

"MINERALS IN THE LENS": MINERAL PHOTO COMPETITION

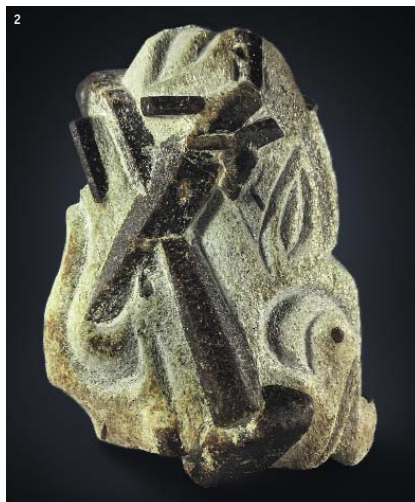
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The Mineral Photo Competition "Minerals in the Lens" is steadily gaining popularity. The company "Kamnevedy" has made some effort in support of this competition and we have seen some by positive results.

In three years, the number of participants has doubled (from 59 to 104) and the quality of the photographs submitted to the competition has noticeably increased. Photos competed in three categories: *Macro photo*, *Studio photo*, and *Genre photo*.

The jury of the competition included authorities in the field of minerals and photography, which made it possible to correctly evaluate the submitted works. There are some very good photos among the winners, and although this article does not aim to analyze the results, a few remarks seem appropriate.

The first is addressed to those who did not qualify for the final. Take your time to "press the trigger" don't treat shooting just like a selfie with minerals. Take a closer look at the specimen, it deserves more accurate work instead of fast shooting.



Let's talk about the photos of the winners. All these photos are taken by the photographers with a deep understanding of the objects and their properties, as well as excellent photography skills and final image processing. This is especially true for the photo "Magic of Violet Color" by Irina Lar'kina (Fig. 1), which took First Prize in the "Studio Photo" category, and for "Colors of Copper" by Mariya Mil'shina (Figure on page 1) which took "Grand Prix" of the competition. Both these photos are without any doubt real professional microphotographies.

Digital photography and today's advanced software have opened up possibilities for photographers never seen before, and these two photos show just how impressive the results can be when used creatively and intelligently.

The mineral photo competition is a wonderful project of the "Kamnevedy" company, which has become not only an important event of the year for all those interested in mineralogy and photography, but also a social platform for communication of like-minded people.

Good luck to you all, dear mineral amateurs!

We are looking forward for your new photos!

The author thanks Dr. John White for editing English translation of this article.

1. "Studio photo" category, First Prize. "Magic of Violet Color," an aggregate of **amethyst** crystals (up to 3.7 cm) with phantoms. Cerro de la Concordia, Piedra Parada, Tatatila Municipality, Veracruz, Mexico. Photo: Irina Lar'kina.
2. "Studio photo" category, Second Prize. "Art Deco style staurolite," an intergrowth of **staurolite** crystals on the rock. Semioostrovo, Keivy, Lovozerskiy District, Murmansk region, Kola Peninsula, Russia. Height 7.4 cm. Photo: Natalia Afanas'eva, St. Petersburg. "I look to this rock in my hands and thought: "who will need you like this? Ugly, only muscovite schist, from which corners of staurolite crystals stuck out in some places. The crystals asked me to help them to be out, and I did it. When crystals occurred out, I decided to follow in three-dimensional Art Deco drawing style."
3. "Studio photo" category, 3rd Prize. "Fluorite with inclusions," cubes of light blue **fluorite** with inclusions on calcite pseudomorph after fluorite. 1.3 x 1.2 cm. Zabytoe deposit, Primorskiy Krai, Russia. Photo: Anna Oleshchuk.
4. Special Prize of *Mineralogical Almanac*. "Fragile Find." Crystal crust of native **sulfur**, from a fumarole in the Mutnovskiy volcano crater, Kamchatka, Russia. 14 cm. Photo: Alexander Neklyudov, "Young Geologists" Club named after P.M. Bondarenko, Novosibirsk. The photo was taken at the locality, August 2019.
5. Special Prize of *Mineralogical Almanac*. "A piece of Zabaykalye in my hands." **Orpiment** with **realgar**. 10 cm. Novoshirokinskiy mine (Shirokaya village, Gazimuro-Zavodskiy District, Transbaikalye, Russia). Photo: Aleksey Dedyayev, 1st year student at the Geological Prospecting School, Cherepovets.