

# Flores Textile Studio.

— This Praça das Flores based studio in the centre of Lisbon presents the very best of Portuguese textile crafts sourced by its two founders. —

*Text: Carole Daprey*



*Left: cushions from the "Potosi" collection.*

*Below: samples of Portuguese rugs from Arraiolos by DeFio x Flores Textile Studio.*

Emma Pucci and Valentina Pilia had long dreamt of combining their joint appreciation of beauty and love of all things textile in a place where their creations could be seen and touched. If their backgrounds are completely different – Emma is a French-Swiss architect who worked in the film industry and Valentina is an Italian interior designer – one thing they do have in common is that life has led them both to spend time in countries where textiles are an important part of the identity and heritage. Before starting a career as a set designer, Emma worked on her anthropology thesis in India, whereas Valentina settled in Morocco, where she mainly worked for Studio KO. In their respective activities, they both hunted down the very best of local crafts, honing their eye and improving their technical knowledge.

After meeting in Paris, they came to Portugal for personal reasons and decided this was the place to bring their project to life. In February 2020, they found the perfect premises in one of Lisbon's most charming districts,

Praça das Flores, but the pandemic restrictions meant they had to wait until October to finally open the doors of their studio and showroom. In the meanwhile, they made the most of their time to fine tune their selection of Portuguese textiles and choose the international brands they wanted to represent.

Fond of traditional techniques in which it is the material that guides the design and the manufacture, they built up a relationship of trust with artisans, as well as with their customers to whom they proposed bespoke creations. Their rugs, cushions and blankets display rich textures and reveal the complex skills that go into their making. Little by little, Flores Textile Studio has become a big family dedicated to promoting and preserving traditional Portuguese know-how – a range of small furniture designed by the studio and made in Portugal has already joined the textile products.

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