

# ENGELHARD 200Z INGOTS

THE **VAN GOGH** OF RARE BULLION!

By **AGWire™**  
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The above images precisely confirm the notion that a picture is worth a thousand words... that natural elements plus human creativity and implementation equal an unlimited palate of beauty, appeal, and of course, value. And yet, in the background there's Russ shouting from our March 9, 2015 commentary, "Silver is Silver... an Ounce is an Ounce." To say that an old bullion bar is just a hunk of silver metal is to say that a *Van Gogh* painting is just smeared paint on a piece of canvas. The process of silver ingot fabrication is truly an old world craft and art, dating back over 5000 years. There is nothing "machined" nor "assembly line" about old poured silver ingots. When glowing hot silver is slowly poured into a cast iron mould, the natural cooling process along with oxidation often creates the most spectacular visual characteristics. Then add a visually hand placed hallmark, purity, weight and serial stamping with a steel die and hammer, and Bingo! Engelhard utilized this old world fabrication method in their 1960's to late 1970's ingot fabrication.

To the point, Engelhard 4<sup>th</sup> series 20oz ingots in Canadian variation were cast with a large flat surface area and were noticeably thinner than other 20oz varieties, allowing many examples to develop truly spectacular ripple cooling lines and rainbow toning patterns not found on any other bullion examples on earth. Many collectors consider these 20oz ingots the focal point and benchmark of their bullion portfolios. Amazingly, these ingots are still relatively available in today's public market, which is very exciting for collectors, but then again, the word is quickly getting out on these iconic pieces so availability and values may change in a heart beat.

Overall Engelhard 20 ounce production was less than 15,000 ingots. As a result of the great silver melts and repurposing of these often considered "junk bars," it is estimated that only perhaps a scant 5,000 of these ingots may actually exist today, mostly in strong hands, but as aforementioned, occasional gems still do come available to the public market.

While the real Van Gogh "Starry Night" would bring well over \$100m in today's investment world, you can still pick up and hold in your own hands an Engelhard 20oz ingot for less than \$1,000! And they're ultra rare and exceptionally beautiful too, especially examples with the "Van Gogh" likeness!

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