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HALI

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EXHIBITIONS

‘Faig Ahmed’, Azerbaijan National Carpet Museum

The **National Azerbaijan Carpet Museum** hosts ‘**Faig Ahmed: Epoch 2011–2024**’, an exhibition showcasing the contemporary Azerbaijani artist’s carpets for the first time in his home country. Ahmed blends traditional carpet weaving with contemporary art, transforming national motifs into universal artistic expression. His works have been



NEWS

Iran Heritage Foundation 2025 grant programme

The second cycle of the **Iran Heritage Foundation**’s 2025 grant programme is now open, with applications accepted until **31 October 2025**. Aimed at promoting knowledge and appreciation of Iran’s rich cultural heritage, the programme awards research grants across a wide range of disciplines. Preference is given to projects in archaeology, architecture, art, history,

expression. His works have been exhibited globally, including at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. This show is running until **30 December 2025**.

Visit the [National Azerbaijan Carpet Museum](#) instagram for further details.

in archaeology, architecture, art, history, linguistics and literature, as well as cinema, music and sociology. Grants of up to £3,000 are available, with a focus on innovative, ground-breaking research.

Apply via the [Iran Heritage Foundation](#) website.

HALI 224: A stepped polygon rug



This #FridayFocus centres on a 19th-century stepped polygon rug from Tibet, collected by Thomas Murray and acquired by the Minneapolis Institute of Art, where they will be joining the Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room: The Alice S. Kandell Collection.

Tibetan rugs of this design are exceedingly rare, and this piece exemplifies the genre at its finest, even in its worn condition. In HALI 224, Thomas Cole says: 'The stepped polygon has long been thought to represent the floor plan of a stupa, a reliquary for sacred objects of

veneration, itself patterned after or representing a mandala within the context of the Buddhist faith of the high plateau. Significantly, medallion patterns are consistently featured in rugs from Anatolia through East Asia (Tibet and China), often adorned with specific details of zoomorphic or botanical origin thought to symbolise the cosmos.'

The weaver has incorporated a pinwheel motif, seamlessly linking the elements of the stepped polygon—a sophisticated visual trick that demonstrates her deep understanding of how the motifs interact. While the design appears deceptively simple, it may be far older than the rug itself, making this piece a remarkable example.

Read the full article via a digital subscription to [HALI](#).



‘The Seven Stars are Always Together’, Paul Hughes Fine Arts

Paul Hughes Fine Arts in Maiden Bradley hosts ‘**The Seven Stars are Always Together**’, an exhibition of the gallery's rich Pre-Columbian's collection, alongside contemporary works by the Chilean artist, Felipe Mujica. Highlights include a *Nazca Mantle*, made circa 50 BCE (shown above), tie dye tunics circa 800 AD and bold feather panels circa 400 AD. This show is running until **5 October 2025**.

Visit the [Paul Hughes Fine Arts](#) website for more information.



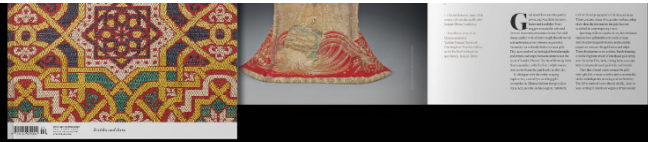
‘Textiles from the Mughal Empire’, Abegg Stiftung

This floral velvet from India (above), among other examples of rare silk hangings and velvet carpets, reflects the blossoming of textile production during the reign of the Mughal dynasty (1526–1858). ‘**Flourishing India: Textiles from the Mughal Empire**’ at the **Abegg-Stiftung Museum in Riggisberg** highlights the diversity of textiles which adorned the halls of Indian palaces. This show is running until **9 November 2025**.

For more information, visit the [Abegg-Stiftung](#) website.

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