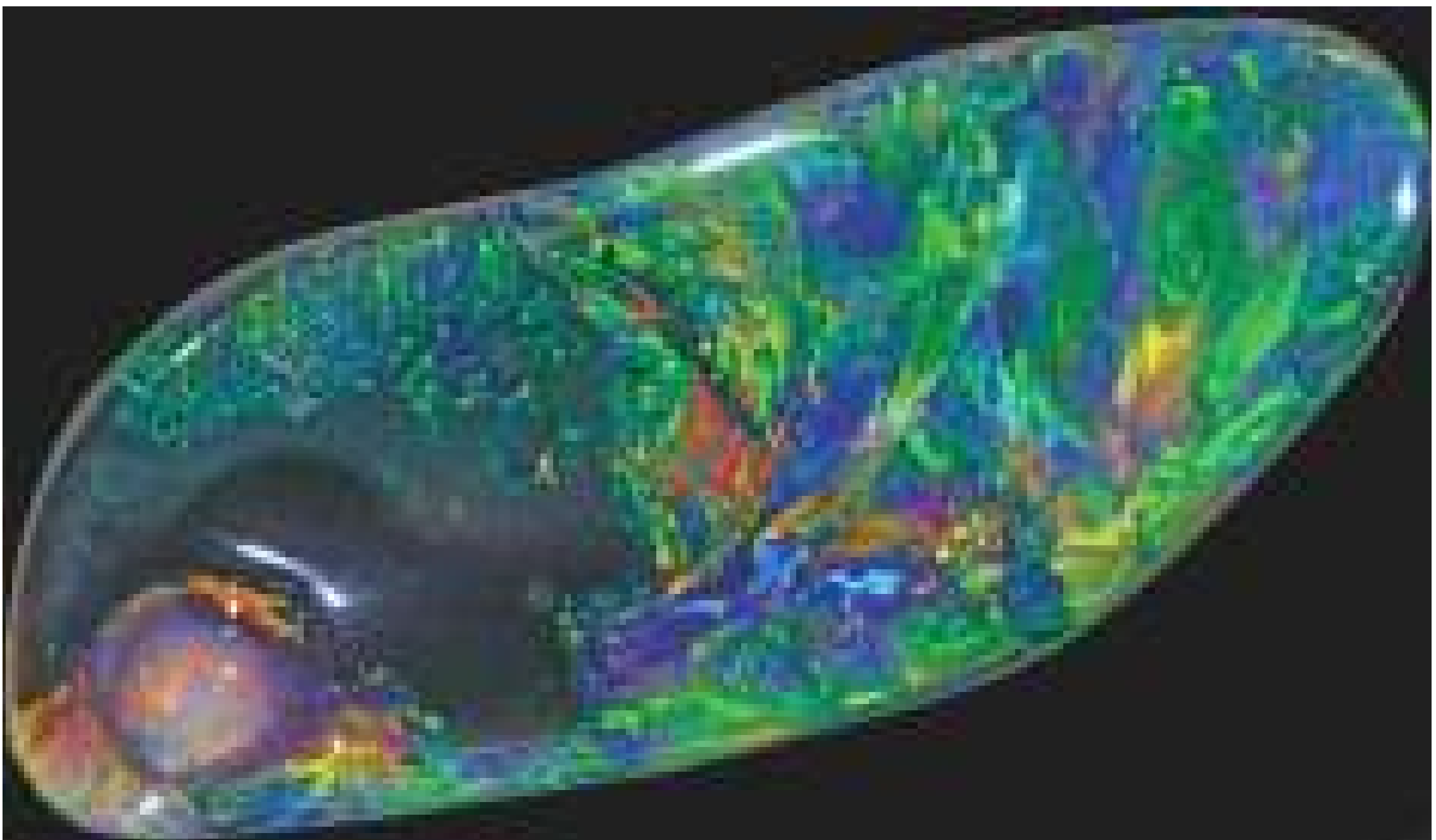
This bright Black Opal weighs 12.15 carats and is ideal for a ring stone, due to the pattern and vibrant color play throughout it.



