

## MINERALS PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE SAINTE-MARIE-AUX-MINES SHOW 2023

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All photos by Mark Mauthner

One of the great pleasures of being a professional photographer for hire at a mineral show is that one gets to work with pieces that owners feel are worth being properly documented. That means specimens new to the market, pieces especially selected for a project or for some other special reason. In either case, it usually means that the subjects being recorded are above average in terms of being interesting or aesthetic... or both. The following is a selection of some of the more memorable ones that came across my path in the basement of the theater building.

While this is not meant to be a complete show report, I can present a few details about items that were brought to my attention.

The first and most significant is that Jordi Fabre came with the bittersweet news that he is retiring as a mineral dealer and that this year's Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines show would be his last. Jordi's online shop was one of the earliest internationally, and certainly the first in Europe. It and especially the Friends of Mineral Forum (both the Spanish and English versions) he created have brought many new minerals and relat-



1. **Azurite, malachite.** 3.5 cm across.  
Chessy, France. *Fabre Minerals* specimen.



2. **Vanadinite.** 6 cm across.  
Small mine close to Les Dalles mine, Mibladen,  
Morocco, mined June 2023.  
*Fabre Minerals* specimen.



3. **Gold.** 2.1 cm tall.  
Choco, Colombia. *Fabre Minerals* specimen.



4. **Grossular.** 6.5 cm tall.  
Kayes Region, Mali. *Fabre Minerals* specimen.



5. **Grossular.** 4 cm across.  
Kayes region, Mali. *Fabre Minerals* specimen.

ed news to light before shows, show reports and the printed press could. For years he hosted a gathering of Forum users; the event has now morphed into an event sponsored by Texas collectors, Gail and Jim Spann.

The good news though, is that Jordi, an important international contributor to our science and hobby, intends to remain active in the field of mineral collecting, particularly as regards to developing an online project of his: the Minerals – Virtual Museum, which by the time this is published, should be up and running.

The first phase, Jordi explained, will be to convert the best of what Fabre Minerals has presented over 27 years(!) online into a permanent gallery for people to visit,