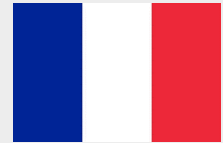
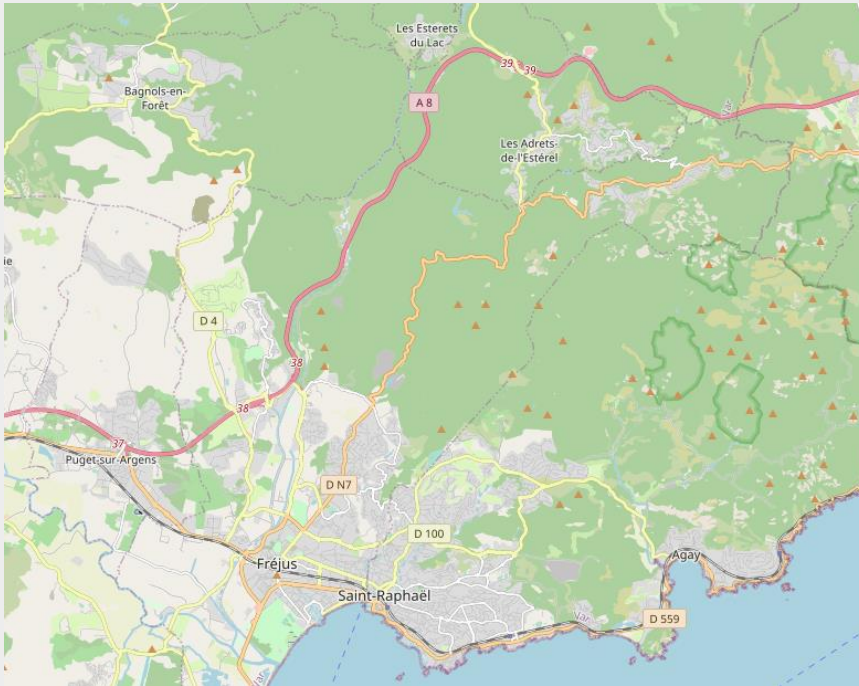


## Fréjus, Massif de l'Esterel, Cote d'Azur, Provence



© OpenStreetMap-Mitwirkende

Die Lithophysenachate aus dem l'Esterelgebirge gelten bereits als absolute europäische Klassiker. Leider liegen die meisten Fundstellen mittlerweile auf eingezäuntem Privatgebiet oder innerhalb des Naturschutzgebiets mit absolutem Sammel- und Grabungsverbot. Das beste Material verbleibt meist in Sammlungen lokaler Sammler und ist auf dem Markt nur selten zu sehen. Als bekannte Fundbereiche gelten unter anderem „La Louve“, „La Vigne“, „Plateau de Grane“, „Castellas“ oder „Collet Petit Redon“. Die Achatkugeln begeistern durch eine unglaubliche Vielfalt an Farben und Zeichnungen. Blau- und Rottöne in Verbindung mit der grünlichen Kugelmatrix ergeben äußerst aparte Sammlungsstücke.

Gravitationsbänderung und so genannte „Atollachatformen“ kommen recht häufig vor. Die achatführenden Lithophysen sind in der Regel nicht sehr groß und liegen im Durchschnitt zwischen 3 und 8 cm. Leider ist die Rissanfälligkeit ein großes Problem. Völlig rissfreie Kugeln mit guter Zeichnung und Farbe sind sehr selten und dementsprechend begehrt.

Thunderegg agates from the l'Esterel Mountains are already considered absolute European classics. Unfortunately, most of the sites are now located in fenced-in private areas or within the national park with an absolute ban on collecting and digging. The best material usually remains in the collections of local collectors and is rarely seen on the market. Well-known areas of discovery include “La Louve”, “La Vigne”, “Plateau de Grane”, “Castellas” and “Collet Petit Redon”. The agates impress with their incredible variety of colors and patterns. Shades of blue and red in combination with the greenish spherical matrix result in extremely distinctive collection pieces. Gravity (onyx) banding and so-called “atoll agate patterns” occur quite frequently. The agate-bearing lithophysen are generally not very large and are on average between 3 and 8 cm. Unfortunately, fractures are a major problem. Completely fracture-free agates with good patterns and colours are very rare and therefore sought after.



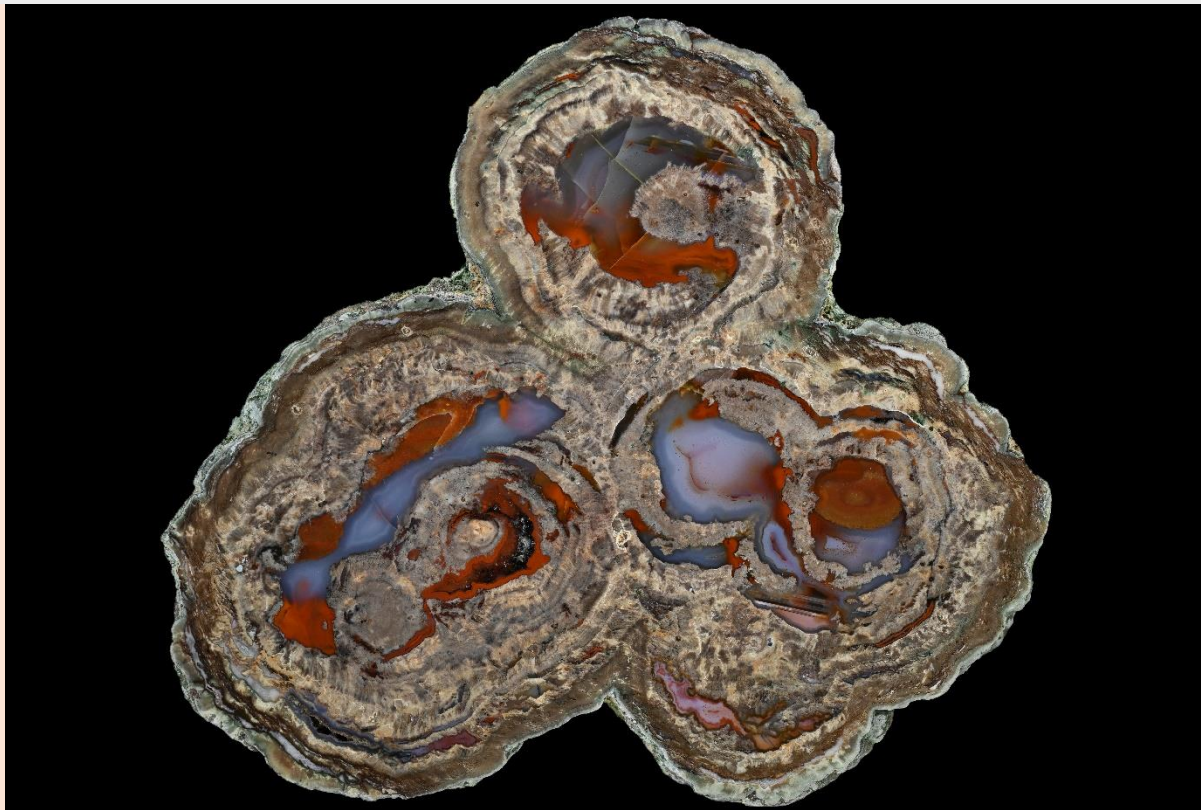
**Einige Fundstellen – jetzt Naturschutzgebiet bzw. eingezäunter Privatbesitz / Former sites, now a nature reserve or private property. Holger Quellmalz photos.**



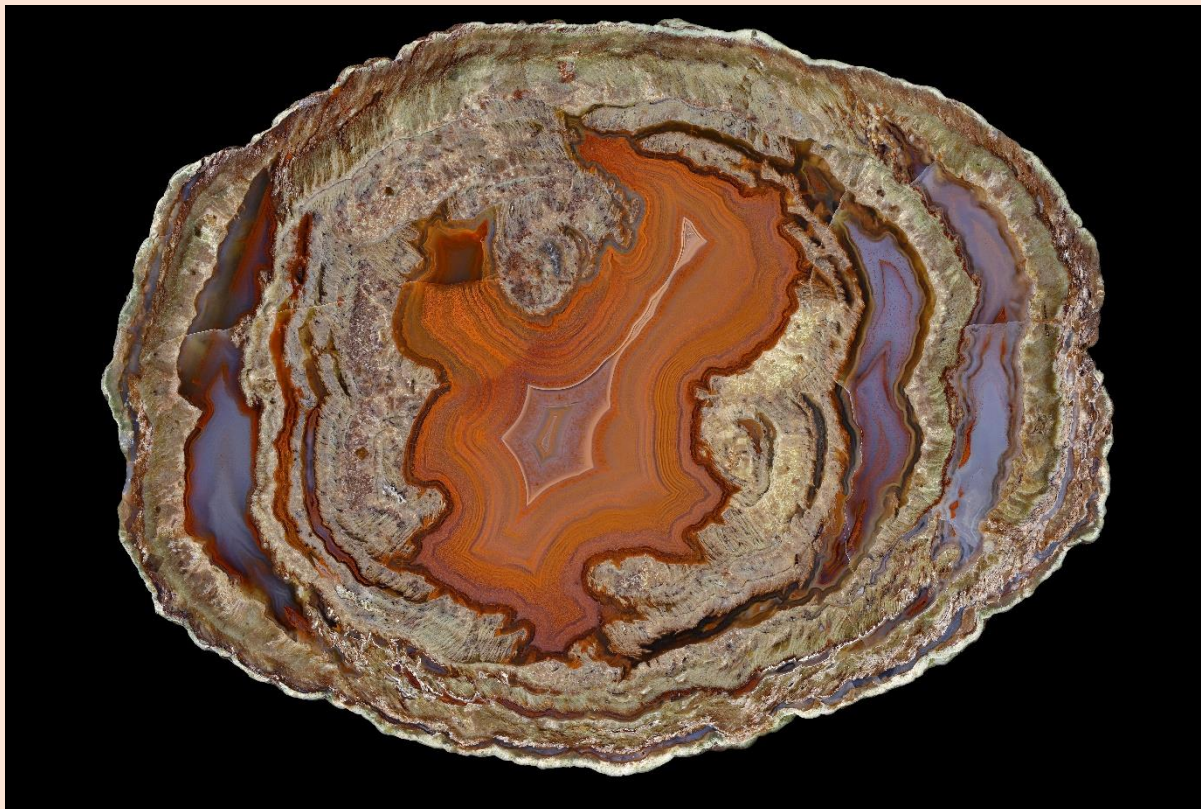


Lithophysen in situ / Thunderegg in situ. Holger Quellmalz photo.



