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HALI

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NEWS

Rare Iron Age textile displayed for the first time

A finely woven Iron Age textile—made almost 2,500 years ago (ca. 480–390 BC) and discovered in 1979 on Loch Tay—is now on permanent display at the Scottish Crannog Centre in Kenmore, Scotland, following advanced conservation work. Believed to be the oldest of its kind, the unique 2/1 twill weave offers rare insight into Iron Age textile technology in Scotland. This discovery is of exceptional historical value.





EXHIBITIONS

‘Nusantara’, Yale University Art Gallery

Indonesia’s remarkable textile heritage is celebrated through a hundred examples from the collection of the **Yale University Art Gallery** in **New Haven**—one of the most significant groups of Indonesian textiles in the Western Hemisphere.

‘Nusantara: Six Centuries of Indonesian Textiles’ offers a historical perspective and looks at ancient inter-island links between Indonesia’s cultures. This show runs from **12 September–11 January 2026**.

Visit the [Yale University Art Gallery](#) website for more information.

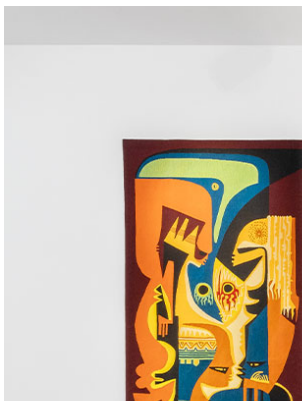


EXHIBITIONS

‘Morris Mania’, William Morris Gallery

‘Morris Mania: How Britain's Greatest Designer Went Viral’ is a show highlighting the influence and legacy of William Morris' designs on popular culture, in Britain and globally. Showing at the **William Morris Gallery** in **London** until **21 September 2025**, this exhibition displays items featuring Morris' designs as well as household objects revealing the remarkable versatility of his style.

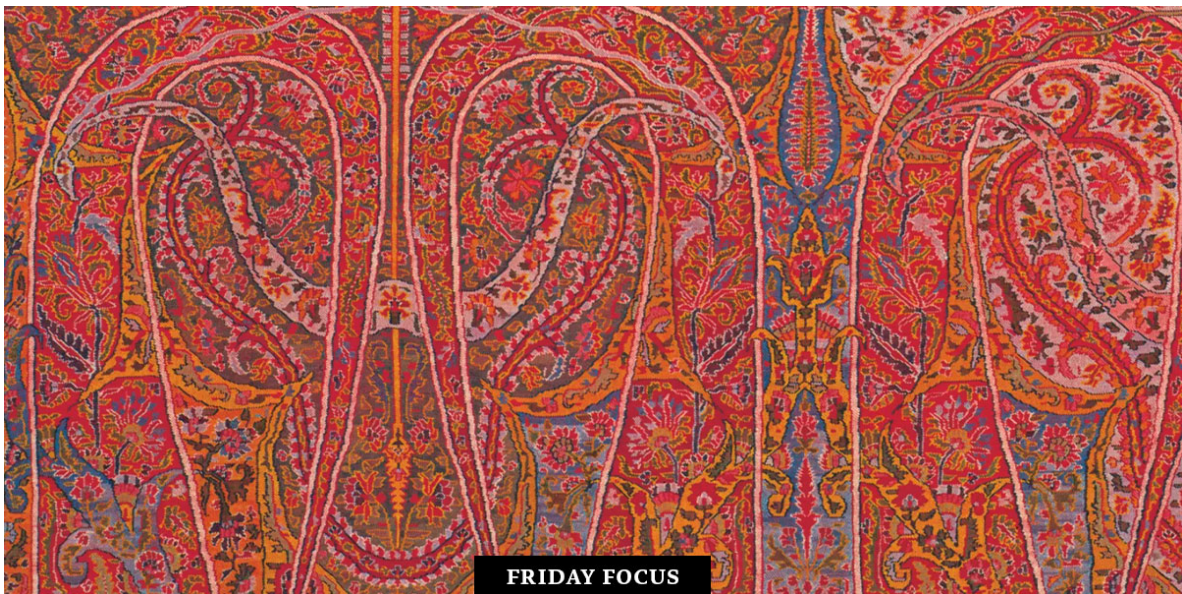
Visit the [William Morris Gallery](#) website for further details.





Senegalese artworks star at The Met

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has acquired a collection of eighteen Senegalese tapestries from Galerie Chevalier–Parsua in Paris. Made by the Manufactures Sénégalaises des Arts Décoratifs de Thiès, the tapestries originally featured in the show ‘L'étoffe des Modernes—Threads from Senegal’ in November 2024. The Met’s recognition of the visual, political and cultural significance of the artworks affirms the deserving place of African textiles within the realm of contemporary art.



HALI 224: A Kashmir shawl

This [#FridayFocus](#) centres on Kashmir shawls during the Sikh era and the striking transformations they underwent. This example of a shawl (above) features in an article by Frank Ames in HALI 224.

In the early years of Sikh rule, between 1820–1825, the Kashmir shawl industry witnessed a prominent transformation. Designs which once featured modest paisley (*boteh*) motifs confined to the ends of long, twill-woven pashmina shawls evolved into elaborate, full-surface compositions—ushering in a new era of artistic complexity in tapestry weaving.

A 'new school' of design emerged, featuring geometric, architectural and military motifs, as seen in this example. Some patterns were avant-garde in nature, exhibiting decorative ideas perhaps inspired by the illuminated pages (*sarlahs*) of Sikhism's principal scripture, the *Guru Granth Sahib*.

The new design spread across nearly the entire shawl, leaving only a small plain centre, often itself embellished with a motif reflecting the general style of the shawl. A finely woven piece could take up to three years to produce; these works were so costly that few were ever sold on the subcontinent. Shawl designs from the Sikh period tell a rich and layered story. They are filled with overlapping patterns and nested forms that hint at symbolic meanings—some clear, others still mysterious.

The full article can be accessed via a digital subscription to [HALI](#).

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