



Orange speckled diamond named for ornamental Japanese fish



The more than 32-carat Koi Diamond.

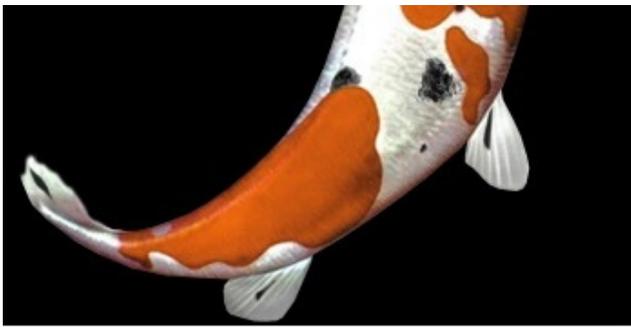
It is not a perfect gem, by any stretch of the imagination, but at more than 32 carats in weight and with an unusual color mix in which orange is dominant, it has been called the Koi Diamond, after the ornamental Japanese variety of carp, which often are seen in the ponds or water gardens of the Orient.

The now pear-shaped diamond was discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo about 10 years ago, and before being cut in 2008 Antwerp weighed more than 60 carats. Owned by Rawstone Business holding, it currently is being held in a safe in the Belgian diamond center.

While large by any standards, it is the mix of colors that make it unusual. With colorless zones it is almost striped by graduations of colors in orange, light yellow, dark blue, and even black. It has been described as being reminiscent of an ancient Chinese or Japanese brush painting depicting the koi fish in transition.

Among the individuals associated with the stone is Eddy Elzas, the famed Belgian colored diamond specialist, who told the media that he first saw the unusual gem after being invited to





The Koi fish, the ornamental carp after which the diamond is named.

consult on its grading by Tom Moses, senior vice president of the Gemological Institute of America.

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I love this business! There's always some amazing natural wonder being revealed. Underneath all the bling and ostentatiousness, the reality is that what you see is a miracle of chemistry and geology.

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Bob Artz

Wow! Koi are also referred to as 'living jewels' - how appropriate that a diamond be named after the pretty critters!

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