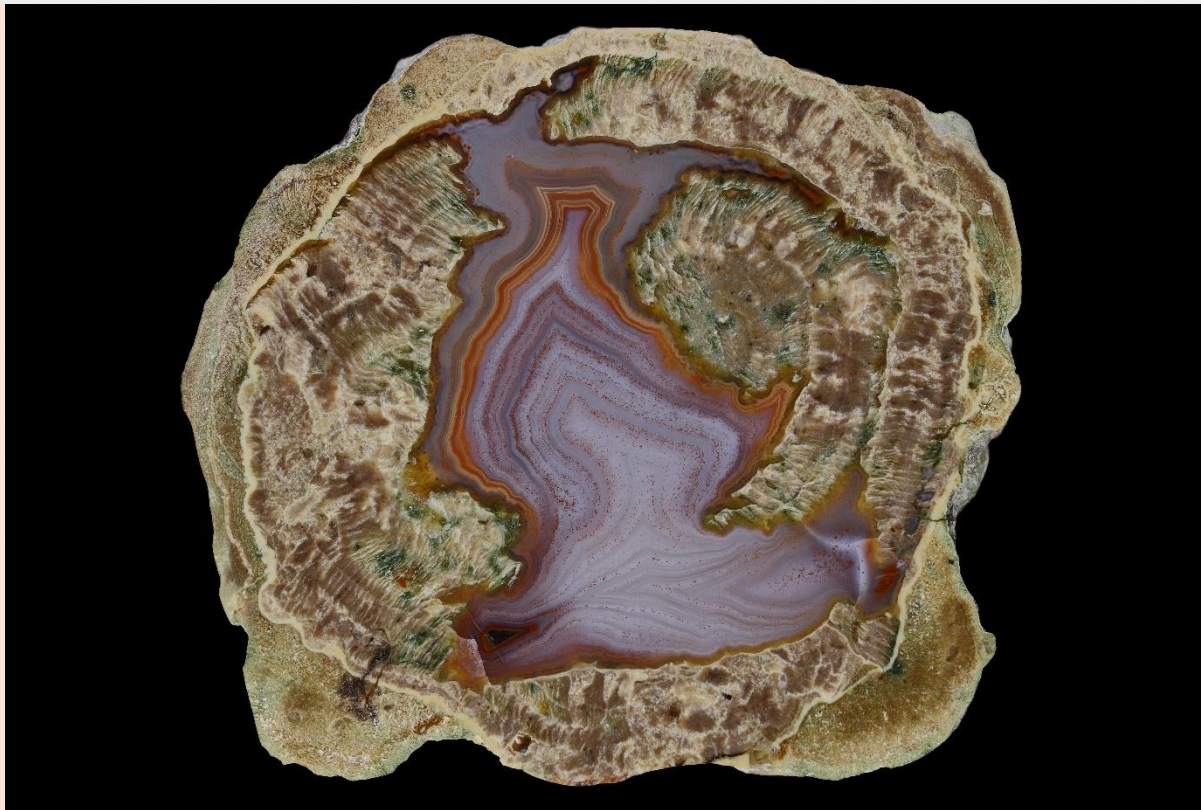


**Mehrere miteinander verwachsene Lithophysen / Intergrown thundereggs.  
14 cm. Wolfgang Waeger collection & photo.**

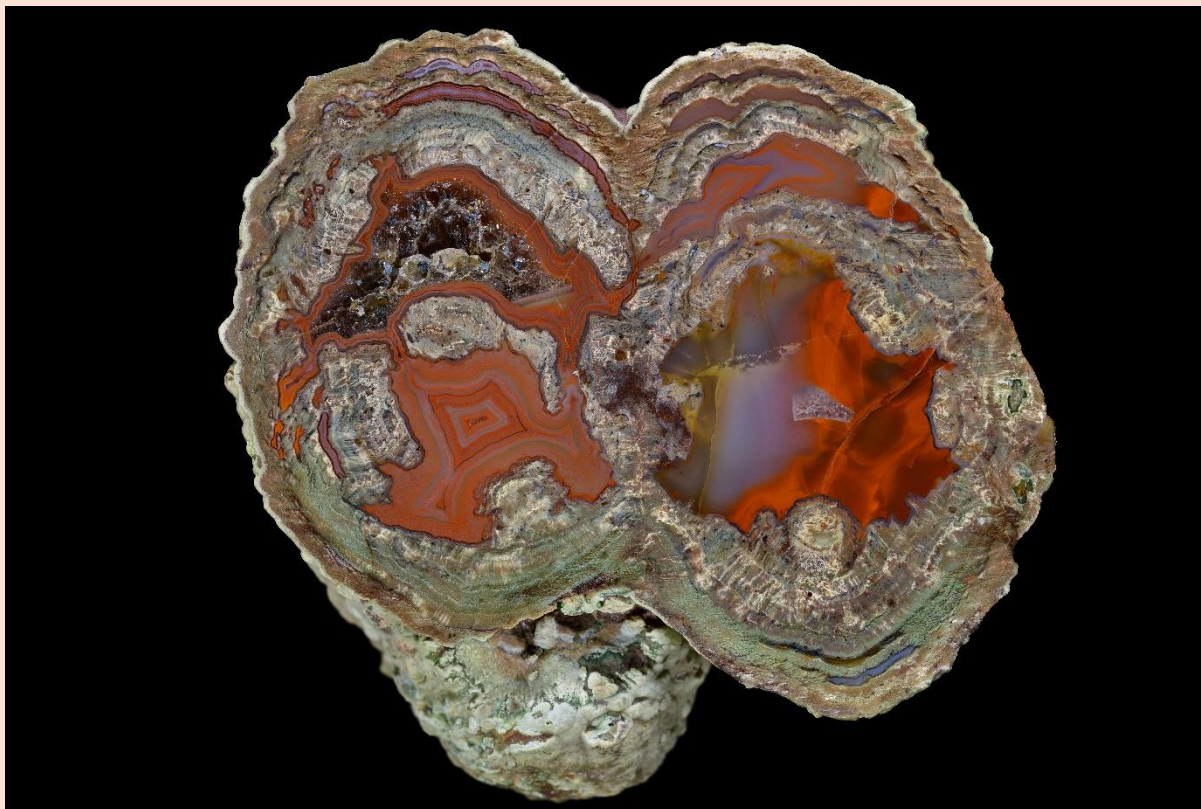


**Mehrfacher „Atoll-Achat“ / Multiple “atoll agate”. 8.2 cm.  
Wolfgang Waeger collection & photo.**

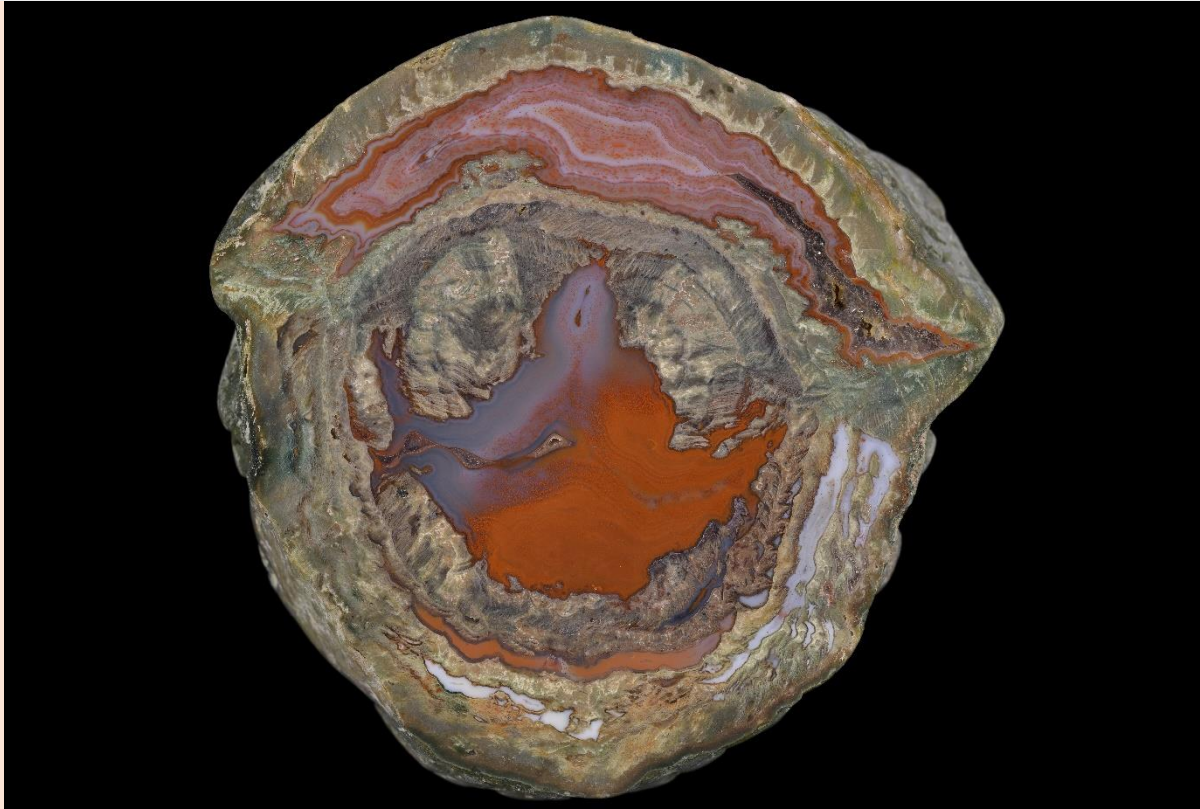




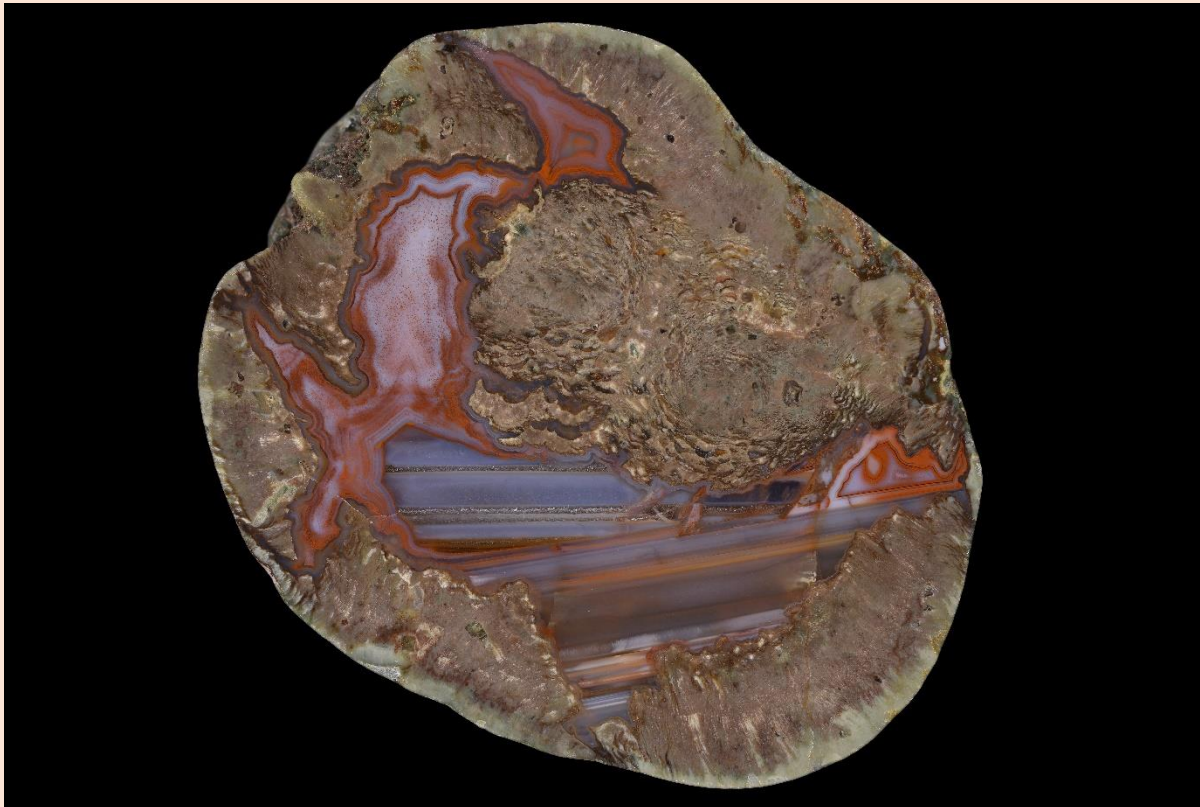
4.8 cm. Wolfgang Waeger collection & photo.