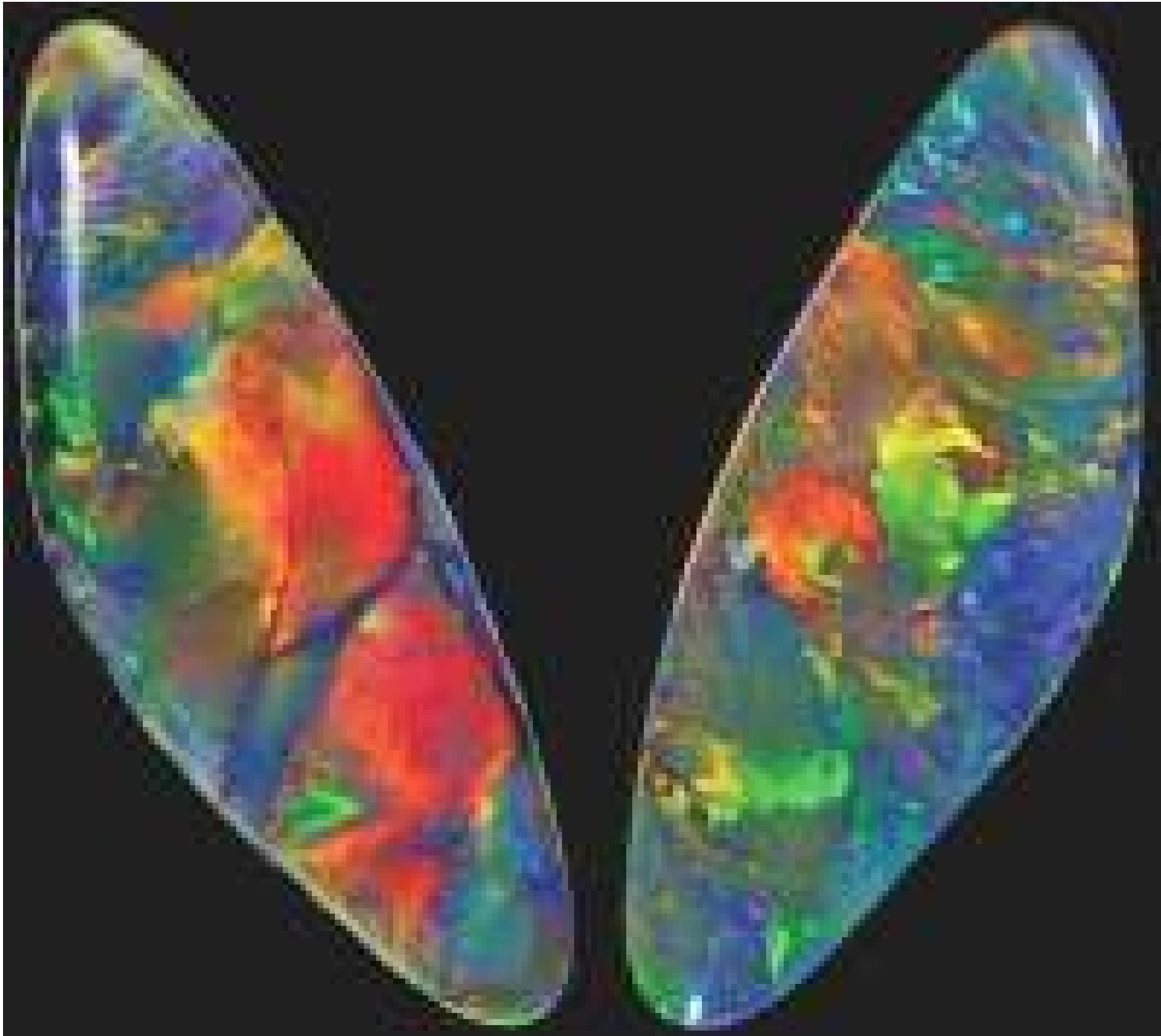
UNDULATING BLACK OPAL



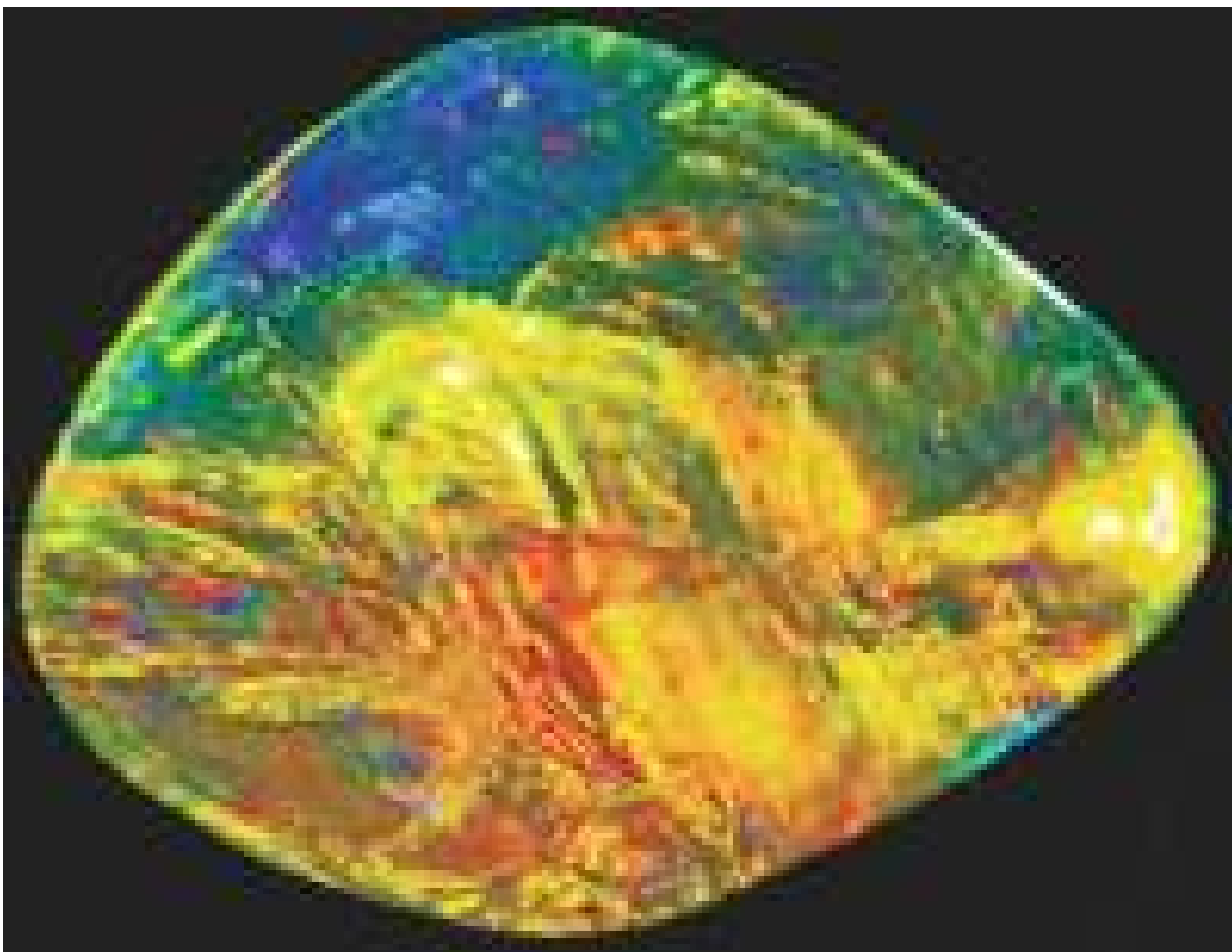
Mined at the 4 Mile Opal Field at Lightning Ridge in 2012, this stone has incredible color play throughout it and weighs 7.25 carats.



This 5 carat Black Opal is concave shaped and is an interesting undulating stone.

