

FILLO ROSSO

Red thread

È un capolavoro, benefico, della Natura, da custodire come un tesoro: sua Maestà il corallo
 A masterpiece, beneficial, from nature, it should be guarded like a treasure. The majesty of coral

Testo LAURA LEONELLI

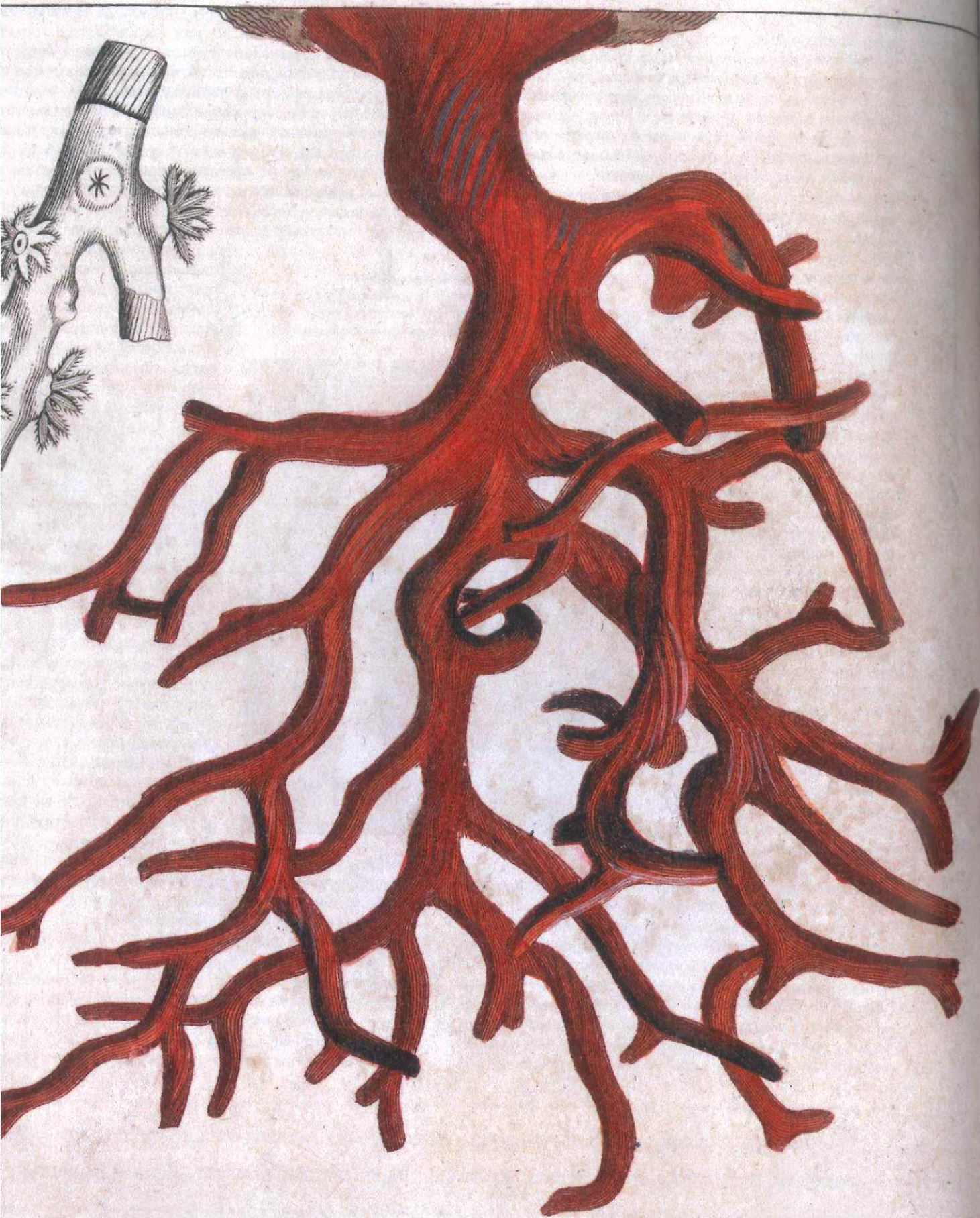


Il corallo rosso visto dall'anatomista francese Hippolyte Cloquet. L'illustrazione è tratta dal libro *Faune des médécins, ou histoire des animaux et de leurs produits*, pubblicato nell'Ottocento. Red coral as drawn by the anatomist Hippolyte Cloquet. The illustration is taken from the book *Faune des médécins, ou histoire des animaux et de leurs produits*, published in the 19th century.