„Doppelte“ Lithophyse / “Double“ thunderegg agate.  
8 cm. Wolfgang Waeger collection & photo.

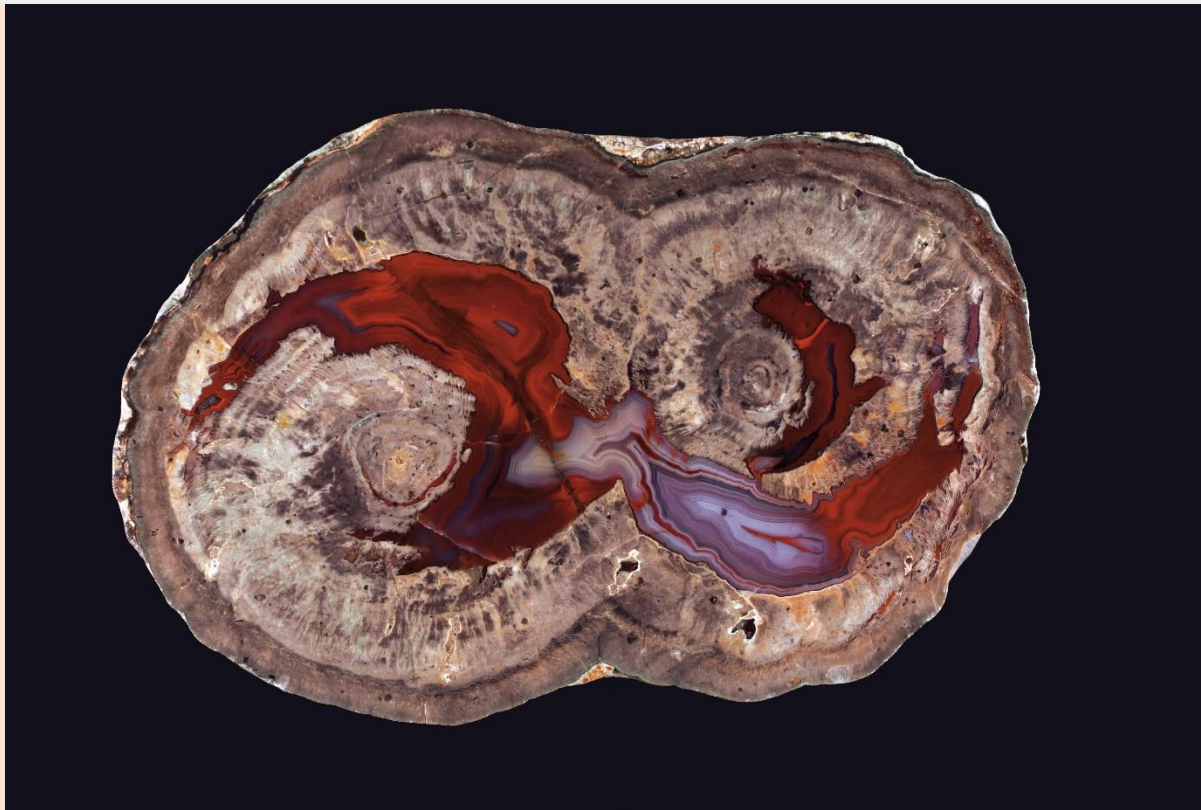


Mehrere unterschiedliche Achatzentren / Several different agate centers.  
6.5 cm. Wolfgang Waeger collection & photo.

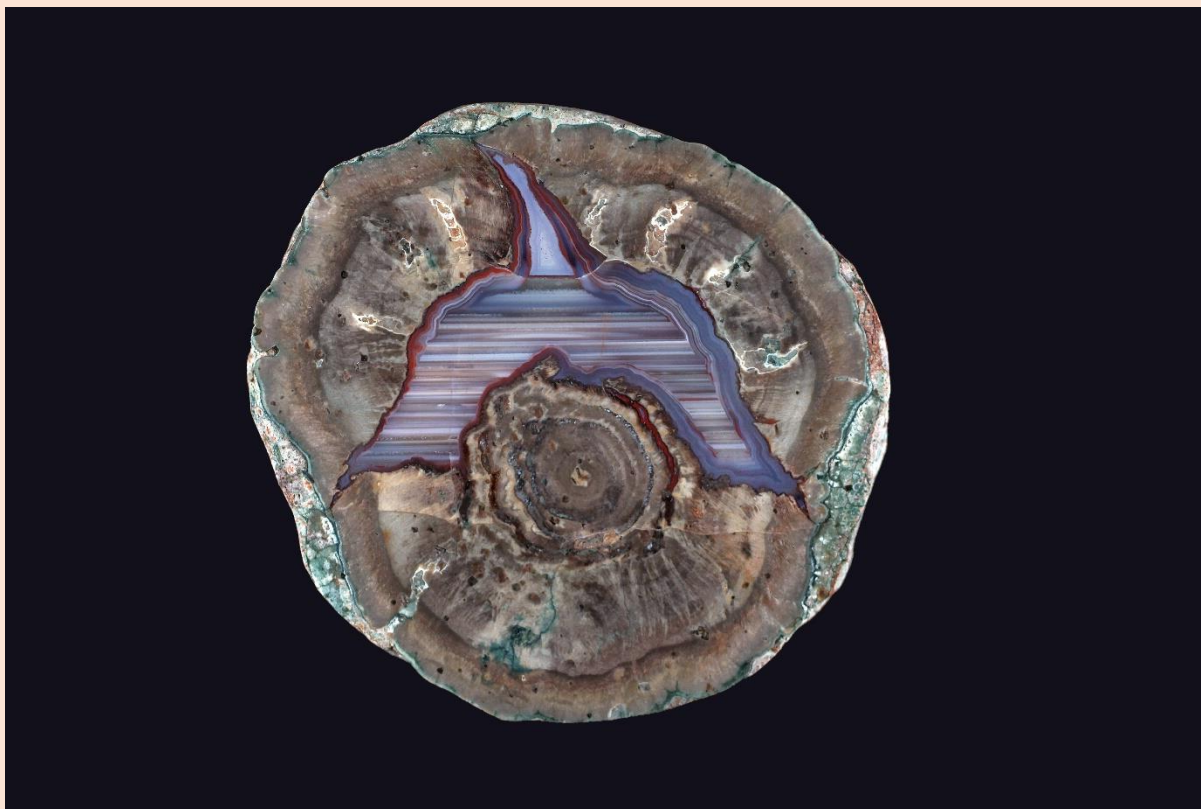


Gravitationbänderung mit unterschiedlichen Winkeln zueinander / Onyx banding with different angles to each other. 4.3 cm. Wolfgang Waeger collection & photo.