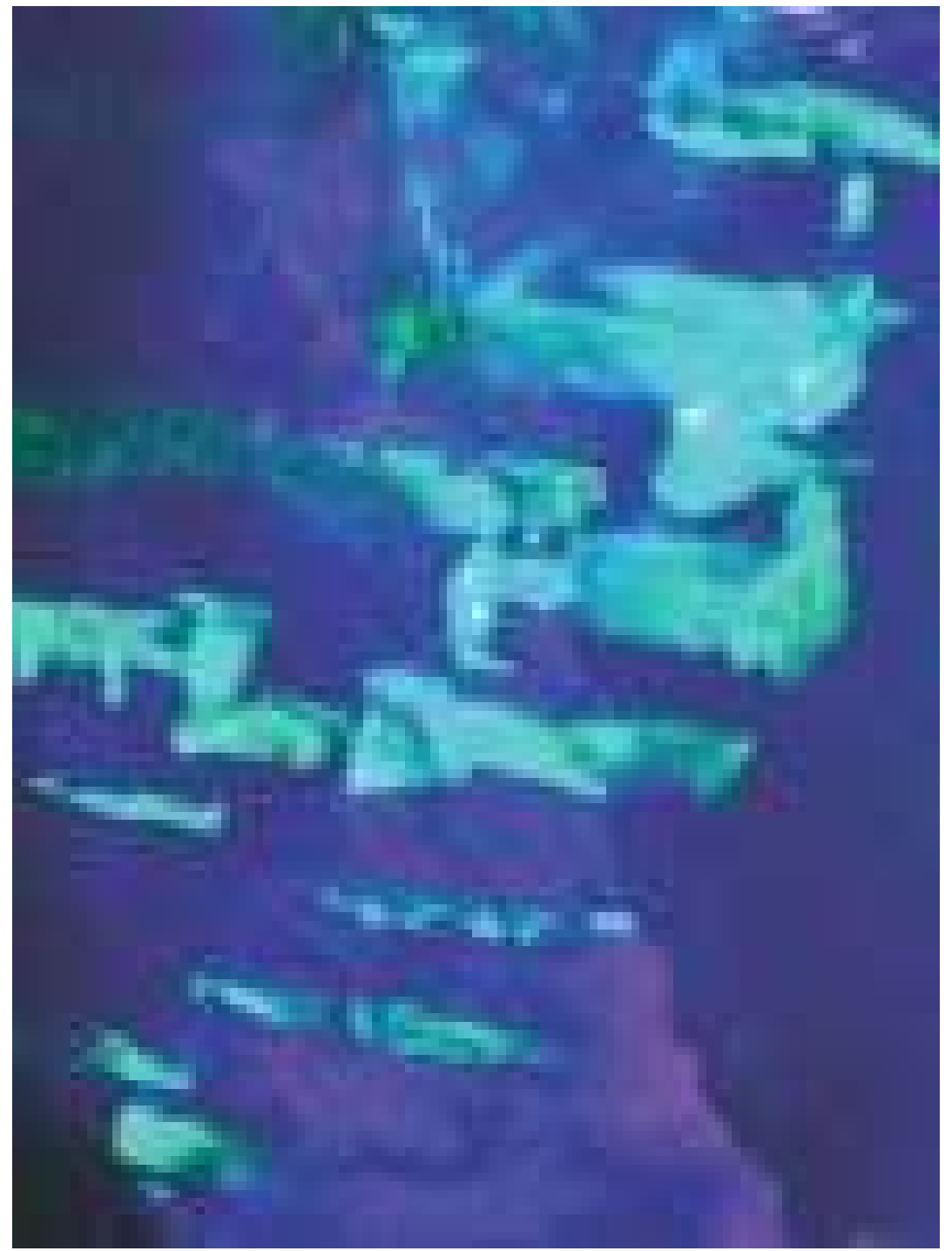


Featured in Len Cram's book 'A Journey with Color' (vol.2, part b, pg. 345), this double sided Black Opal was an off cut from an expensive stone called 'Red Cosmos. The stone weighs 11.40 carats.

