Find a rare gem at the Australian Craft Show

EYTAN AHARONI IS NOT A TYPICAL JEWELLER; THEN again, his jewellery is anything but typical. Even his shop is unusual, tucked away underground off Bunda Street in the city with no street frontage. But people find him regardless; they seek him out after seeing his works displayed at the Old Bus Depot Markets each Sunday. "My customers have judgment beyond marketing and television ads", Eytan says.

Prior to moving to Canberra with his family, he, with wife Nurit, commuted from Sydney every weekend for five years. During that time, Eytan says it became clear to him that quite apart from access to a high quality jeweler every weekend, Canberra needed something else. A local jeweler who was trained 'old school' in the art of designing and creating jewellery pieces, from mixing alloys of gold and making individual pieces, to settings gemstones. Eytan does this all himself, on his premises.

As well as an eye for unusual design – all his own – his passion for unusual rare gems deserves special mention. Eytan believes that, five or six years ago, he was one of only a small number of jewelers to use tourmalines, a brilliant gemstone in varying hues. In particular, Paraiba tourmaline has an electric sizzle, as if some invisible filament is aglow within the stone: "fire and brilliance in the palm of your hand", as Eytan says.

Tourmalines from the Paraiba deposit in Brazil owe their spectacular colour to the presence of copper and high gold content. Today they are among the most expensive and coveted gems in the world, with prices soaring into the tens of thousands of dollars for the finer, larger cuts.

On acquiring a cushion cut neon blue Paraiba tourmaline, Eytan crafted a half bezel setting in 18 carat solid white gold, offset by six princess cut diamonds (pictured left).

The Paraiba ring will be on display at the Australian Craft Show, where Eytan has exhibited for the past six years. The show will be on from June 4 to 6 at the National Convention Centre. At other times, Eytan's work can be viewed and purchased in his Bundah Street studio, telephone (02) 6262 5053.