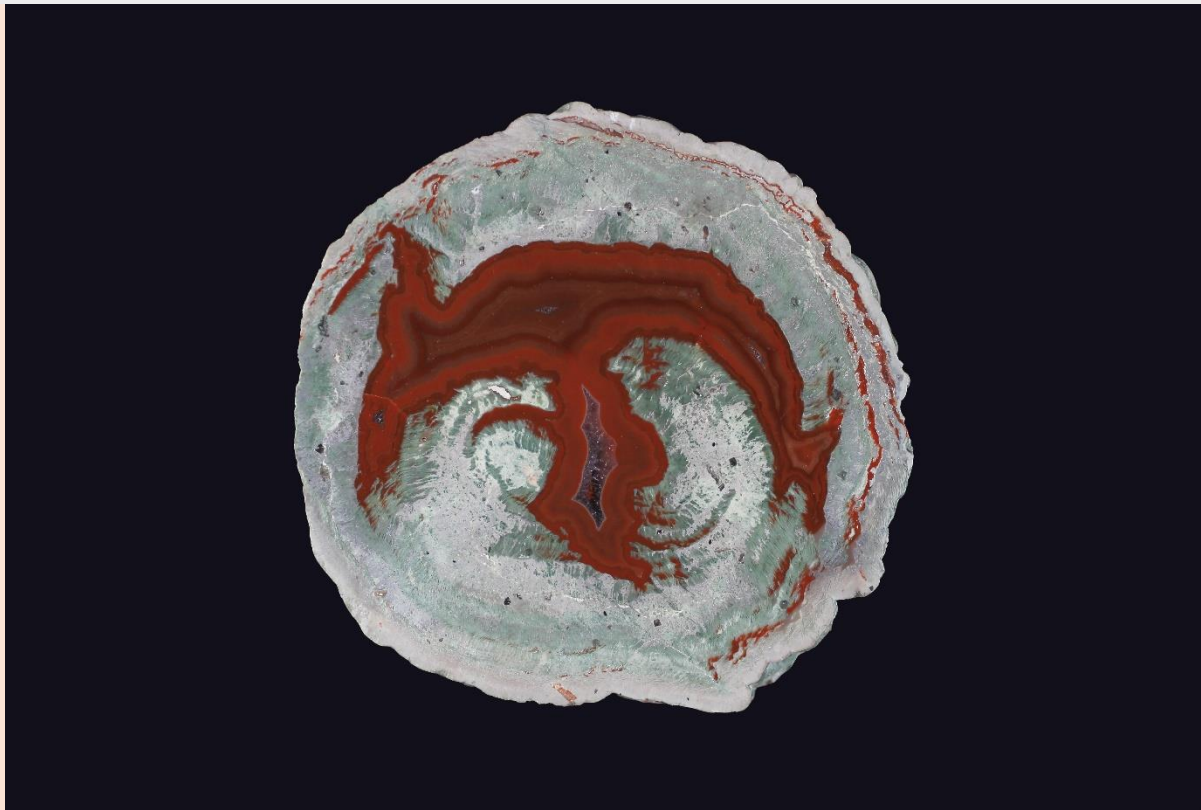




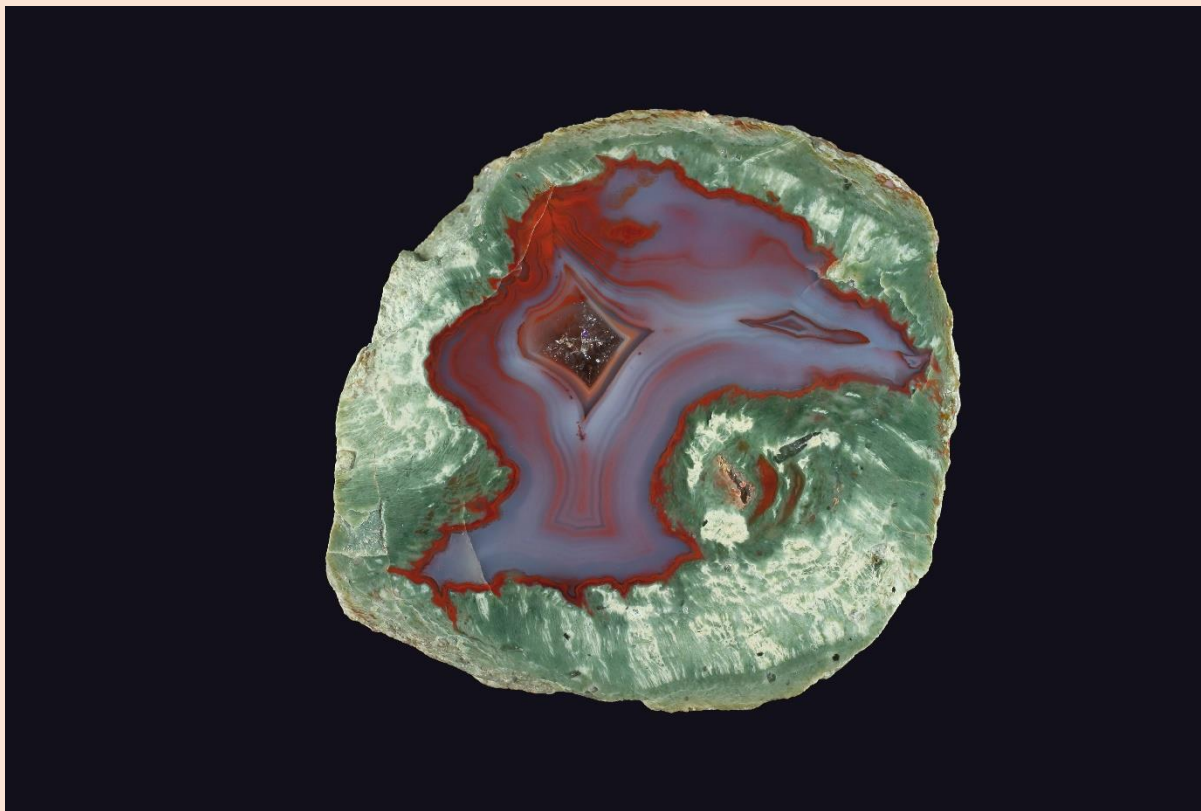
**Doppelte Lithophyse / "Double" thunderegg agate.  
12.1 cm. Dietrich Mayer collection. Andreas Wawra photo.**