WE ARE CORAL. Or at least we should be. Sticking together, united like coral reef. Thousands of living organisms, whose sole aims are building, nourishing and protecting ourselves, all huddled up against one another. One for all and all for one, because that's the only way possible we can save ourselves. *Virologist Liarta Capua has a lot to say about us as terrestrial coral. She compares our existence in Covid-19 times to the life of coral, a marine invertebrate that's home to thousands of micro-organisms. We join them in the fight for survival, making our contribution to the general wellbeing of planet Earth. Either we think big, imagining that each one of us can make a difference, or we become coral, hard-shelled and resistant, individuals compartmentalized in one big undivided community. Otherwise we are destined to suffer and die off. Legend makes no bones about it. Coral is born of the horror that turns everything into stone. It's born of Medusa's head, cut off by Perseus, when the blood flowed into the earth it transformed into magnificent ←*

JEAN BERNARD / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES



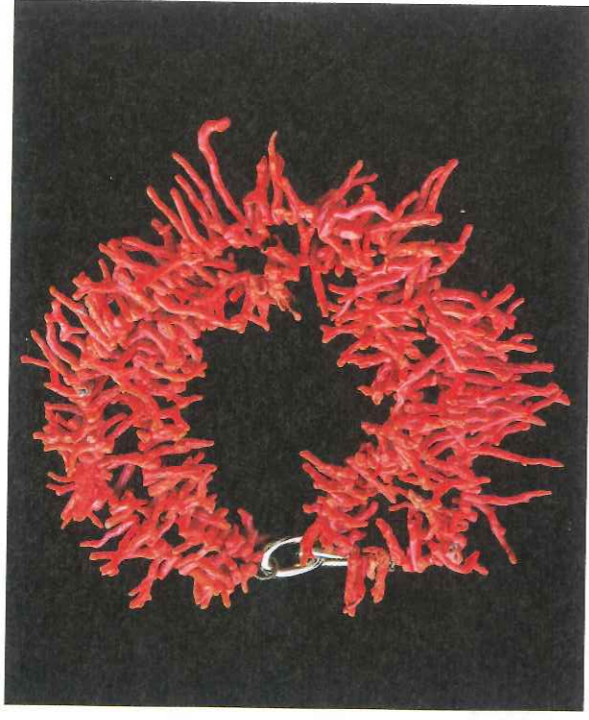


plained to the world that *Corallium rubrum's* tiny polyps live in colonies, and together form their well-known underside vermilion forests. Yet, the mythology makes no retreat. While scientific access remains to this day uncertain, the symbolic power of coral craftsmen, heirs to a tradition that dates back thousands of years - one that has inspired and emboldened communities all along Italy's Tyrrhenian coasts. Trapani is home to 76-year-old Platimiro Fiorenza, who digs his hands into the "saturated and pink freshness" of the diminutive pieces of coral, as did Nissen Piczenik, the coral merchant in Joseph Roth's novella *The Levithan*. Fiorenza, who learned his trade from his father, is a living example of UNESCO heritage. He designs and creates stupendous coral diadems, rings, pins, goblets - like the one for the Montreale Cathedral in Palermo - and Madonnas, like the Madonna of Trapani, which is housed in the Vatican Museums. He works with his daughter Rosada. Another Italian coral artist, Enzo Liverino, of Torre del Greco, has received the title of Master of Arts and Trades from the Cologne Foundation. His family has been handicrafting coral since 1894, a true dynasty of corallari. Like his forebear, he too has involved his children in the business. He also founded a coral arts school and museum. A splendid community of students and teachers. A virtual Barrier Reef in defense of high-quality craftsmanship, creating business opportunities in an area notorious for poverty. Coral thus serves to protect upcoming generations from hardship. But coral, too, demands that every us craftsmen for the future, makers of the world to come. In the hopes of nurturing the coralline oceanic community, all we have to do is immerse ourselves in the turquoise waters of the Four Seasons Resort surrounding the island sanctuary of Landaa Giravaru in the Maldives. At work here are the marine savers of the Marine Discovery Center. Their mission is to repopulate one of the world's most spectacular coral reefs, Seasons Reefscapers program has worked to reconstruct this marvel of nature. Some 500,000 coral specimens from different species have been transplanted along more than 7,000 frames, as the coral banches are called. A true gift to the world. And thanks to the Coral Frame Sponsorship Program, one of them bears our name. We are coral, and shall always be.

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Monile di "spezatti" con piccole cime di corallo, della seconda metà del XX secolo, Pisa, collezione privata. Necklace of small broken coral, from the second half of the 20th Century, Pisa. Private collection.