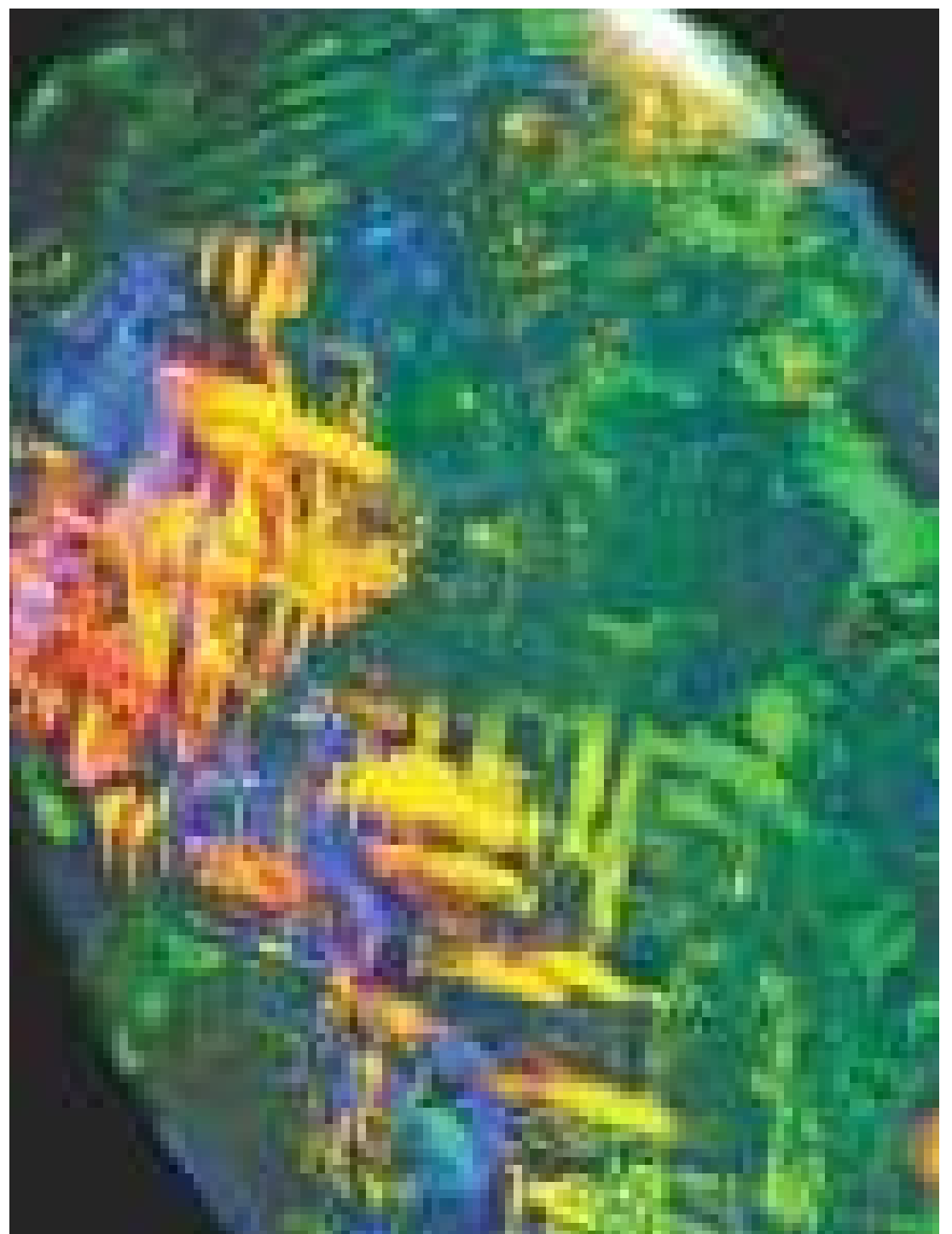
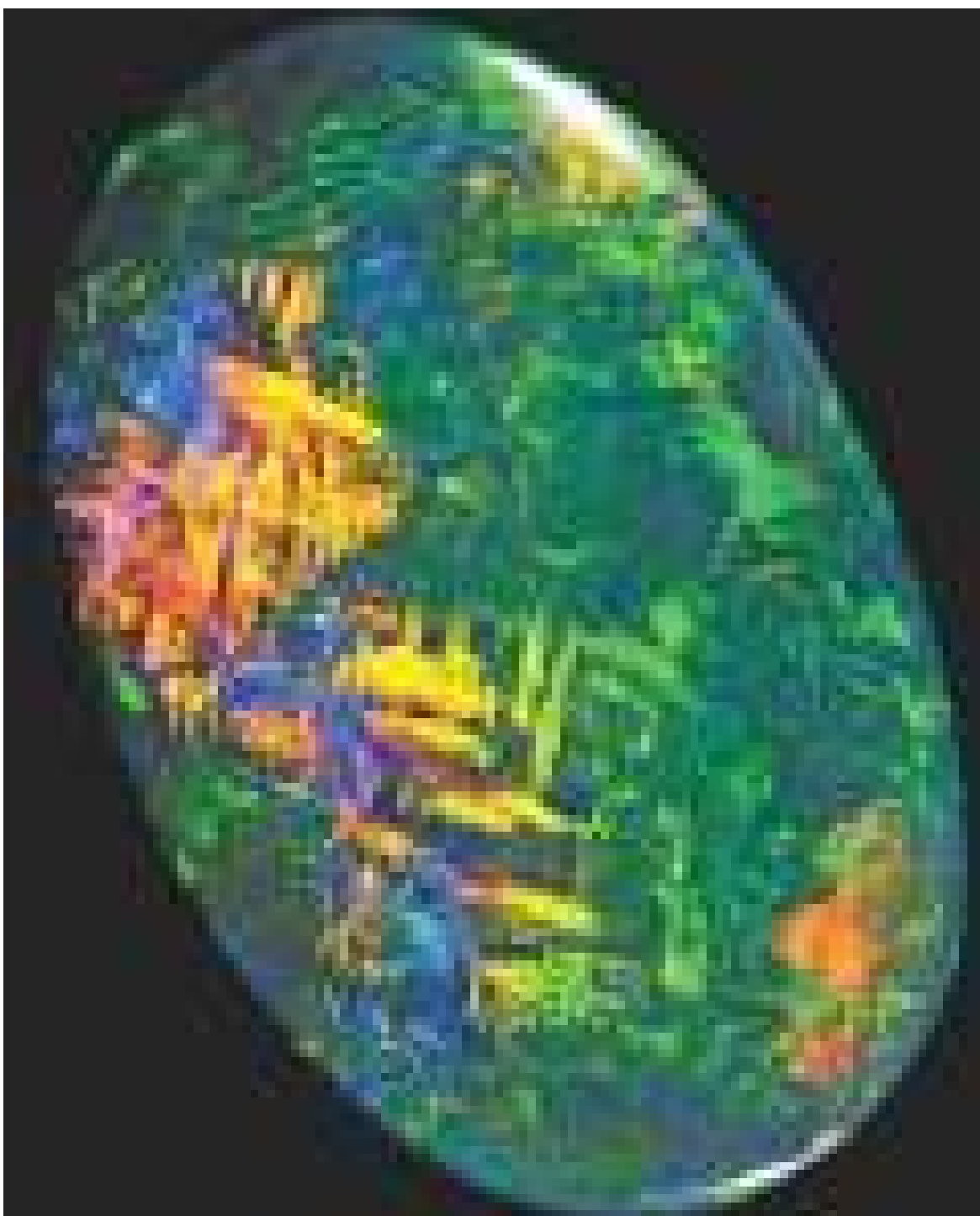


I named this stone 'Dragon', due to its neon bright orange flash. It would be an ideal stone for a men's ring because of its powerful coloring. The stone weighs 11.45 carats.

