

AURÉLIO & MONTEIRO, LDA.

Perfection is written using Filigree thread. So is *love*.

Elsa and Arlindo have a history that goes back to childhood. Born and raised in Póvoa de Lanhoso, a municipality created by Charter issued by King Dinis in 1292, their connection seemed to hint that the King, a lover of arts and languages, would write their love story in Filigree songs.

The innocence of youth would lead them to leave love notes to each other hidden in the village's stone walls as they walked to school, in crevices only they knew. Just like the purity of that childhood love, another common passion was born and would bring them together: Filigree.

Elsa learned the art with her father. Arlindo learned with Elsa's uncle when they were both still children. Together, they would create *Oficina do Ouro* (Gold Workshop), a name that Elsa made a point of keeping because that is what the locals called her parents' workshop. Memories.

Through the jewel that Elsa creates with fingers that master the technique and with patience, which is an art in itself, she recalls the past nostalgically without taking her eyes off the piece. "Arlindo is an excellent artisan. He is even pickier than me!", she glows. From his hands came the engagement ring, made in Filigree, of course, sealing a covenant of love for life.

Wearing the ring on the finger where it has stayed ever since, Elsa created the earrings for her wedding day. Queen-style earrings, a Filigree classic and a favourite of our *Fado* singers, inspired in the earrings that Queen Maria II of Portugal (1819–1853) wore on a visit to Viana do Castelo in 1952, popularizing them as a symbol of wealth and status. They had a history. History of royalty. And that was just how Elsa felt in every gold thread which she used to patiently fill in the earrings, designed in the imagination of a princess, with cornucopias, swirls, circles, s-shapes, scales and grains.

The wedding rings for the big day would seal the commitment. Elsa's father crafted them in Filigree, in jewels of incalculable sentimental value.

Today, there are 11 artisans working in Elsa and Arlindo's workshop. Luís, Arlindo's brother, also works there, fully involved in the fantastic world of the Portuguese Filigree, like the others. The hallmark they place on each completed jewel is a guarantee of its uniqueness and poetry to everyone's ears. It is a seal of authenticity as unique. It is the songbook of the many hours and attention to detail dedicated to it. It is the literary blossoming of a song that one day became a love song.

Texts by Sónia Felgueiras

Enchant yourself with the story
of Elsa in video