**8 cm. Dietrich Mayer collection. Andreas Wawra photo.**



**6.5 cm. Dietrich Mayer collection. Andreas Wawra photo.**

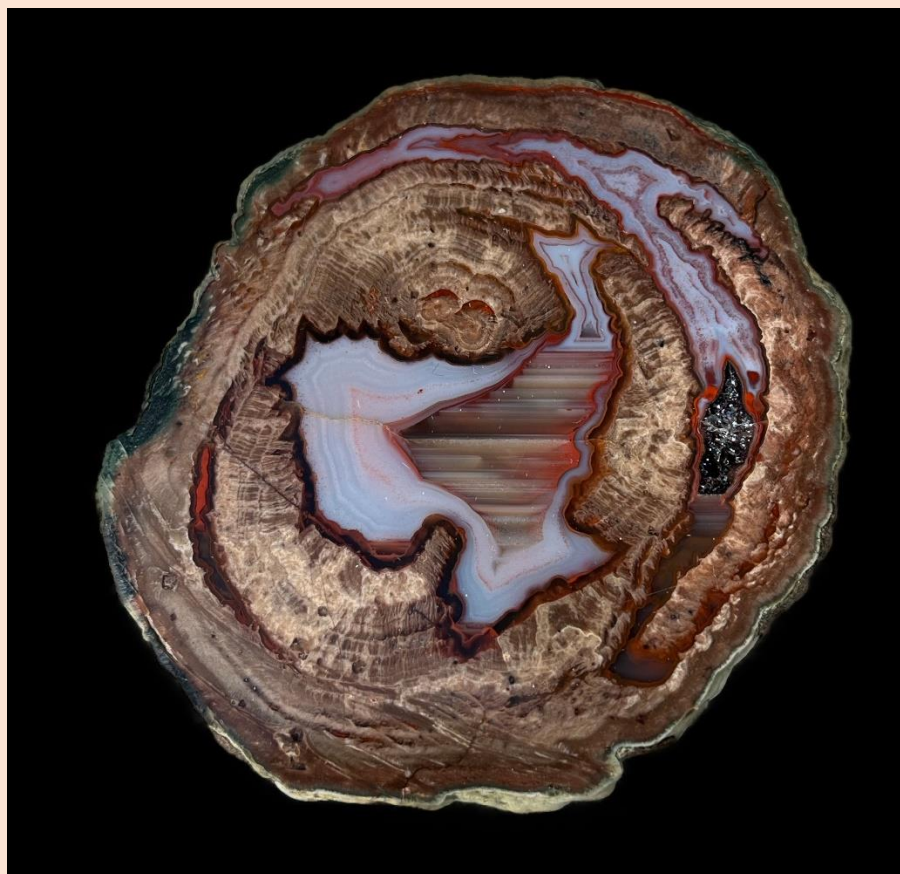


**6 cm. Dietrich Mayer collection. Andreas Wawra photo.**

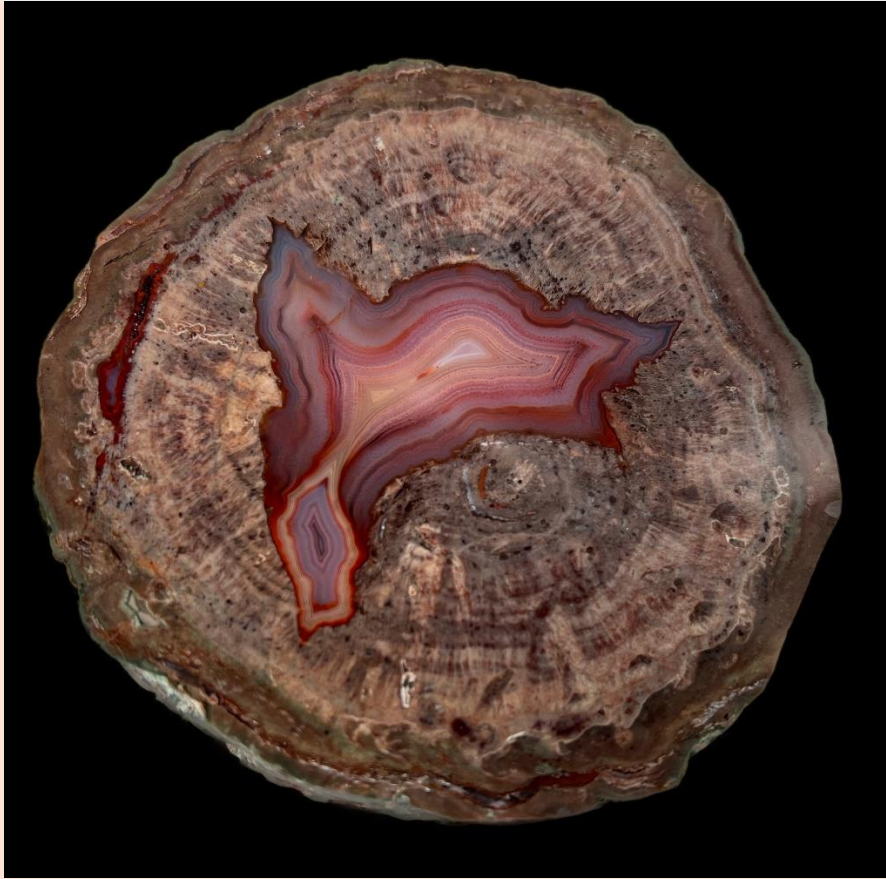




11 cm. Thorsten Jacob collection & photo.



6.5 cm. Thorsten Jacob collection & photo.



**8.5 cm. Thorsten Jacob collection & photo.**

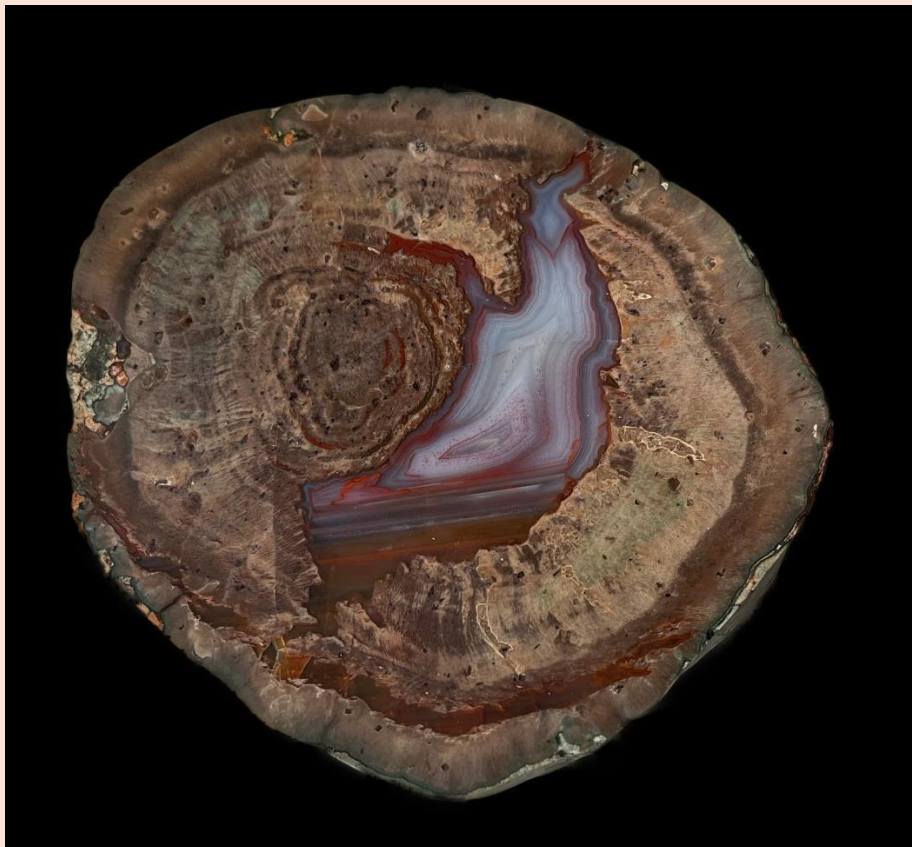


**8 cm. Thorsten Jacob collection & photo.**





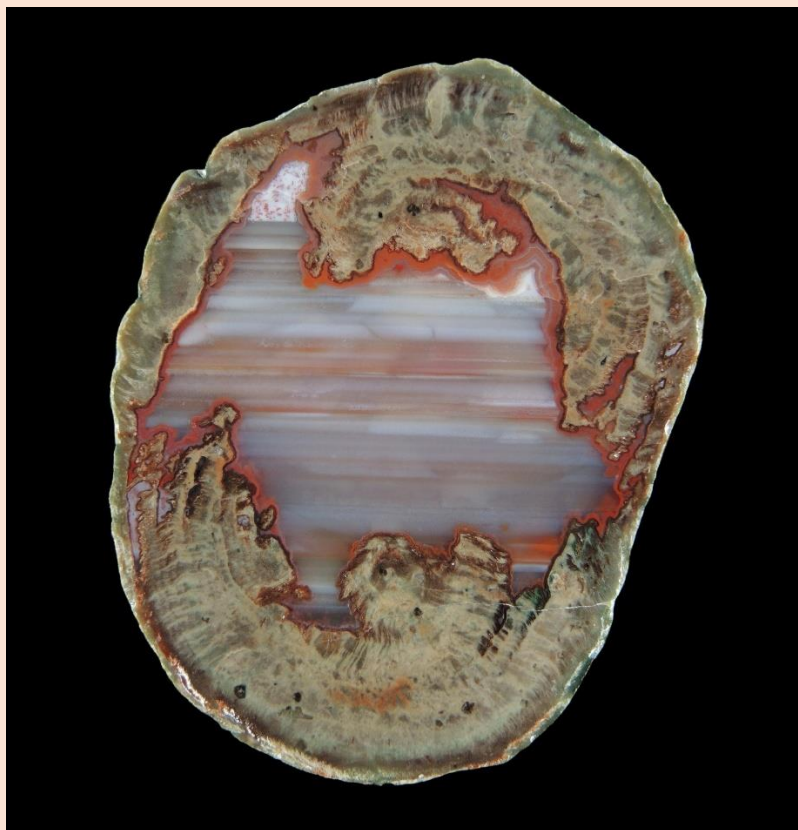
**10 cm. Thorsten Jacob collection & photo.**