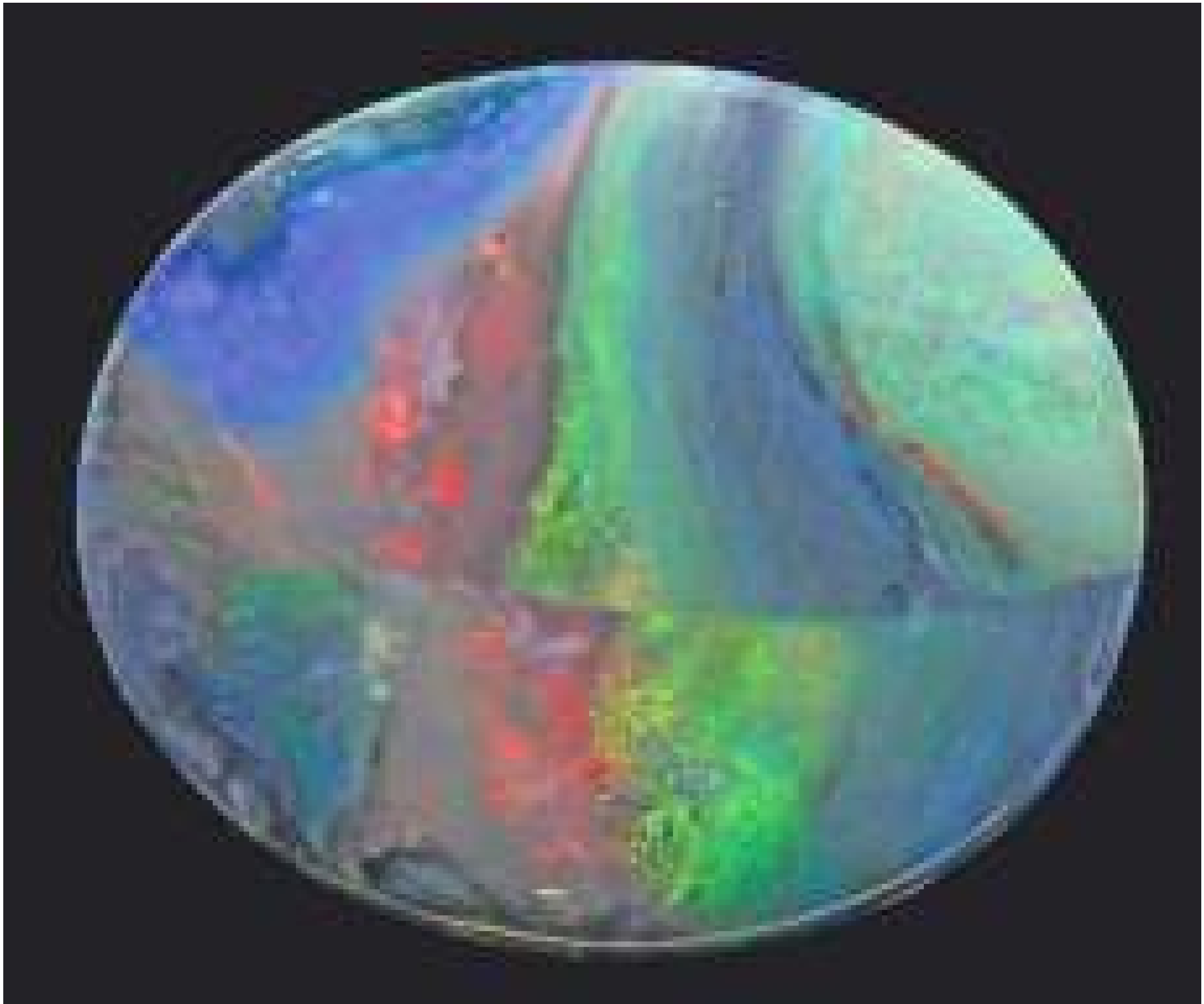
CHINESE PATTERN WRITING



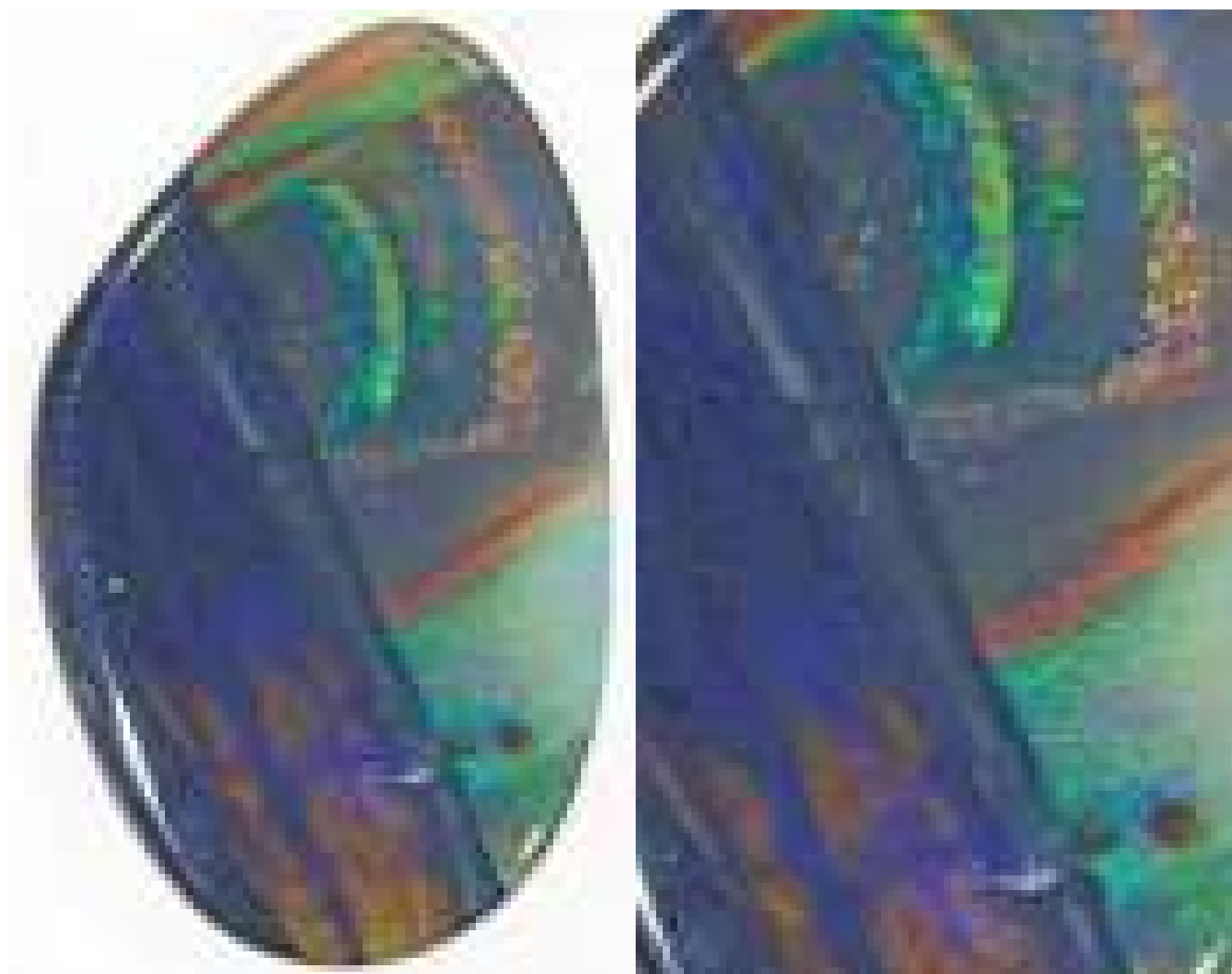
According to many colleagues who are proficient in Chinese writing, the characters in this stone translate to 'Long Life'. Only a small percentage of stones have Chinese symbols in them, which means that it must be a very lucky Opal! The stone weighs 4.50 carats.