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TRADUZIONE DI JOHN RUGMAN

FOTOGRAFATE DAL LIBRO CORALLIUM RUBRUM DI EUGENIA SEGRE NALDINI, EDIZIONI ETS, 2019

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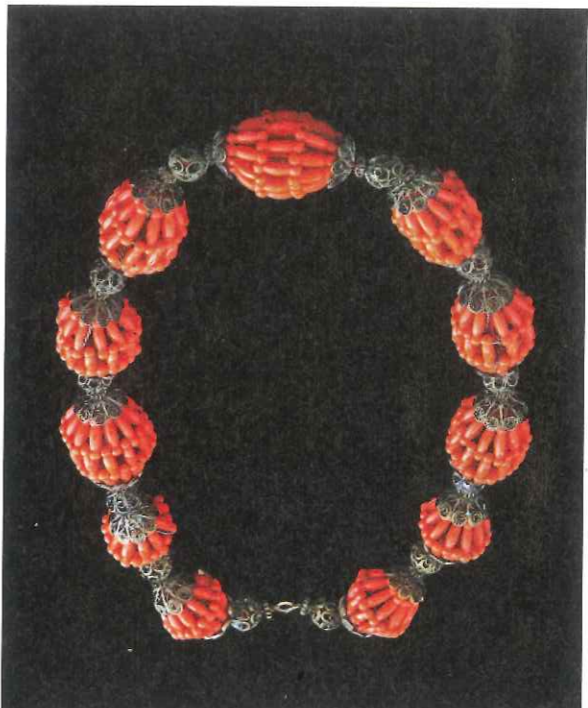
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Collana di corallo e filigrana di fattura torrese, realizzata nel Novecento, Pisa, collezione privata. Coral-figree necklace, made in 20th Century, Pisa. Private collection.

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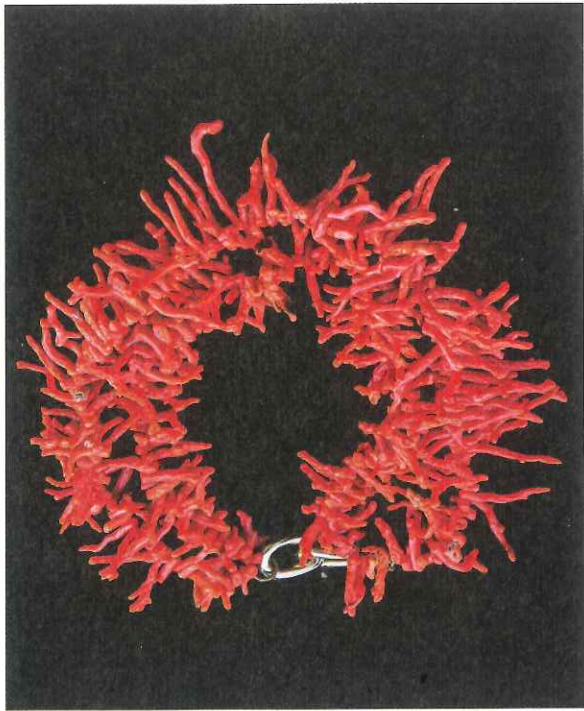
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Monile di "spezzati" con piccole cime di corallo, della seconda metà del XX secolo, Pisa, collezione privata. Necklace of small broken coral, from the second half of the 20th Century. Pisa, Private collection.

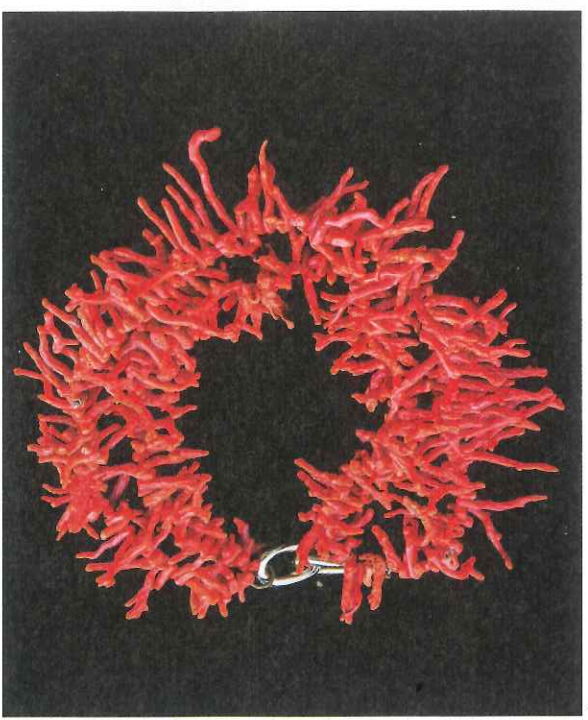
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daughter Rosada. Another Italia
ican Museums. He works with h
Trapani, which is housed in the Va
and Madonna, like the Madonna a
Monreale Cathedral in Palermo
pins, goblets - like the one for th
stupendous coral diadems, ring
heritage. He designs and create
father, is a living example of Unesc
za, who learned his trade from h
coral merchant in Joseph Roth's novel "The Levithan". Fiorer

plained to the world that *Corallium rubrum's* tiny polyps live t
colonies, and together form their well-known *underssea vermicul
forests*. Yet, the mythology makes no retreat. While scientific ex
actness remains to this day uncertain, the symbolic power of coral
craftsmen, heirs to a tradition that dates back thousands of year
- one that has inspired and emboldened communities all along I
aly's Tyrrhenian coasts. Trapani is home to 76-year-old Platimirt
Florenza, who digs his hands into the "salubrious and pink, fresh
ness" of the diminutive pieces of coral, as did Nissen Piczenik, th
coral merchant in Joseph Roth's novel "The Levithan". Fiorer

"Nelle Maldive stanno ripopolando le rocce: dal 1998 sono stati trapiantati 500mila esemplari"
"In the Maldives the reef is being repopulated. 500,000 specimens have been transplanted since 1998"