

Press Release

Legends of Carpets

Inspired by the archaic beauty of Africa, hand-knotted in certified manufactories in Nepal: the "Legends of Carpets" carpet collection translates abstract painting into timeless knotted works of art. Tibetan highland wool, fine Chinese silk and nettle fibre yarn - qualities with their own poetry shape the carpets. The pieces are made by hand using traditional Tibetan knotting methods in certified factories in Nepal, many of which have been family-run for generations - ecologically sustainable and socially responsible. The natural materials, the individual colouring and the weaver's personal interpretation make each piece unique. Objects as an expression of lasting values that are passed on from generation to generation.

THE DESIGN STORY

Inspiration Africa: Back to the origins

In the beginning there was inspiration. Family entrepreneur and Walter Knoll CEO Markus Benz has already visited many fascinating places around the world, but he always returns to his favourite place, Africa, with a camera at his side. The story of the carpets began with his travels to various African countries. In the archaic beauty of this multi-faceted continent, Markus Benz found the inspiration to expand the collection with rugs.

Creating together. Together with his friend, artist and textile designer Helmut Scheufele, Markus Benz sets off again to collect more concrete ideas. Their joint trip to Marrakech marked the beginning of Walter Knoll's "Legends of Carpets". Vivid impressions of the people, landscapes and the light refracted in the souks of the medina are formed. After a further trip to Namibia and Botswana, the leitmotif of the carpet collection is clear: the landscapes and colours of Africa.

Please send us a specimen copy. Thank you very much.

For further information, please contact:

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Based on the impressions and descriptions of his travels, Helmut Scheufele begins work in his studio: he paints. Abstract pictures of the collected impressions. These are later translated into carpet designs. Structures become denser, yarns are selected, colours are developed. Rug by rug, detail by detail.

THE COLLECTION

The Legends of Carpets collection consists of three lines: Patterned, Plain and Silk.

For the colourful Patterned rugs, landscape images and snapshots from abstract painting are translated into timeless knotted works of art. The Plain rugs each radiate in an exquisite shade of colour, inspired by a landscape and its special light mood, as can only be discovered in Africa. The silk rugs made from 100% finest Chinese silk are a tribute to the natural treasures of Africa.

Each carpet is given a name in Swahili - a language that connects many African countries. In addition, each carpet image manifests a piece of wisdom that has been passed down from generation to generation.

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100 % NATURAL MATERIALS

Wool:

The basic material for Walter Knoll rugs is Tibetan highland wool - one of the most valuable and robust qualities in the world. Brought down to the valley on yaks by the shepherds in the high mountain pastures, the sheep's wool is washed in the river, then carded and spun by hand. The fibres of the wool appear long and elastic. The high fat content protects the carpets from dirt - in a completely natural way.

Silk:

The finest Chinese silk in brilliant colours: it provides the special shimmer and the charming light reflections of Walter Knoll rugs. Extracted from the cocoons of the silkworm moth, the natural silk is processed and spun in silk weaving mills before being intricately hand-knotted into the exquisite rugs. Seemingly at random, a purple spot appears here, an orange-coloured thread there. Subtle colour nuances are created and a lively surface structure emerges. The silk carpets are made from 100% of the precious textile fibre - their interplay of light and shadow is characteristic.

Nettle fiber:

As pristine as cotton, as lustrous as silk: this is the effect of yarn spun from nettles. A special natural product that combines naturalness and individuality in equal measure. The stalks are defibred for the fine yarn, then the fibres are spun by hand. The nettle gives the carpets structure and strength.

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The MANUFACTURE

Sustainable and socially responsible. Walter Knoll rugs are produced under fair working conditions and using environmentally conscious manufacturing methods. They are hand-dyed and hand-knotted in manufactories in the Himalayas according to centuries-old traditions. The weavers in the workshops prepare the wool, silk and yarn, dye the materials with ecologically tested natural or quality dyes and then process them by hand over a period of months. The wool is combed until all the fibres are parallel to each other - this process is called carding.

Our partner factories in Nepal follow the code of the STEP label: no child labour, compliance with hygiene standards and occupational health and safety measures. For fair and good working and living conditions and environmentally conscious production methods. STEP also promotes the craftsmanship of carpet weaving as part of the Nepalese identity.

Every Walter Knoll rug is unique. Individual and unique - due to the natural materials used, the individual colouring and the personal interpretation of each weaver. The certificate that accompanies each rug is a guarantee of quality and authenticity. A sign of lasting values that are passed on from generation to generation.

Knot by knot, row by row, centimetre by centimetre, the carpet grows on the knotting loom. Four to five weavers sit next to each other on a bench for a 2.5 metre wide piece. It takes several months of harmonious and synchronised teamwork - and therefore 1.5 to 2 man-years, depending on the length - before a carpet is finally finished.

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