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An: quadrinity-berlin@t-online.de

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MAK Permanent Collection of TEXTILES AND CARPETS

The **MAK - Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna** has opened its **Permanent Collection of TEXTILES AND CARPETS**, which will be on view until further notice.

From exquisite knotted-pile carpets once owned by the Austrian imperial family—such as the legendary silk Mamluk carpet—to surviving fragments of Egyptian woven tapestry fabrics and medieval liturgical embroideries reflecting women’s influence within the church, the MAK Textiles and Carpets collection brings together exceptional works distinguished by their rich histories and layered origins. This acclaimed group of carpets is

contextualised with other textile highlights from the collection, with a particular emphasis on the interweaving of cultures.

For this redisplay, the MAK collaborated with the well-known Milan-based design studio Formafantasma. The studio embraced delicate accents of colour, atmospheric lighting and large-format displays, allowing visitors to engage closely with these fascinating works.

Visit the [MAK](#) website for more information.



‘Appearances Deceive’,
Museum of
International Folk Art

‘Appearances Deceive: Embroideries by Policarpio Valencia’ at the **Museum of International Folk Art** is the first retrospective of textiles by Valencia (1853-1931)—a farmer and mill operator turned textile artist. He repurposed used cloth into intriguing textiles, with intricate inscriptions in northern New Mexico’s Spanish dialect. This show, running in **Santa Fe, New Mexico** until **26 July 2026**, offers a rare look at Valencia’s life and artistic contributions.

Visit the [Museum of International Folk Art](#) website for more information.



‘The Flower, The
Labor, and the Sea’,
RISD Museum

‘The Flower, The Labor, and The Sea’ is running at the **RISD Museum** in **Rhode Island** until **28 June 2026**. This show explores the history of a type of sari known as *Parsi gara*. While admired today, the garments also reflect painful histories of exploitation and colonial trade. The installation features historical works, with tunics from 1800–1825, alongside a new textile commissioned by the museum (above).

Visit the [RISD Museum](#) website for more information.

website for more information.



'Rugs and Carpets', Henry's

Henry's in Mutterstadt will hold its **'Rugs and Carpets'** auction on **11 April at 1pm CEST (12pm BST)**. The sale will feature 200 antique, vintage and decorative carpets and flatweaves from Persia and China, with predominantly antique pieces from the Caucasus and Turkey, most without reserve.

Important lots include a yellow ground Kula (Lot 7142); a 19th century Khotan (Lot 7115); a fine antique Farahan in very good condition (Lot 7050); and a 19th-century Kerman depicting part of the story of 'Josef' (Lot 7049). Also featured in the sale are collectible antique Kazak runners (Lots 7120, 7124 and 7129), as well as a rare 'double sided' silk Hereke (Lot 7021).

Visit the [Henry's](#) website for more information.





HALI 226: A Ming carpet

Welcome back to **#FridayFocus**. This week centres on a small Ming carpet from China, dated to the first half of the 17th century. It is presented by Alberto Boralevi in HALI 226, in an article about MITA Cultural Centre's current exhibition of Chinese carpets.

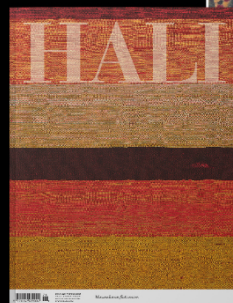
This small yellow ground example, almost a sitting mat, features two blue dragons with stylised, plant-line bodies, and their heads face towards the centre where the ideogram *shou*, a symbol of good luck, is a prominent feature. This unusual carpet has been attributed to the late Ming dynasty, in the first half of the 17th century, during the reign of Wanli. It comes from the collection of Wendel Swan, in Alexandria, Virginia, in whose home the author remembers having seen it many years ago. It was also exhibited in Milan in 2011 at the Galleria Moshe Tabibnia.

Read the full article, and every past issue, through a digital subscription to [HALI](#).

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No. 226



**PRESERVED
IN PIGMENT**

Thanks to pigments that contain the best preserved dyes, traditional carpets, even when made in the 17th century, can still be as vibrant as when they were first woven. In this issue, Alberto Boralevi explores the world of knowledge that has preserved these richly coloured carpets for the joy of future generations.



Our mailing address is:

HALI Publications
6 Sylvester Path
London, Hackney E8 1EN
United Kingdom

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