

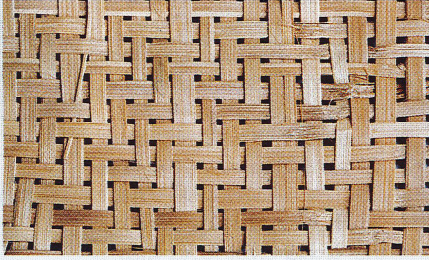


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discover

The art of tapestry

Before you read: Have you ever wondered how carpets with patterns are made? Let's learn about this beautiful art!



Weaving cloth

If you look at a piece of cloth very closely, you will see the threads run criss-cross to each other.

Threads that run from top to bottom are called "warp", while threads which run from side to side are called "weft".

Some weavers are clever enough to put a pattern into the cloth. Other weavers can create a whole work of art.

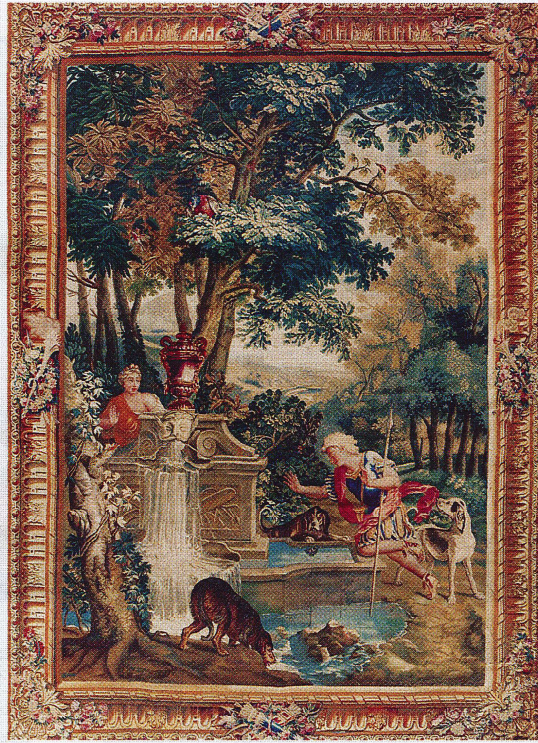
Tapestry weaving

A tapestry is a special kind of weaving that hides the warp threads. The picture is carried on the weft threads. There are a few ways to do this. Most importantly, weaving is done by hand.

In some pieces of art, you can easily see these threads.

FUN FACTS!

Carpets and rugs are the same thing. But people think that rugs can be moved around, while carpets are stuck to the floor!



Three styles

Aubusson carpets have three famous styles. The first is trees and other plants. The second is hunting scenes, usually showing animals such as wild boar, but also unicorns! The third is scenes from the Bible.

Unknown history

The history of weaving in Aubusson is not clear. Some people think weaving was first done in the region in the 13th century by Arabs. Other people believe the weaving skills came from Belgium, when Belgian people arrived in the area in the 14th century.

What we do know, though, is that Aubusson's weaving became famous in the 1700s.

By that time, Aubusson was making luxurious wall tapestries for castles and palaces.

The weavers worked with famous artists to copy their work into wool.

Farmers liked this, and they started breeding better sheep, to make better wool.

Today these tapestries can be made from all kinds of wool, or sometimes even from bamboo.

Written by Diane Anderson

The Aubusson weavers

Aubusson tapestry is a special old tradition. It first started in Aubusson in France. It is so good that it has become a word for "good tapestry".

Today the tapestry is also made in other places near Aubusson.

Work for farmers

The tapestry makers in Aubusson are only small businesses, but they bring tourists to the area. They also provide work for other people, such as the sheep farmers who make the wool used in the tapestries.

France's government wants to keep Aubusson going, but it's not easy because not many young people want to learn about it.

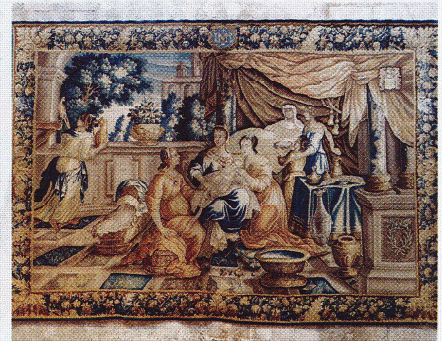
Royal carpets

Aubusson started making carpets for kings and queens. Those carpets were "pile" carpets, where the threads are woven to stand up straight.

But soon, the weavers copied the tapestry style of weaving, where the threads are flat.

Quick questions

- 1 Where is Aubusson?
- 2 In tapestry, which threads are hidden, the warp or the weft?
- 3 What fantasy creature is woven into Aubusson hunting scenes?



say it

Phrases from this story

thread

線

weaver

編織

pattern

方式

provide

提供

scene

場景

luxurious

奢侈的