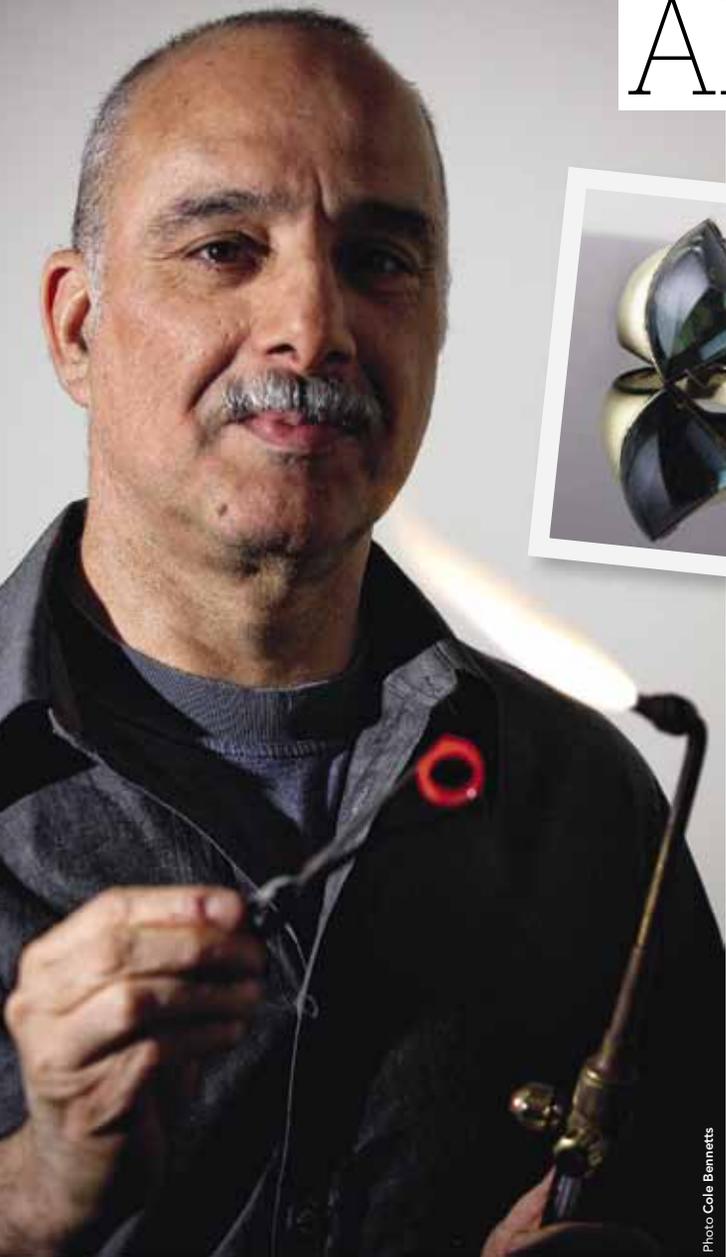


# ARCHITECTURE *inspires art*



BY NATALIE CAVALLARO

Owners of Aharoni Jewellery, husband and wife team Eytan and Nurit Aharoni, have a working dynamic that sees them create exquisite, unique jewellery with passion and élan.

In 2006, they came across the Cabochon Indigolite Tourmaline gemstone in Namibia and, struck by its resemblance to the Sydney Opera House, were inspired to form it into a ring in a class of its own.

‘Previous jewellers saw the stone but didn’t see in it what we saw,’ Eytan says from the couple’s Civic workshop and showroom.

Their forward-thinking vision is now recognised internationally, by the renowned Victoria and Albert Museum in London which is using an image of the Aharonis’ Sydney Opera House ring as an example of how great architecture has inspired great art.

‘I feel so fortunate that we have been recognised in this way and so fortunate

that I am doing this work every day,’ Eytan said. But getting to this point didn’t come without a little risk taking.

‘We met on a blind date and were together for just three months before we got married,’ Nurit said. ‘Eytan took all of the money we were given as wedding presents and bought a workshop. I was completely terrified!’ she laughs. ‘I’d only known him three months and it was such a gamble, I thought he was crazy.’

After building up enough stock to sell at Midrekhov, an artists’ market in Tel-Aviv, the couple picked up their young family and moved to South Africa where they travelled the continent seeking unusual gems. Eventually they moved to Sydney before coming to Canberra seven years ago.

‘We have a lot of loyal customers here who are interested in different jewellery and we consult with them to make sure they will get something that they love,’ Eytan said. ‘It is becoming a lost craft and there is a lot of mass production out there.

‘We want to keep our business small, just the way it is now. I like it humble.’