



THE ARTISAN COUNTESS

ISABELLA DEL BONO PAYS HOMAGE TO HER HERITAGE
AND TO THE ART OF CRAFTWORK WITH HER LINE OF HANDMADE COAT OF ARMS IRON JEWELRY

by Elena Pistoni photo Gianni Ummarino e Andrea Somavilla

The time of family crests and heraldic symbols has not ended. The great and almost lost art of forging iron to create original jewelry and objects decorated with coats of arms is alive and active, thanks to Countess Isabella del Bono. She belongs to a lineage that dates a thousand years and which is among the oldest Italian families; her maternal grandfather, Aldo Rosa, was one of the first to be awarded in 1901 with the title "Cavaliere del Lavoro", a very important recognition given to those who achieve the best in their activity in the industrial sector. A combination of legacy, deep values, education and creativity. Her family is from Parma, but Isabella spent her childhood between the countryside and Milan. The city has been so important in her life and where she lived with her parents, grandparents, uncle, aunt and cousins in the same building in via Bigli 4. She remembers a golden and cuddled youth, with the usual evening stroll in Montenaполеone with her grand-





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father and the shopping at La Rinascente with her grandmother to buy the most beautiful children's clothing. Isabella later lived in New York, Miami, Greece and the Far East, but she came back to Italy in 2005, when she founded IdB and started the creation of her own line of iron jewellery. "My grandmother had lost her family signet ring, so I made a new one in iron. Everyone loved it, and I eventually set up, almost by chance, an activity which still amazes me and that produces satisfactory results".

Very few people still use iron as a material, since it is very difficult to mould because of its hardness, but all IdB jewelry and objects are handmade; no two pieces are identical, even if they come from the same model. Coat of arms rings and cuff links, bracelets with trees and flower engravings, sun and moon earrings, unusual matches of iron and gold, precious stones or enamelwork; works of art that were exhibited during events such as "Gioiello Italiano Contemporaneo" in 2008, "Gioiello su Milano" 2011, and "Gioiello come Souvenir" 2012 (Skira catalogues). Unique pieces of handicraft which combine style, charm and tradition, originating from Isabella del Bono's effort, knowledge and family heritage.



