

Completion of the Mexican Filigree Program

The Mexican Filigree Program, centered on techniques from Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Yucatan, recently finished at the San Agustin Arts Center (CaSa). Guided by filigree masters José Jorge García, Cándido Santiago, Amira Ramos, Roberto Carlos Aguilar López, and Carlos Benitez, students explored regional variations of filigree and delved into the masters' creative processes. Public talks were also held to share these processes and insights with a broader audience.



Students Luis Morales and David Martínez working on their filigree pieces.



Master Cándido Santiago (Isthmus) showing an approach to his technique.



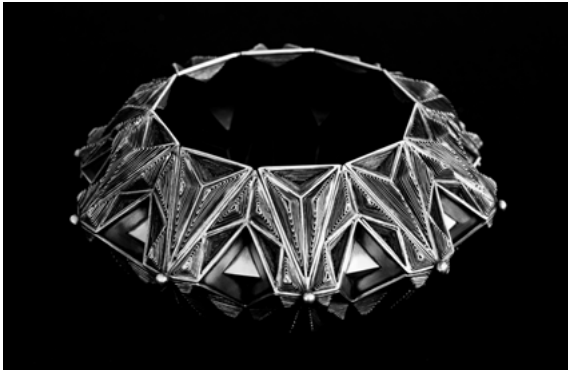
Student Esteban Dalí torching silver threads.



Filigree pendant crafted with the Isthmus technique by student Fernando Pérez.

Student Gabriela Mariscal praised the program for its teaching of unique techniques, such as tool construction, frame diamond-cutting, and correct soldering. She specifically appreciated García's lesson on how to assemble filigree forms using charcoal.

The program encouraged innovation, with Benitez introducing new techniques and focusing on three-dimensional forms. Moreover, jeweler Kiff Slemmons gave a talk on filigree and contemporary jewelry design.



Filigree bracelet with three-dimensional forms, made by master Carlos Benítez.



Masters Cándido Santiago, Carlos Benitez and José Jorge García alongside CaSa Director Daniel Brena at closure talk.



All the Mexican Filigree program students, with master Carlos Benítez, master Cándido Santiago, jeweler Kiff Slemmons and CaSa Director Daniel Brena



Student Gabriela Mariscal sharing the key learning points she obtained throughout the overall program.



Earrings made by student Rogelio Náfate. Inspired by festive shapes and using the Chiapas technique.

Overall, the program was more than just an educational experience; it inspired students to carve out their own paths as artists and jewelers, marking a significant accomplishment for all participants.