

Local Jeweler Can Van Le Earns Highest Professional Recognition From National Trade Association

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New York City – Jewelers of America Inc. (JA) has awarded Can Van Le, owner of Art of Gold in Denver Colorado, the designation of JA Certified Master Bench Jeweler. Le is the *2nd bench jeweler* in Colorado and only 92nd nationwide, to ever receive this distinction – the fourth and highest level of the JA Bench Jeweler Certification (BJC) Program.

The BJC Program sets uniform standards for testing and evaluation a bench jeweler's talent, ability, and proficiency at four levels: JA Certified Bench Jeweler Technician, JA Bench Jeweler, JA Certified Senior Bench Jeweler, and JA Certified Master Bench Jeweler. The program tests a broad range of professional knowledge and technician bench skills (e.g., stone setting, soldering, polishing, etc.), and to be certified, the candidate must demonstrate proficiency in each skill area to an acceptable national standard. More than 850 bench jewelers have achieved certification nationwide and approximately 300 are currently preparing for testing.

Born in Vietnam to a jewelry family, Le began fabricating jewelry at age eighteen. In 1980, he arrived in Denver, Colorado where he attended Emily Griffith technical school. There he began learning jewelry casting, setting and designing state of the art tools, machinery and technology. In total Le has worked at the bench for 33 years, His specialties are custom jewelry design and waxes.

Currently, Le is the owner of Art of Gold, in Denver, offering custom jewelry designs casting in silver, gold, and platinum. One of his most notable work experiences was creating a special commemorative pendant for the Bronco's Jeremiah Castile after his heroic play helped the Broncos win the 1987 AFC Championship.

For the past five years, Le has been an Executive Donor to KRMA Channel Six Colorado Public Television, donating jewelry for their annual fund raising auction. He also provides classes to jewelers in the community.

"We share Can Van Le's pride in attaining this degree of professional recognition," says JA Director of Trade Programs Mark Mann. "His successful demonstration of his proficiency as a bench jeweler and his display of superior professional standards can only enhance consumer confidence in the work being done at Art of Gold, as well as in the entire jewelry professional."

For additional information about JA Certified Mast Bench Jeweler Can Van Le, contact Art of Gold directly at 303-765-4984, or visit their website at www.artofgold.com.

For information about JA and the JA Bench Jeweler Certification Program, call Jewelers of America at 800-223-0673.

Jewelers of America, Inc. is the national trade association for retail jewelers. With more than 10,00 members nationally, JA also works locally through its 42 state and regional affiliates. JA advocates high ethical standards, promotes professional business and leadership skills, and enhances its member's profitability by offering education, certification, marketing and cost-saving programs.