



## **THE FIGURE OF THE FISHMONGER**

(Galician fishmongers (peixeiras) were always the fishermen's wives, daughters, or other female members of the family).

An important part of Galician identity, the fishmongers were a fundamental piece in the workings of the fishing industry throughout our history.

These women, like mermaids anchored to the shore, constantly scanned the horizon to ensure their husbands' and relatives' boats reached land safely. From this natural viewpoint of Caneliñas, they waited impatiently for the catch to arrive, then sold it in the market, in the streets near the port, and even travelled long distances on foot through the villages, carrying baskets of fish on their heads.

This was not the only task of these multi-talented women, though it was perhaps the most emotionally challenging due to the dangers of the sea worsened by the often dramatic Galician climate.

The fishmongers have held, and continue to hold, immeasurable importance within the local economy, and as a symbol of patience and sacrifice, they represent the memory of the fishing community.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

In 1978, the Caneliñas viewpoint witnessed the unveiling of the first monument to the "Peixeira" (Galician fishmonger), an initiative of Leopoldo González Agís, Mayor of Sanxenxo at the time. That model, humble in its materials but immense in meaning, was intended to pay tribute to the many women who, through their daily efforts, forged the seafaring spirit of our land.

The passage of time and an act of vandalism in the summer of 1993 caused severe damage to the statue. However, they could not erase its memory. A year later, coinciding with the creation of «La Madama de Silgar» by the sculptor Alfonso Vilar, the then Mayor José Luis Rodríguez Lorenzo suggested the creation of a replica of the Peixeira monument, maintaining a part of the bronze cast; hence, the two statues are said to be sisters.

Today, the "Peixeira" monument is not just a sculpture: it is the living memory of sacrifice and pride. It is the reflection of generations of women who, amidst fishing nets and tides, sustained the life and identity of our people.

Here it remains, presiding over the renovated Caneliñas viewpoint, as an eternal symbol of dignity, effort, and belonging.

Telmo Martín González  
Mayor of Sanxenxo  
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Day of the inauguration of the Peixeira Monument  
in mortar (1978)



Bronze replica in the  
workshop (1994)