**9 cm. Thorsten Jacob collection & photo.**

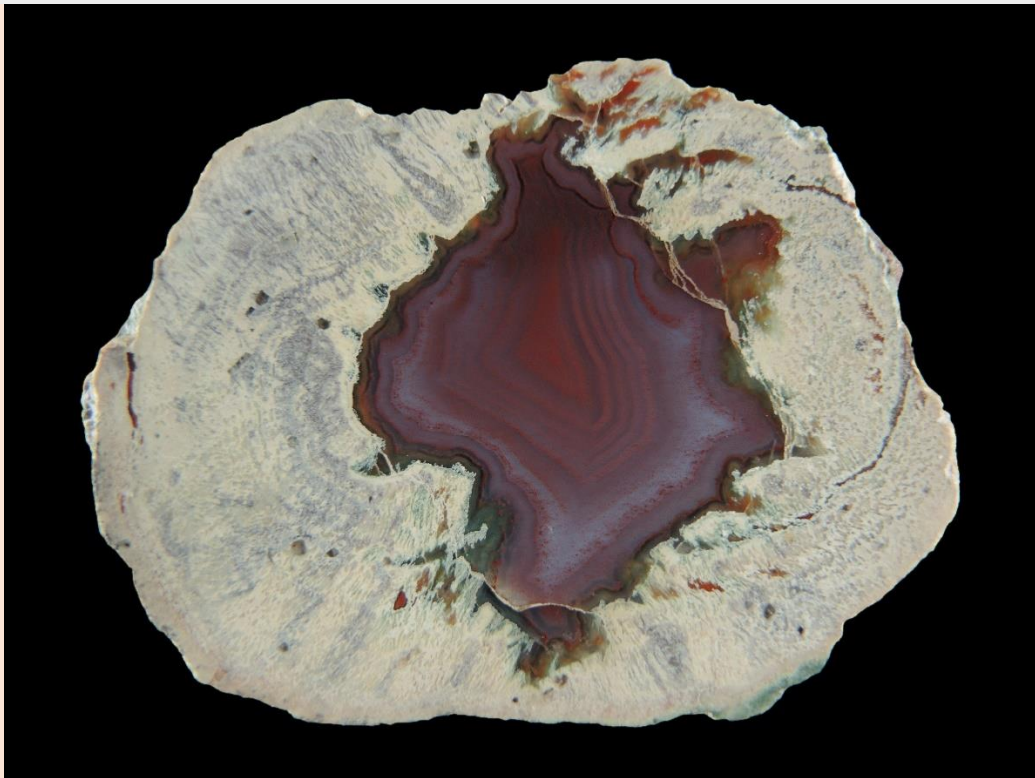


**Pseudomorphosen / Pseudomorphs. 7 cm. Helmut Schumann collection & photo.**



**6.5 cm. Helmut Schumann collection & photo.**

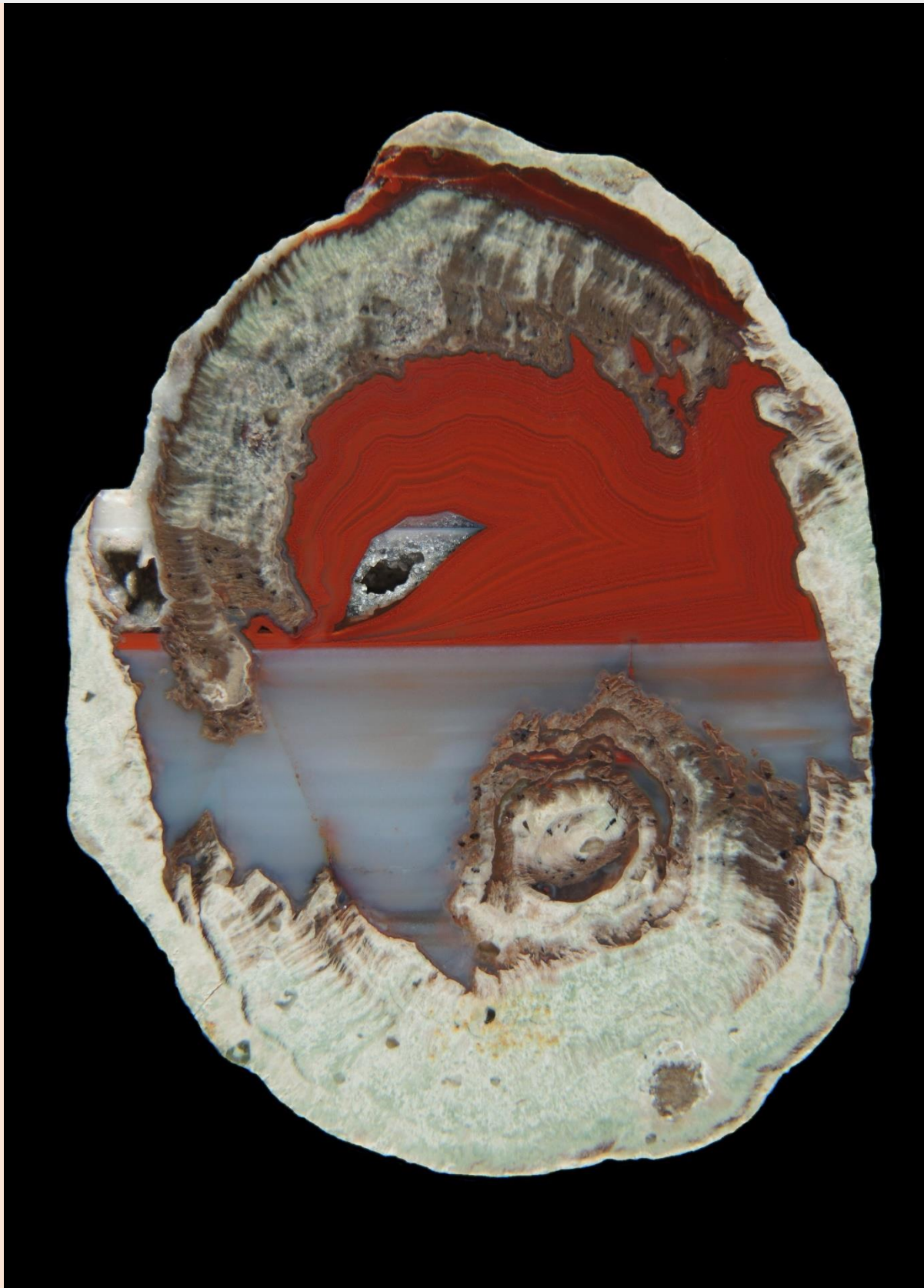




4.5 cm. Helmut Schumann collection & photo.



5 cm. Helmut Schumann collection & photo.

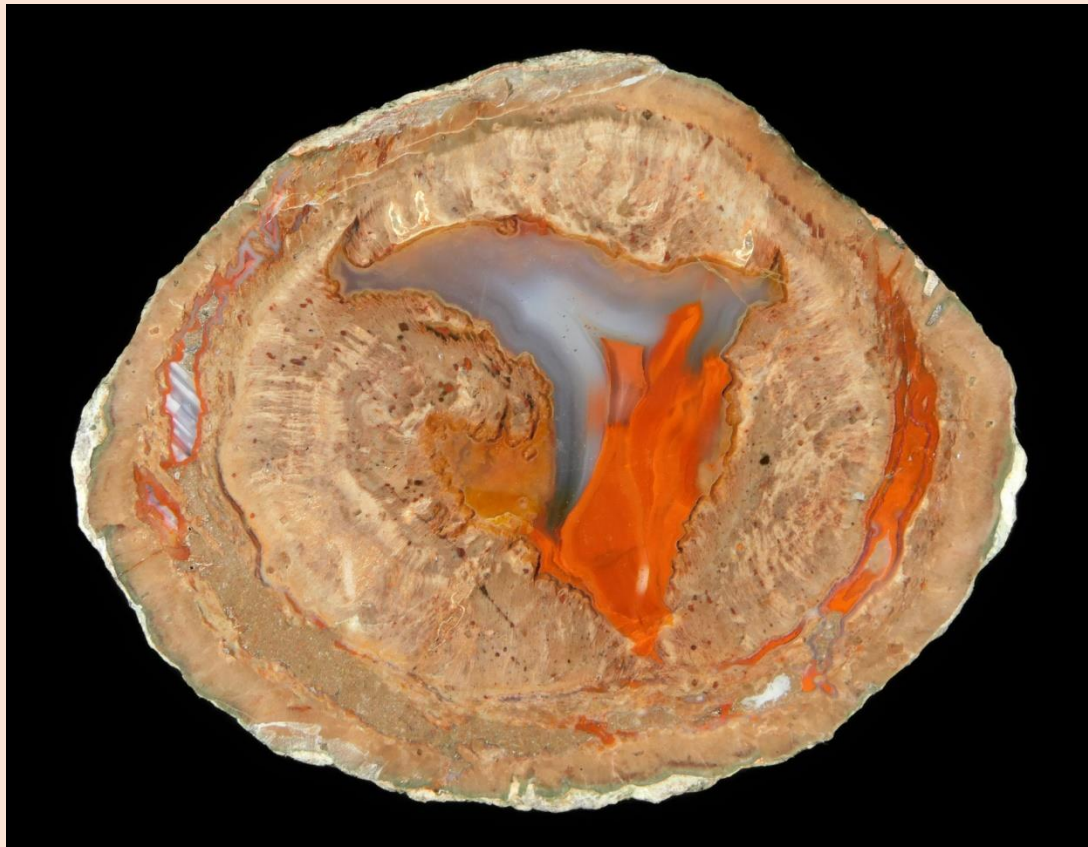


5 cm. Helmut Schumann collection & photo.

