

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Livingetc

June 2024 ₹150

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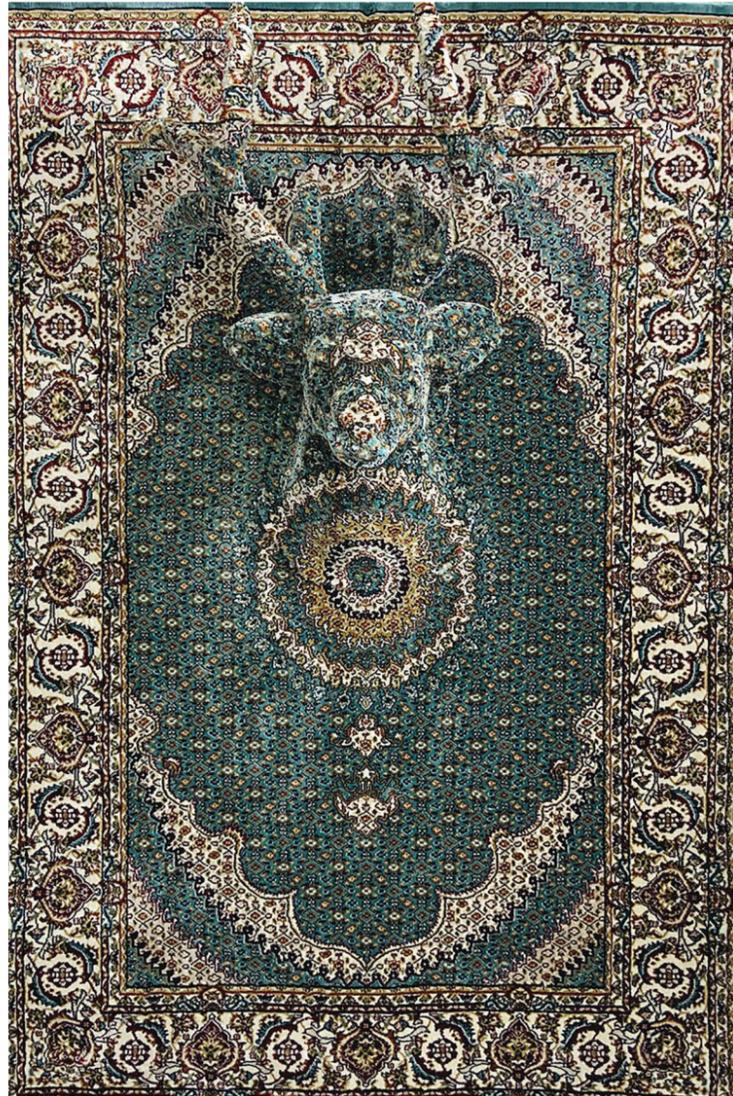
NAME TO KNOW

Debbie Lawson

Her rendition of carpets are no less than stitched sculptures

Creating carpets with a strong sense of culture, classic patterns, and rich histories is Debbie Lawson's aesthetic. A designer and sculptor from Kent, United Kingdom, carpets have become evocative symbols in Debbie's life. "They remind me of vast landscapes and forests, brimming with imagery that allows me to draw out elements, creating a sense of animation and vitality," she says.

Fascinated by the concept of camouflage, Debbie began creating sculptures that blur the lines between two and three dimensions by incorporating intricate floral designs. "There is no formal design process. I mull over ideas in my head, make a few sketches, perhaps a small maquette, or draw something on the wall of my studio using charcoal and spend a lot of time researching animals," she explains. The spark was ignited back in the 70s when Debbie visited a carpet shop with her parents. Surrounded by great rolls of foambacked carpet and rows of lino tiles and shagpile, the vast space felt like an enormous blank canvas where her creativity could come to life. She distinctly recalls the slightly chemical smell that lingered in the air. This early fascination evolved into a passion as Debbie began collecting handmade carpets and incorporating



WORDS MAHALAXMI SAIPRAKASH PHOTOS COURTESY DEBBIE LAWSON; (RED LION) DANIEL GREER, COURTESY ART PRODUCTION FUND; (DEBBIE LAWSON PORTRAIT) DANIEL GREER, COURTESY ART PRODUCTION FUND



From top, Red is the colour of royalty, this regal and majestic splendour comes through in this artwork titled Red Lion. Creating such a piece can take months to perfect; Debbie Lawson at the Rockefeller Center, New York, in November 2023, with Seated Stag (OPPOSITE PAGE) This Blue Stag is a work in progress showcasing that even unfinished pieces can make stunning statements

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Persian designs into her own art.

One such piece is the collection of tiny bears cloaked in richly hued carpets, which is not only our favorite but also a piece close to her heart. This collection has evolved over the years, with a rich mixture of pigments and casting materials. "It took me an entire return train journey from where I live near the Kent coast into central London to draw the pattern on a bear, so each one is named after a station on the line to London, like Whitstable, Rochester, or St Pancras," Debbie remarks.

The representation of meticulously selected animals in her art, are brave and courageous creatures, serves as a profound symbol of wildness and freedom. These majestic pieces encapsulate the essence of the untamed spirit and the raw beauty of nature. With her upcoming solo exhibition and her participation in Carpets of Eden, "Gardens of Fantasy" at Leila Heller Gallery, Debbie has an exciting and creative year ahead. ♦

debbielawson.com