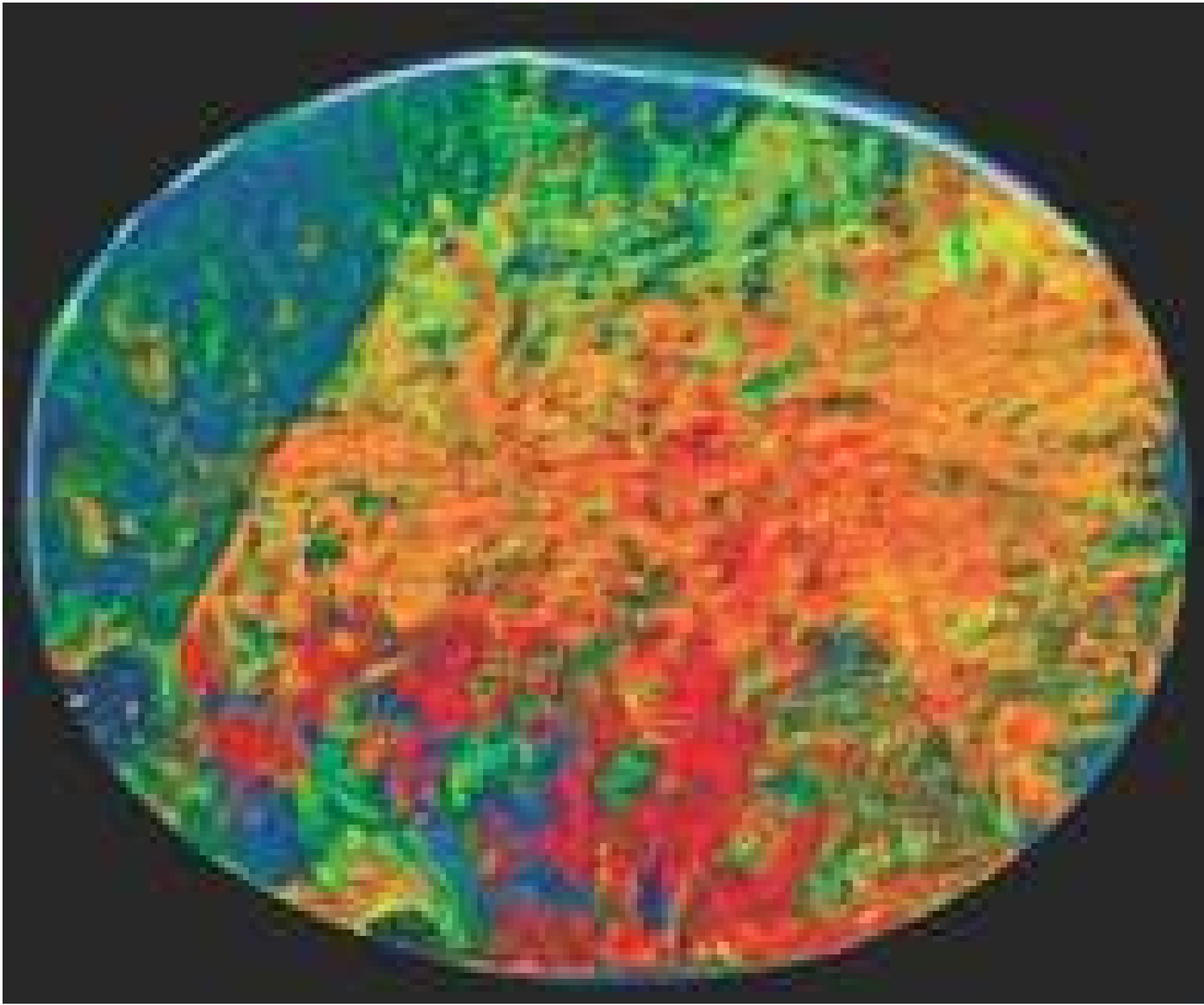


Mined at Lightning Ridge in 2004, this large 14.50 carat Crystal Opal has Chinese writing on the face.



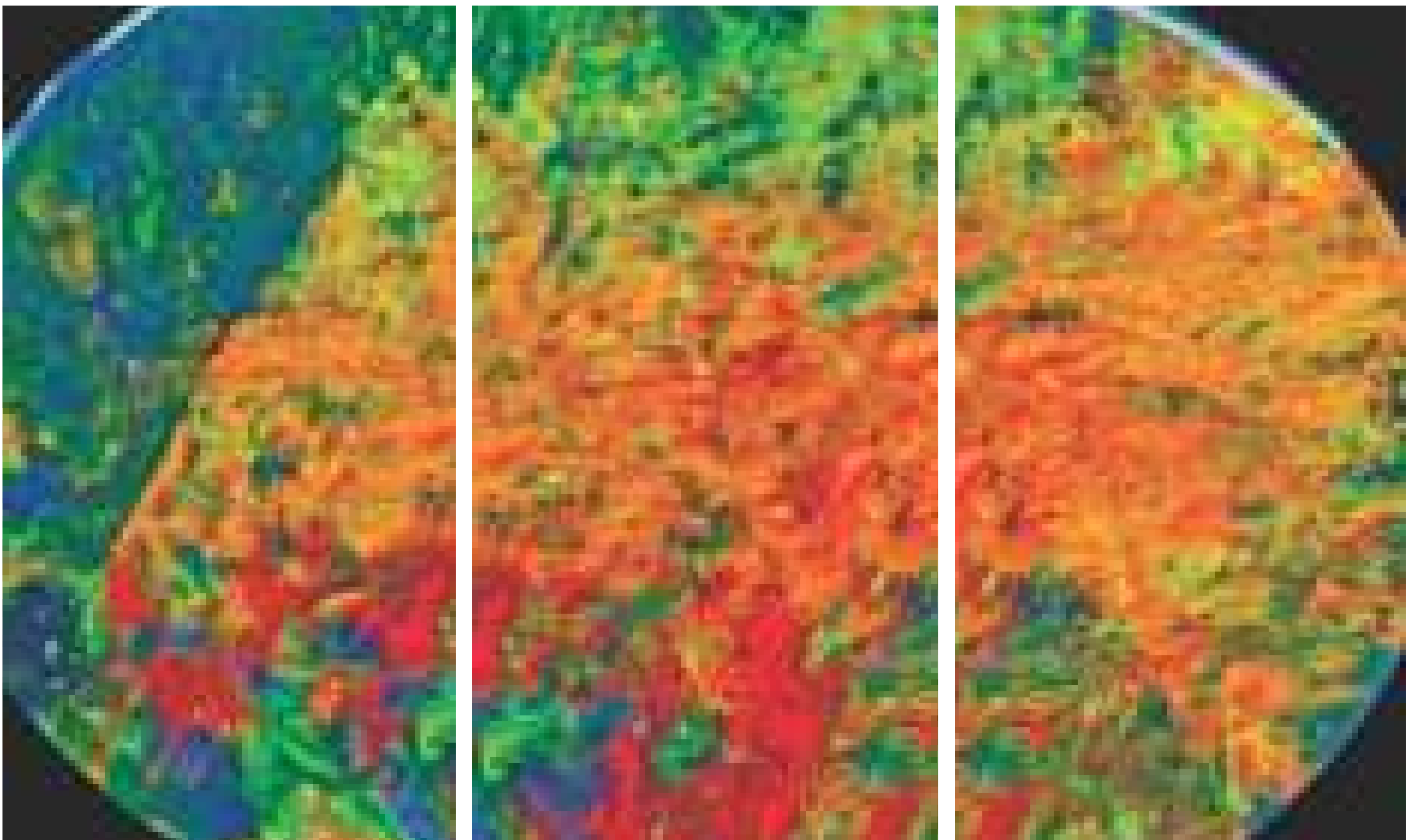
Both of these stones illustrate the pressure and ground movement of the environment they were formed in, through their pattern and color. The Opal above weighs 12 carats, while the stone below weighs 14 carats.

