

STYLE PROFILE

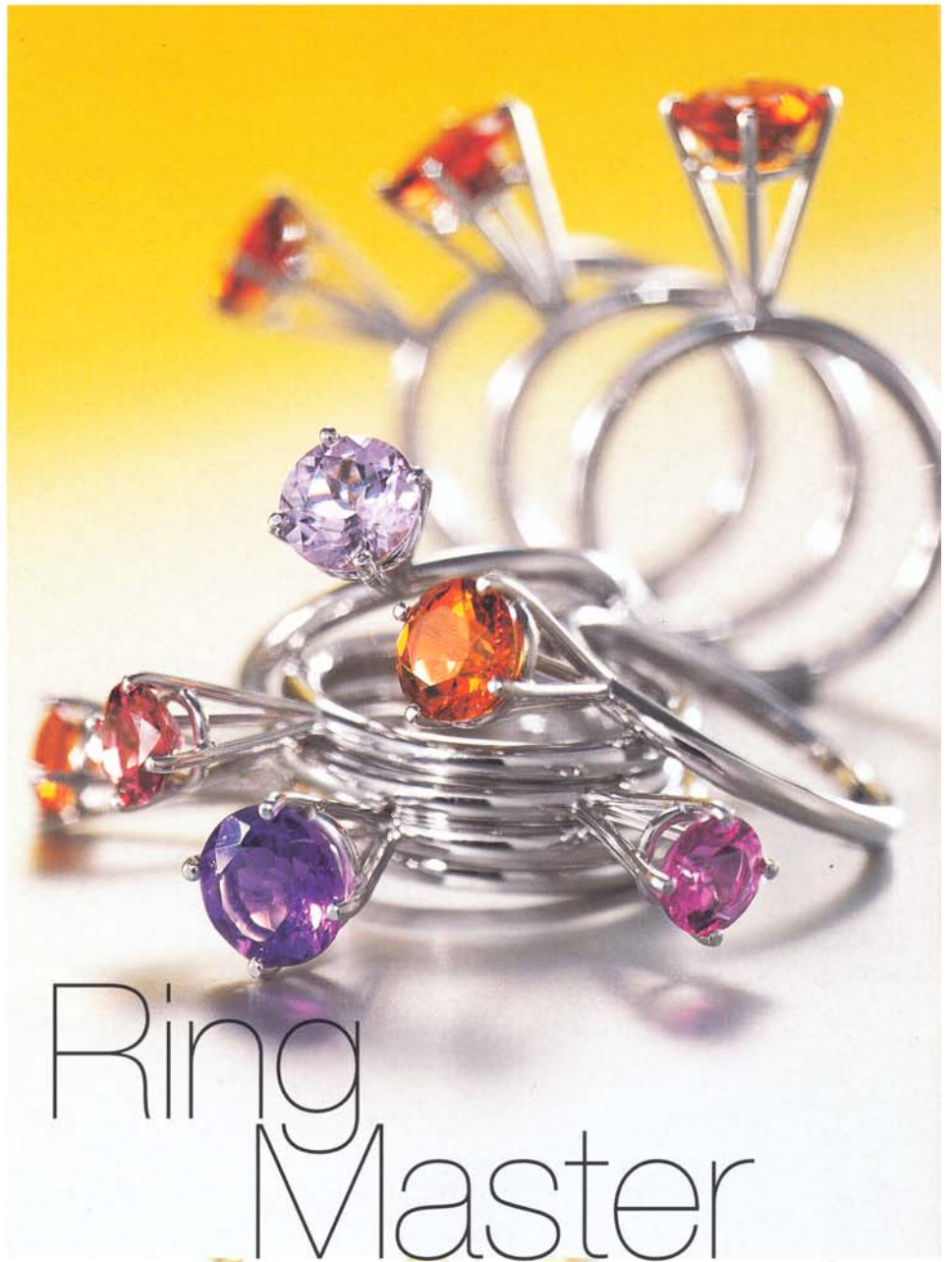
Although he hails from the small Bavarian city of Augsburg, master gold- and silversmith designer Erich Zimmermann likes the bold and the beautiful, a look often associated with America's conspicuous consumption.

Despite the size of his 18k gold "cocoon" link necklace, or one of his 40-plus carat gemstone and 18k gold rings, there's a delicacy to Zimmermann's work. His fully articulated "Cleopatra" necklaces in 18k gold and gemstones are rope-like, yet each "bead" is jointed so it moves in all directions.

He uses precise, intricate cuts on high quality gemstones, including his own specialty cuts. His blue topaz, smoky quartz, and peridot come in special princess cuts, mango cuts, rose cuts, and even an ideal cut of his own devising. The effect can be breathtaking, especially in the large carat sizes he prefers.

"Rings are the only piece of jewelry that women can wear and see on themselves. That's why it's important to give them something memorable and special," Zimmermann says. Depending upon size and quality of the stone, his wholesale price points range from \$250 in sterling silver to more than \$7,000 for large 18k gold rings. — Jeff Prine

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Ring Master

