Fluorite [CaF]

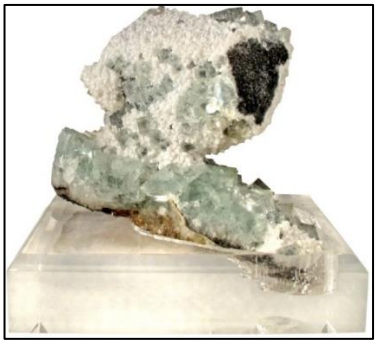
Fluorite commonly forms beautiful cubic crystals in a variety of colors. Fluorite has four perfect cleavages that allow its cubes to be cleaved into octahedral shapes. These cleaved octahedrons are often sold in rock shops. Fluorite has the widest color range of any mineral; its coloration being controlled by various trace elements substituted into its crystalline structure. Color can occur in distinct zones within the crystal, and sometimes follow the contour of the crystal faces. Color varieties are indicative of the locality where they are found—the largest source of octahedral pink fluorite, for example, comes from mines located in the Swiss Alps. Pink is the most common color of fluorite, and samples can be found in most rock shops around the world. Rarer specimens of fluorite are ones that exhibit perfect, transparent, dark colored cubes.

Fluorite *P19*

Fluorite *B28*

Fluorite *OR13*

Fluorite with Pyrite *P25*



Fluorite *PK19*

Fluorite *OR11*

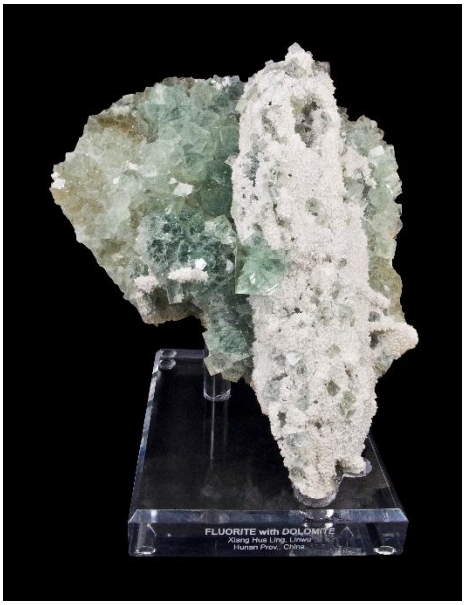
Fluorite [CaF]

The fluorite specimen here is quite unique—a fluorite geode growing on a pre-existing quartz stalactite. Here is how this specimen formed: Fluorite partially filled a small cavity forming a geode. The outer rock matrix surrounding the geode was removed through weathering processes, exposing the outer surface of the geode. Inside, one would likely find a hollow center with fluorite crystals growing into the open space in the interior. Growths such as these rarely form on top of quartz stalactites, making this specimen very fragile and one of a kind. B14

Fluorite with Quartz *B14*

Fluorite *G5*

Fluorite M16



Fluorite M18