

The world is full of its many 'hidden' treasures, like gems, stones and minerals. What you say Minerals? Yes, minerals, and some of them present themselves as pieces of Accidental Art.

“A **mineral** is a naturally occurring substance, representable by a chemical formula that is usually solid and inorganic, and has a crystalline structure. Fascinating? Well, it isn't, it is actually quiet stunning, if you don't believe me than be awed by these photographs of a few of the most beautiful structures in the world.

The first is Bismuth, which is a brittle metal with an iridescent oxide tarnish. The spiral, stair-stepped structure of bismuth crystals is the result of a higher growth rate around the outside edges than on the inside edges. The variations in the thickness of the oxide layer that forms on the surface of the crystal causes different wavelengths of light to interfere upon reflection, thus displaying a rainbow of colors.

Water melon anyone? The watermelon tourmaline is a rare variety that displays three different colors in the same crystal- green (the skin of the watermelon), pink (the sweet fruit) and white (the rind). As in the gem stone ametrine, the colors of the watermelon tourmaline occur 100% naturally. This is a rare occurrence in nature.

Fire Opal is a transparent to translucent opal, with warm body colors of yellow to orange to red. Occasionally a stone will exhibit bright green flashes. The most famous source of fire opals is the state of Queretaro in Mexico; these opals are commonly called Mexican fire opals. The internal structure of precious opal makes it defract light; depending on the conditions in which it formed, it can take on many colors.