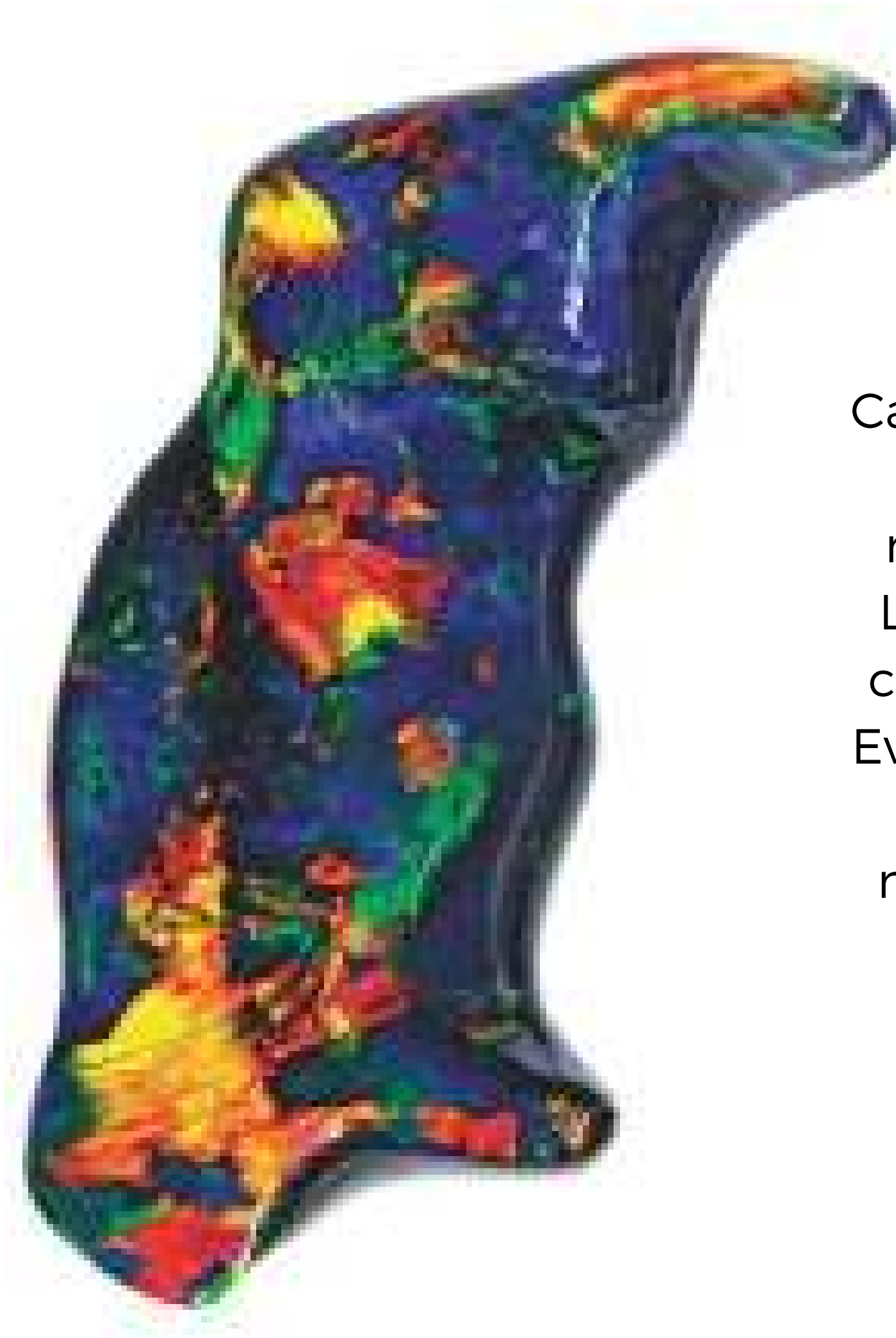




HOWL AT THE MOON

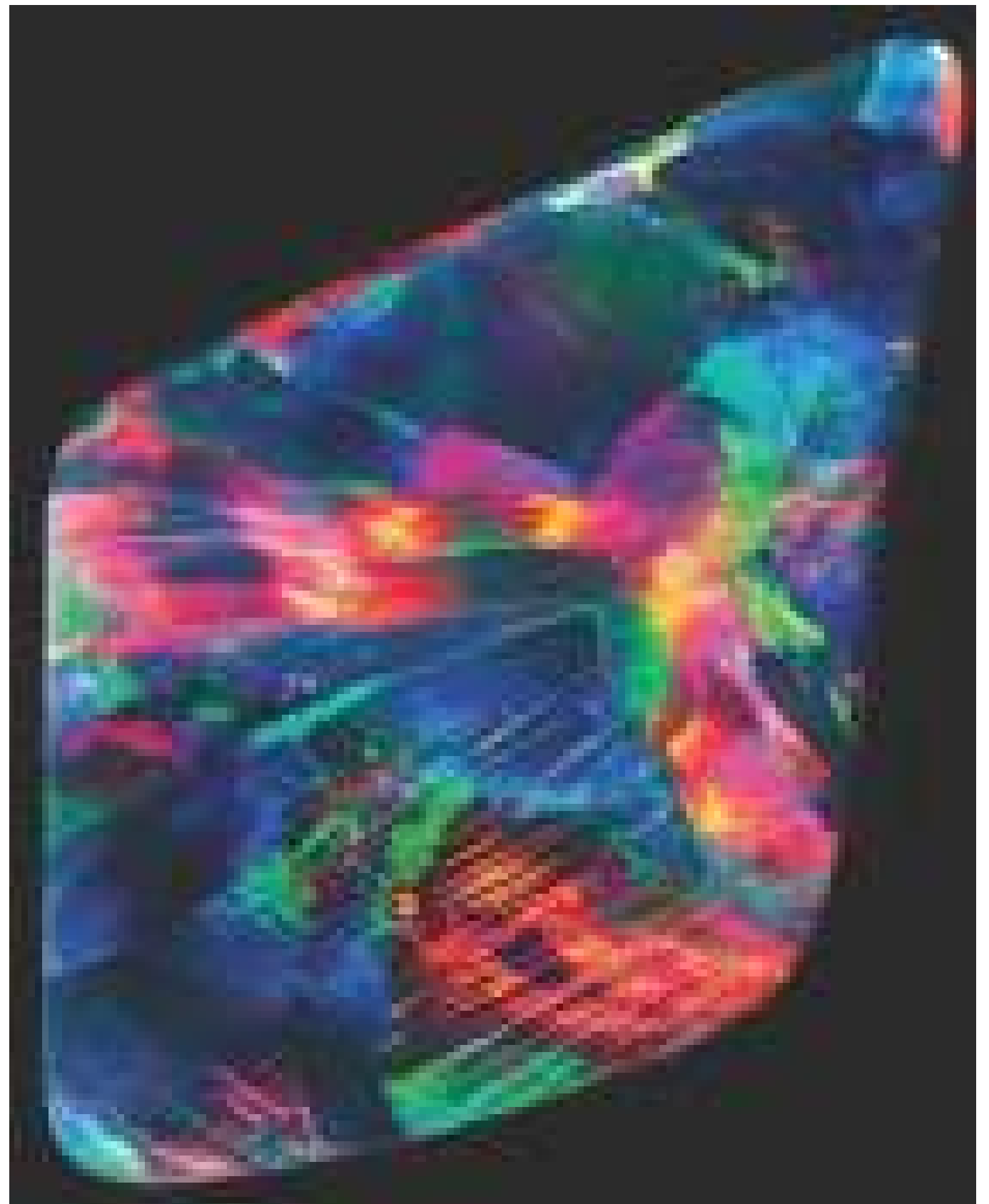
This Opal is a night stone because, even in low light environments, it would shine like a beacon. It originally looked like a doublet when I first found it, but it is a natural stone that weighs 8.90 carats.