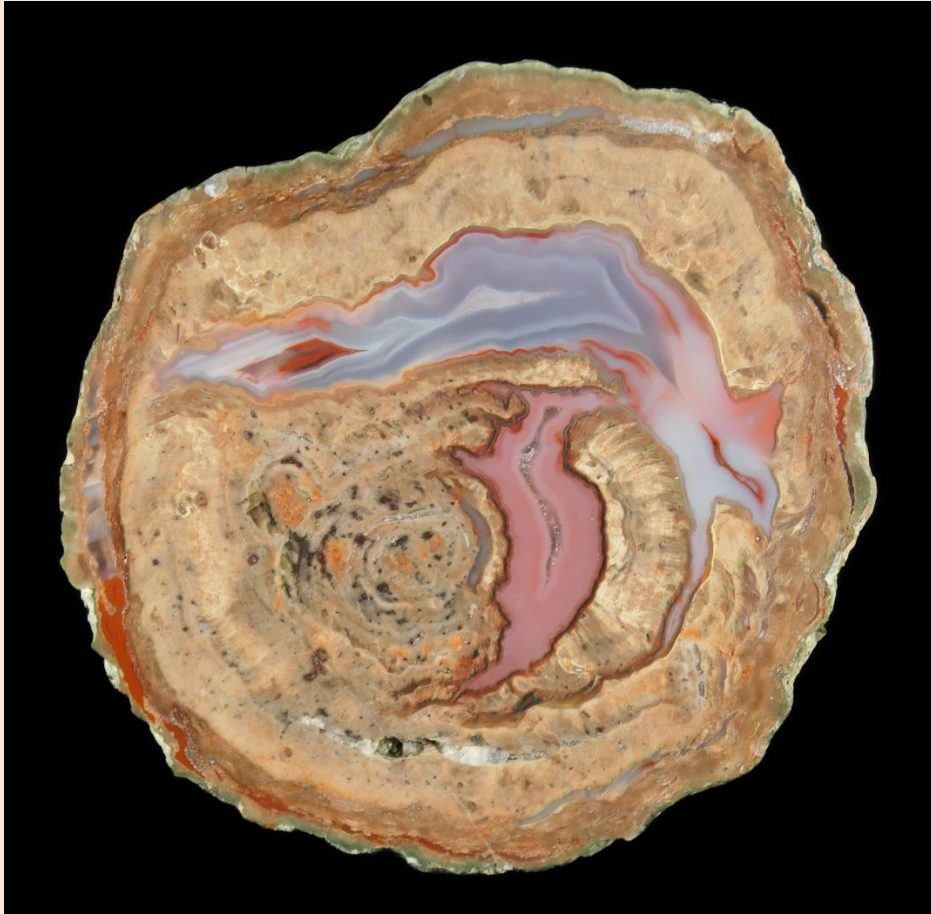




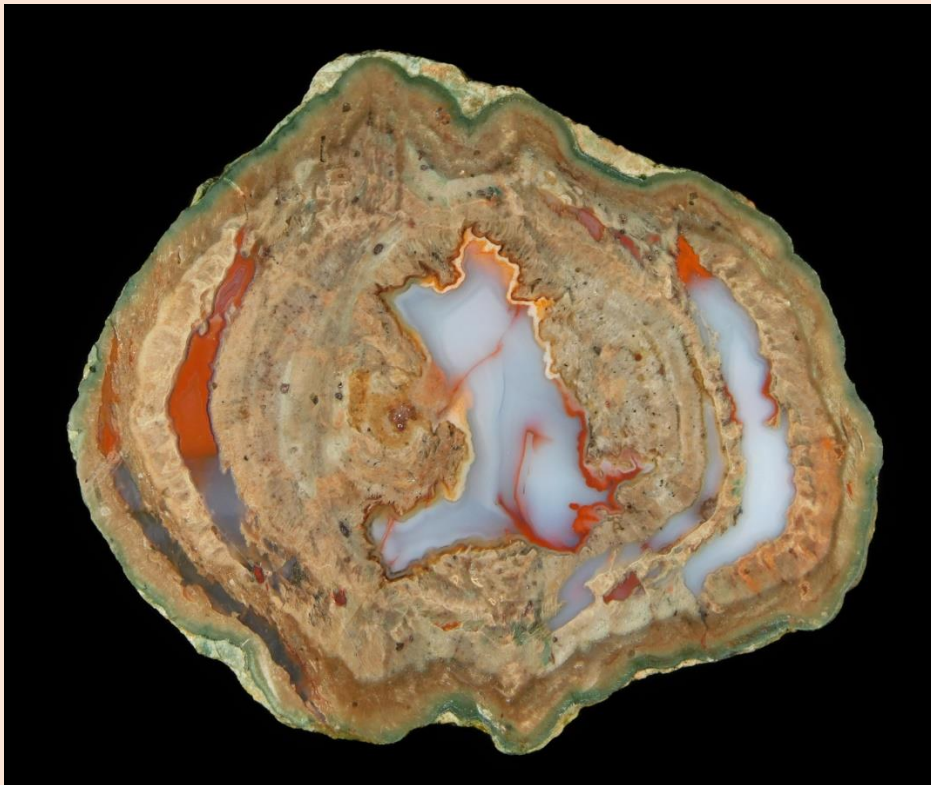
**11.5 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**



**10 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**

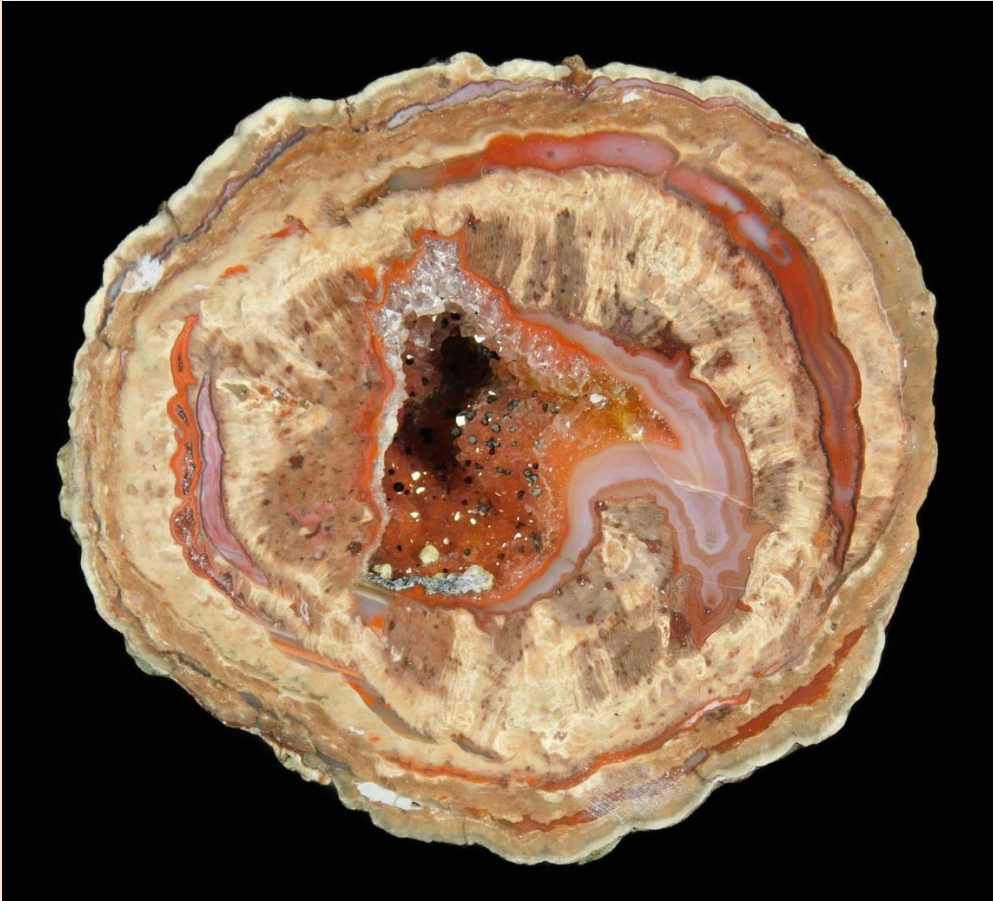


**8 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**

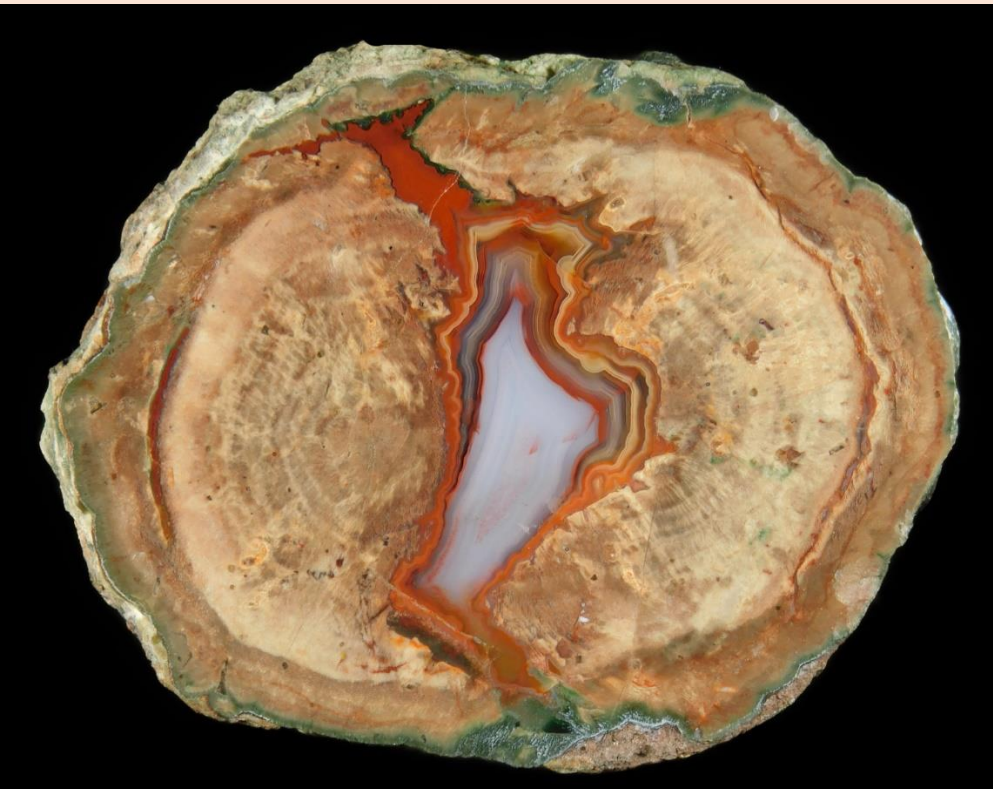


**7.5 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**





Hämatitkristalle im Zentrum / With hematite crystals. 7 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.



8.5 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.



4 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.

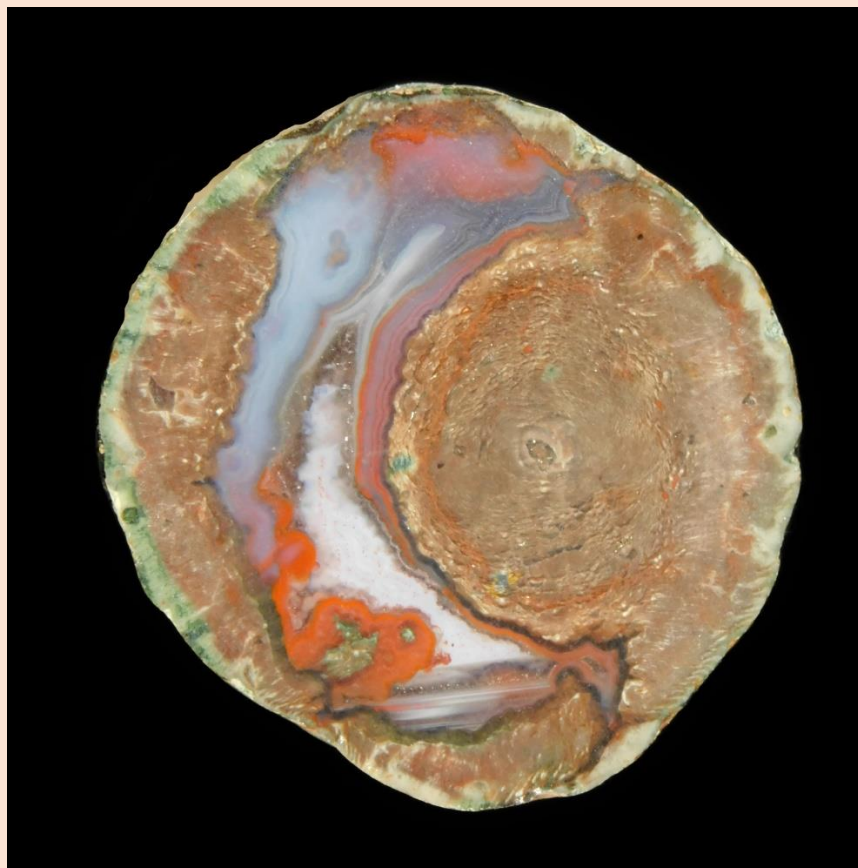


4 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.

