

# EUGÉNIA SEIXAS

Eugénia is a free spirit who travels the world several times over every day through the many dreams she collects. She is anything but conventional. She is not a product of her time or even of her profession. Eugénia is the black sheep standing out from the flock, treading her own path. The exception to the rule.

Eugénia was born in Ovar and is the only artisan whose family story does not have a past in Filigree. Her father was a librarian, and her mother was an embroiderer, occupations that require patience, another art that is in her genes and is so useful for someone who would fall in love with Filigree. It was love at first sight and reason enough to dedicate her life to the ornamental work made of very fine threads that Eugénia stamps with her own bold design that stands apart from traditional Filigree patterns.

“Master artisan Bruno da Rocha taught me everything I know.” A brief pause, in a silent nostalgic thanks, as if the master himself were there.

Rebellion runs wild in this happy soul. There's something heroic and eccentric in Eugénia's personality. But then... well, she's quite mundane, really. The world is a noisy, contradictory, chaotic place. “Where do I draw inspiration from? The sea.” Then a smile opens her eyes wide, such a small hurricane of energy. It is while she contemplates the sea that ideas arise and where she is calm; even a free spirit needs stimulation for creativity. The sea sketches out waves in her thoughts, waves that will take shape in Filigree in her jewels. The pencil draws only what the sea has already dictated. Irreverence is her signature.

Her workshop is awash with shades of blue and everywhere there are shells, sea stars, murex and pebbles, all reminiscent of the sea in a pondered, deep, meaningful approach. From the sea to the paper and from the paper to the metal, silver is always her first choice because of the final appearance, and Eugénia darkens the tone further to enhance the beauty of the wearer. While the neutral tone of silver gives a sober look, the shine elevates it. “I haven't fallen in love with gold yet.” That's OK. Regardless of the final shade, her jewels are bold, large and extravagant, like everything about her — except her size.

Eugénia prepares to create a Filigree collection inspired in Portuguese ceramic tiles. When Portuguese navigators brought blue and white painted porcelain from the East over 500 years ago, they brought much more than just a novelty into Europe. The colour of the sea went on to dominate Portuguese ceramics and tile-making, gaining prominence in objects and in the façades and walls of churches, convents, palaces, stately homes. From the geometric complexity of architecture to rounded Filigree jewellery, it could seem that ceramic tiles are now Eugénia's inspiration. But they are not. She doesn't know it, but her inspiration is always born of the breaking waves of the sea.

Texts by Sónia Felgueiras

Enchant yourself with the story  
of Eugénia in video