Carved by the late Christine Roussel, who was a renowned Opal carver at Lightning Ridge, this bird carving weighs 7.10 carats. Every year there is a carving competition held in her name at Lightning Ridge.

Cut from a large stone that appeared in Len Cram's book 'A Journey with Color' (Volume 2, part b, page 339), this Opal is called 'The Kite' and weighs 41 carats.





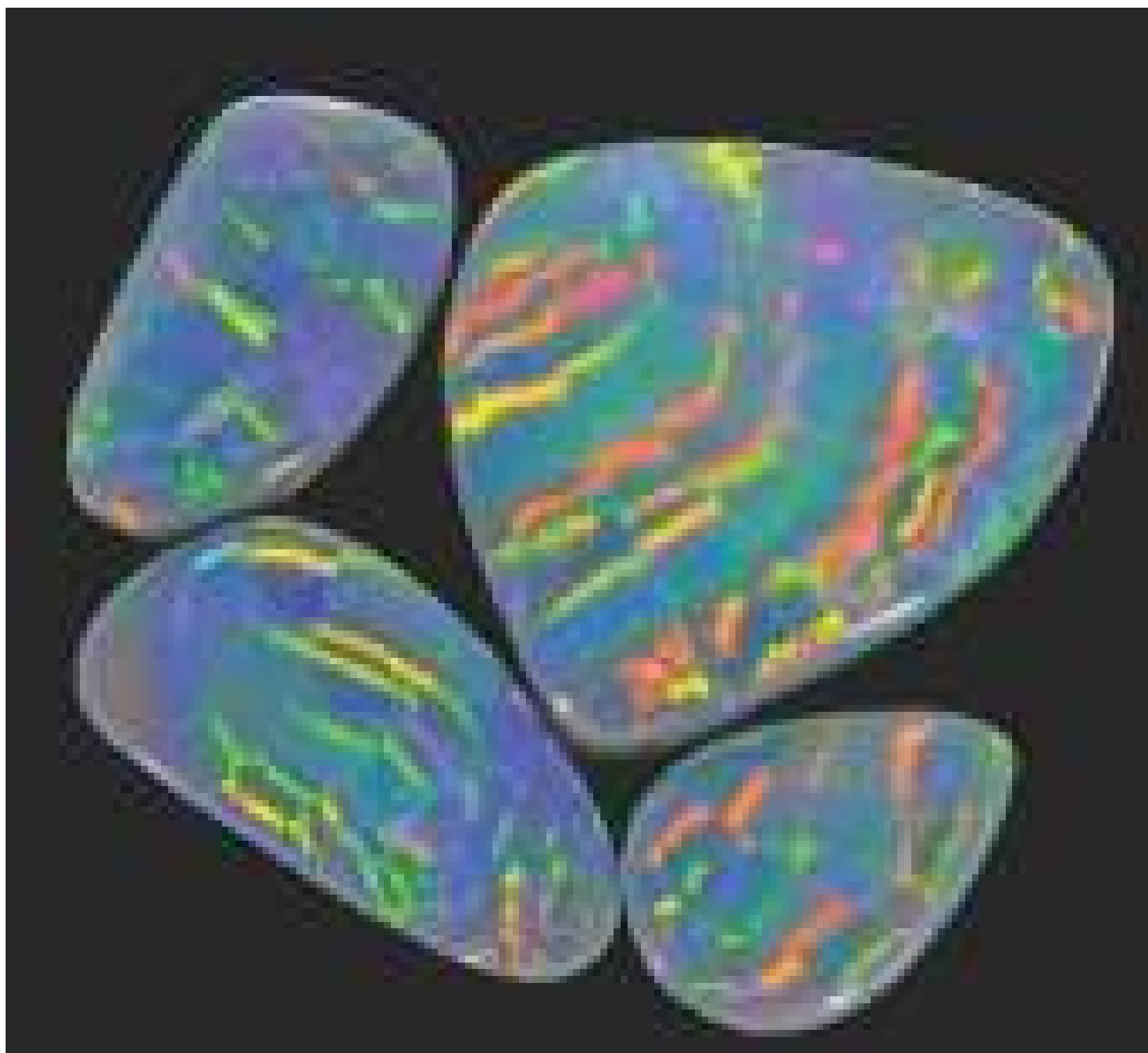
THE OPAL EMPRESS

This Opal featured in my first YouTube video I ever made, which now has over 330,000 views to date. The video offers a visual insight into the journey of cutting a stone from the rough into a polished stone. My sister, Diane had never seen me rub down a Black Opal rough before and she was amazed when this stunning stone appeared out of a piece of rough! I have had this Opal in my collection for a long time, but I recently released it for sale on Opal Auctions. It weighs 32.81 carats and the side piece weighs 12 carats.



MACKEREL PATTERN

This is one of my favorite patterned stones on an N1 base tone (refer to Body Tone Opal Chart). It has a stunning display of color, with a Mackerel rolling flash and weighs 5.05 carats.



All these stones came from one pocket in the Grawin Opal Field out of Lightning Ridge. The parcel weighs 5.05 carats

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