

[View this email in your browser](#)

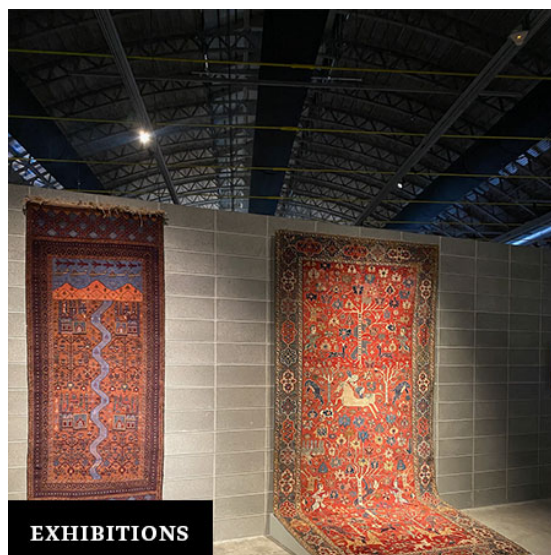
HALI

NEWSLETTER No. 515 • 25 July 2025



‘Wonders of Imperial Carpets’, Hong Kong Palace Museum

‘**Wonders of Imperial Carpets: Masterpieces from the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha**’ is a landmark exhibition at the **Hong Kong Palace Museum** showcasing historically important carpets from Safavid Iran, Ottoman Turkey and Mughal India. The Shah Sulayman hunting carpet, the 16-metre-long Kevorkian Hyderabad carpet



‘De Bello: Notes on War and Peace’, Gres Art 671

A war rug, bought in Kabul in 1986, from Luca Brancati's collection appears in ‘**De Bello: Notes on War and Peace**’, an exhibition at **Gres Art 671** in **Bergamo, Italy**, until **12 October 2025**. A curated selection of thirty artworks by old masters and contemporary artists offers a detailed exploration of how conflict across six centuries shapes collective memory and

and a *çintamani* prayer rug are among the exhibition highlights. This show runs until **6 October 2025**.

Visit the [Hong Kong Palace Museum](#) website for more information.

identity. This rug is shown alongside a late 17th-century northwest Persian carpet from Fondazione Tassara Mita in Brescia.

Visit the [Gres Art 671](#) website for more information.



‘Garden Carpet’ for the 21st century

On show in ‘**Garden Futures: Designing with Nature**’, at **V&A Dundee** until **25 January 2026**, are two garden-related weavings produced at **Dovecot Studios** in **Edinburgh**. Both offer a 21st-century interpretation of the traditional Iranian ‘Garden Carpet’. The first was designed by the Iran-born, Dundee-trained architect Farshid Moussavi and depicts a future paradise filled with Scottish plants and endangered species (shown above).

The other featured tapestry is the Whitburgh Garden Carpet by Dovecot’s master weaver Louise Trotter and apprentice weaver Sophie McCaffrey, inspired by its owner’s modern walled garden in West Lothian. Its colour palette shifts from autumnal tones to blue shades reminiscent of winter, capturing seasonal changes.

Visit the [V&A Dundee](#) and [Dovecot Studios](#) websites for more information.

HALI 224: A Moroccan woven belt



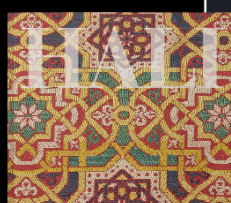
This [#FridayFocus](#) segment focuses on North African textiles. Kristen Windmuller-Luna, the curator of African Arts at the Cleveland Museum of Art, introduces the current exhibition of textiles and jewellery from North Africa in HALI 224. A standout garment in the show ‘Arts of the Maghreb: North African Textiles and Jewelry’ (3 November 2024–12 October 2025) is a woven belt (*hizam*) from Morocco dated to the 19th century.

Fassi textiles, their name originating from the city of Fes, were highly desired across Morocco. Elite women of all faiths often accessorised their gowns with a *hizam* on special occasions. By the late 19th century, Fes was home to around 500 textile workshops, many of which employed Jewish artisans. Due to prohibitions on metalwork, only Jewish men produced the gold thread (*sqalli*) used in these luxurious fabrics. *Ahzima* (plural) featured intricate floral and geometric patterns. When this example was made, silkworms were likely still being locally cultivated on mulberry trees.

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

Image: Belt (*hizam*), Fes, Morocco, 19th century. Cleveland Museum of Art, 1999.253, John L. Severance Fund

SUBSCRIBE
to get the latest issue
of HALI



No. 224



Copyright © 2023 Hali Publications, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Copyright © 2023 Hali Publications, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).