



Milada and Radek Bláha, studying and designing new flowers



Milada Bláhová

MEADOW FLOWERS OF PRECIOUS METALS

Subtlety, joy, and grace—these words epitomise the unique jewels made of precious metals by Milada Bláhová to look like meadow flowers.

TEXT: ŠÁRKA SCHMIDTOVÁ

Milada Bláhová used to work as a professional photographer in Prague. When she met her current husband Radek, the two moved into a beautiful historic homestead in a small village of only a few houses. “The homestead where we live is a cultural monument. There’s even a room that was built in 1495, one of the oldest surviving rustic rooms in Czechia. It’s an extraordinary place that combines history, music, books, sport, nature, work, study, relaxation, and inspiration. All this encouraged me to start creating,” says Milada.

UNUSUAL IDEA

Three years ago, Radek got the idea to introduce a new species of flowers—ones made of silver and gold. The inspiration came from his love of flowers. “We’d never encountered flowers like these which made us want to create them all the more,” continues Milada.

“To us, our flowers symbolised subtlety, joy, and grace — and we wanted to give that enjoyment to others. At first, I wasn’t sure at all if I would be able to use my own hands and etch at least a bit of the nature’s beauty into precious metals...”

And so, a silver & golden garden shop began to be born. The preparation stage took three years. Milada already had some experience designing and making jewellery—she manufactured it for several years, and so the switch from photography to jewellery flowers was quite natural for her. There was no blueprint, just a notion of what the flowers should look like and be used for. “I pictured a boyfriend giving his chosen one a silver flower, a husband presenting his wife with an annual gift, or women collecting the flowers to compose a bouquet. I thought of gifts in the form of impressive golden bouquets, and of brides holding jewellery wedding flowers.

What also spoke to me a lot was the notion of including the flowers into family generation vases—vases where over time you'd put any flowers the women in your family received, handing them down the generations. Eventually, a single vase would hold the flowers one's great-grandmother got from her husband as a birthday gift, or those a mum received from her daughter," says Milada.

Naturally, she and her husband, a great source of support, went through periods of searching and uncertainty. They spent the time drawing, testing, making wax models and jewels... until finally they managed to launch their e-shop and began selling their flowers.

GOOD FLOWERS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

At the moment, the business offers eleven species, primarily of meadow flowers which common in Czechia—daisies, snowdrops, cornflowers, bellflowers, violets, rye-grass, plantain, lavender, etc. Every year, five to ten new flower species are added to the range. Milada admits that people were a bit unsure about the flowers at first—they loved them but had no idea what to do with them. Up until then they'd only used fresh-cut flowers and seen

jewellery solely as something to wear. They had no experience with jewellery flowers. "Usually, though, a brief explanation was enough to turn the uncertainty into enthusiasm. Our flowers can be given, just like fresh-cut ones. They can be put in a vase to decorate your home, or wonderfully combined with fresh-cut or dried flowers," explains Milada.

The flowers are made of real gold and silver, are produced in jewellery workrooms following strict safety and quality measures and stringent checking procedures, and are officially hallmarked. The weight and size of each flower differs—anywhere from 1.5 to 6.5 g silver goes into the making of a silver flower, and 2.2 to 9.5 g into a golden one. Presently, violet leaves are the lightest, compared to cornflowers which are the heaviest.



A bouquet of fifteen silver lavenders before their dispatching to a customer

Every model is perfected for 2 to 4 weeks

"OUR FLOWERS CAN BE PUT IN A VASE TO DECORATE YOUR HOME, OR WONDERFULLY COMBINED WITH FRESH-CUT OR DRIED FLOWERS."



The flowers make for a nice present or a little something for a person you're meeting

Recently, Milada and her husband received an order for a golden bouquet.

It was made for a Czech customer to decorate his home. "The work also included choosing a suitable vase and arranging the bouquet. In the end, the bouquet consisted of 118 flowers of pure gold, weighing 738 grams. It's likely the most valuable golden bouquet created in the modern world," says Milada. Additionally, she and her husband opened a brick-and-mortar store in downtown Prague. "A lot of work awaits us. We're still in the early stages and have many ideas on how to develop the flowers. I'm very lucky because the work brings me joy and fulfilment, so I don't really need to rest. I'm the happiest when I can create. And of course, my family and our children are a great source of joy for me," concludes Milada. ■

FOTO: ARCHIV



GIYOU FLOWERS LOVE VASES OF ALL SHAPES

The bouquets can be various sizes, composed of different flower species, made of silver, gold, or mixed. Every customer can pick flowers they love or find aesthetically pleasing, as well as the material that fits their interior and the mood of their living space.