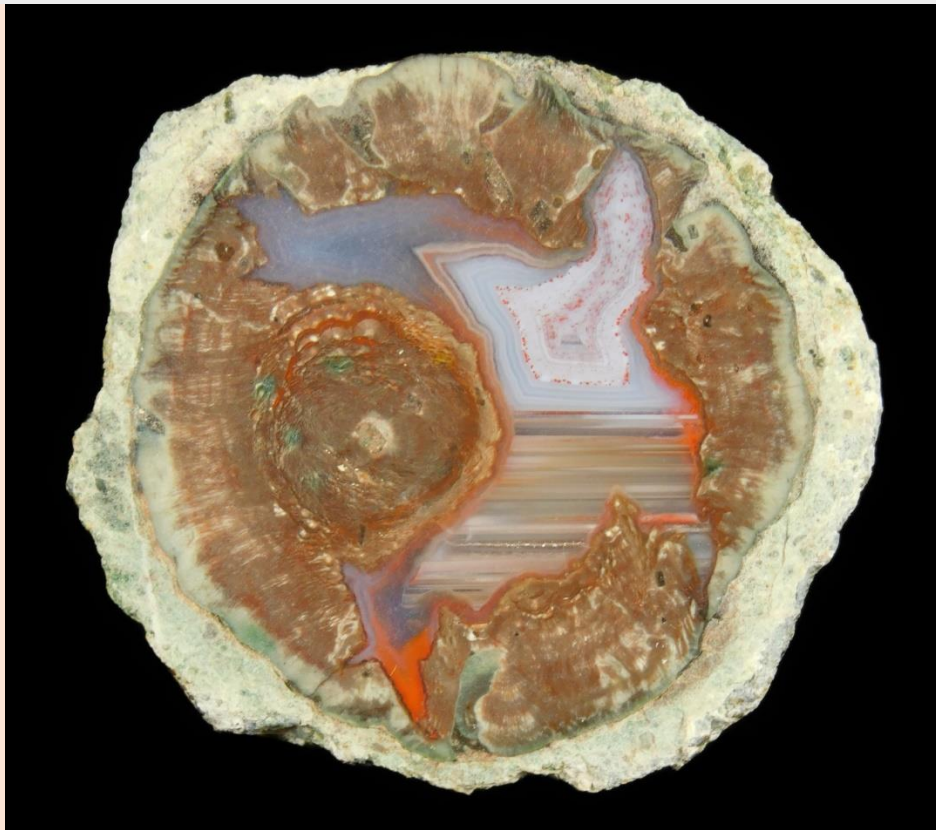




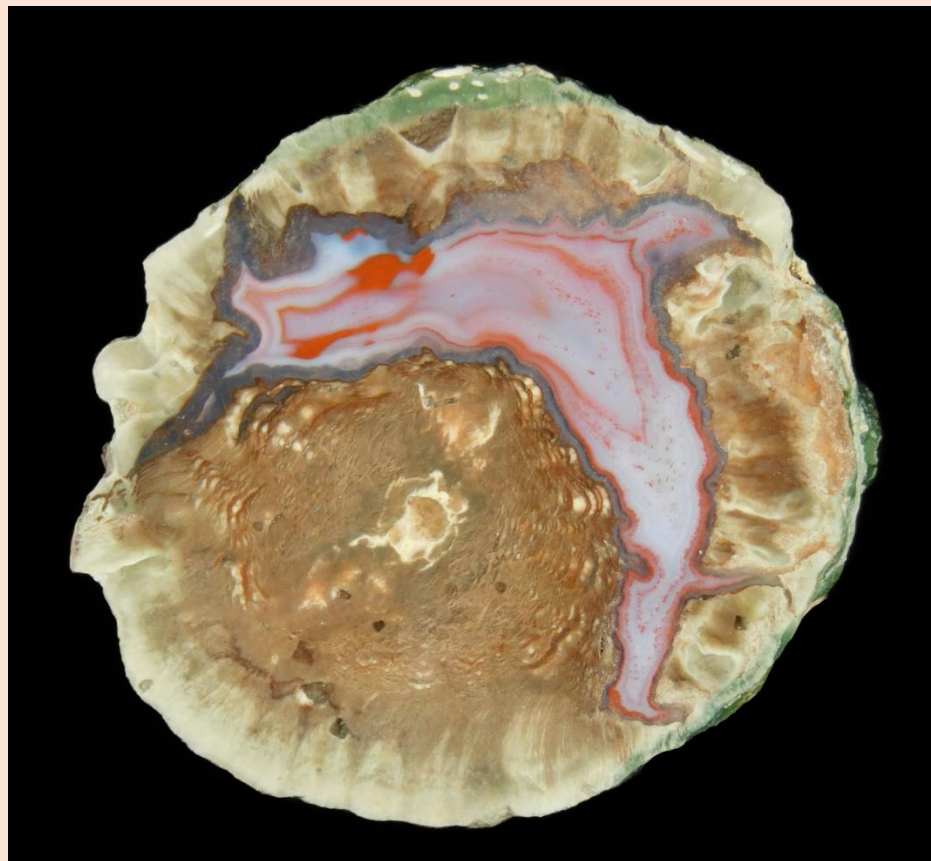
4 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.



4 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.

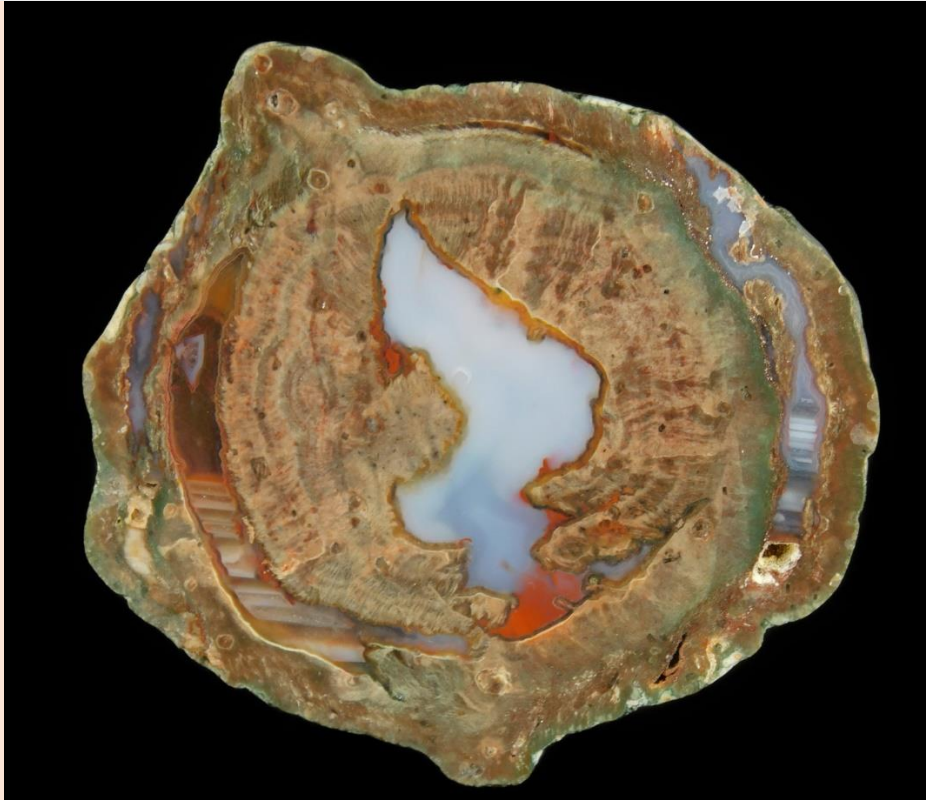


**4.4 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**

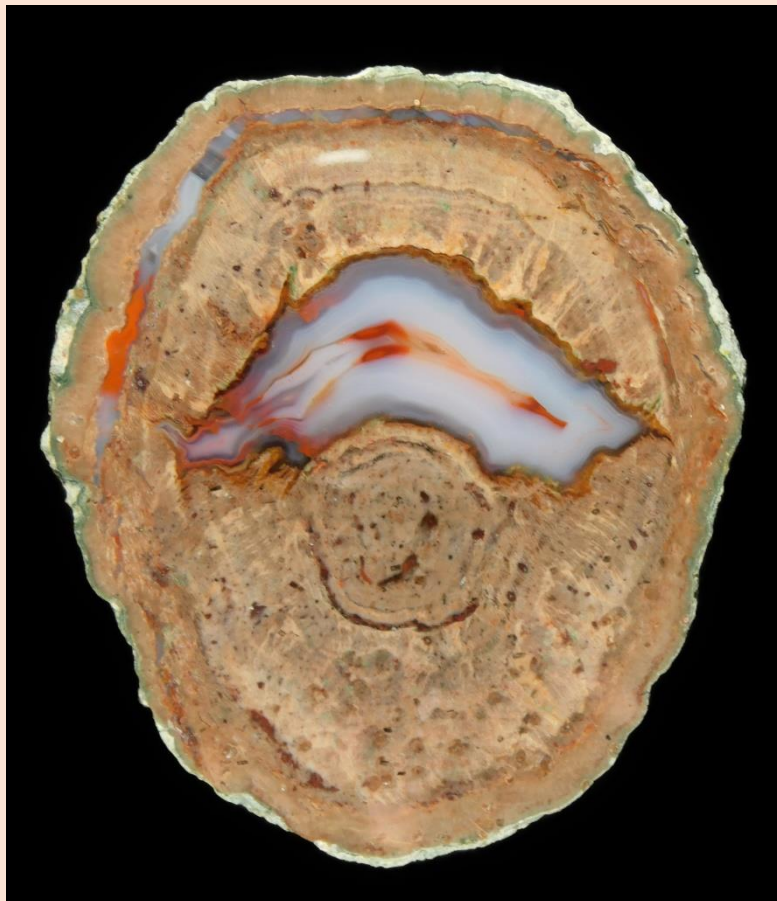


**4.2 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**





**6 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**



**8 cm. Johann Zenz collection & photo.**



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