

Textile Arts

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Weaving first appeared in Morocco around 1500 BC, it is one of the bellwethers in Moroccan craftsmanship.

Textile gathers many crafts related to embroidery, weaving and brocade, tapestry, traditional couture and felting. Some cities have stood out for their textile production, such as Fez, Rabat, Sale or Tetouan.

Embroidery

Embroidery is as fine and elegant as other crafts, Moroccan embroidery is an art handed down from generation to generation, from mother to daughter for centuries in the main cities like Fez or Rabat. Embroidery has a substantial variety in the woven stitch method. Merging modernity and tradition, embroidery is directed by enthusiasts of traditional sewing, who; slowly but surely, manifested charm with its aesthetics, its proclivity for refinement, finishing touches and its vastly varied patterns.



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Carpets and Hanbel

The king furniture piece in the Moroccan house, the carpet boosts the radiance of interiors. The wool, weeded out by the women, is washed, then boiled and rinsed under running water. It's combed and bleached, and then separated into wicks that are long or short depending on its use. It is finally spun and woven. The craft of weaving is one of the oldest traditions of Moroccan tribes and cities.

Ethnically, there are rural rugs and city rugs. The former can be recognized by the fineness of their points and the harmony of their colors.

They are mainly found in Rabat and Fez. They are known for their knots made on uptight weaving looms. The rural carpet, meanwhile, very often has bright colors and naive patterns. The meanings and symbols engraved in this carpet, is the fruit of the creative imagination of craftswomen.



Weaving and brocart

Once, All the textiles were made in Fes, Marrakech and Tetouan; Wool and Cotton Djellabas, silk wear for ceremonies and festivities and wool for warm clothes and covers. Now, the woven objects are multiplied and the color charts are boosting creativity.

Wool is mixed with silk and raffia fabric, the linen fiber merges with cotton, in a silver or a golden thread, the cotton is embellished with pearls and feathers ... and especially Sabra.

This silky-looking material, purely vegetable in origin, is produced from spun aloe fibers, woven and dyed to be solid and practical.

Brocart

First introduced to Morocco by the Andalous, The weaving technique employed in this fabric was initially used in the wide belts worn by the bourgeois women of Tetouan. These brocade belts were made by artisans from Fez.

It wasn't until much later that the brocade began to be used for kaftans and veils for Fassi brides. The beautiful fabric with flower patterns, easily recognizable, was at one time «The» bridal caftan par excellence.



Traditional Couture

Caftan, jabador, takchita, djellabas, gandouras, sarouals, the items are multiple and compete one another in beauty value. Sequins, shimmering colors, original shapes and precious materials, details and finishes, Moroccan couture never ceases to amaze!

Modernity present on a typically artisanal background, the items created are presented with a harmony and beauty that levels the playfield with international haute couture.

Felting (Lbada)

In Morocco, felting is very old. It is strongly valuable for headwear manufacturing, such as the red fez hats, prayer rugs and in turn, for simple rugs and saddle rugs for riders.

Before reaching the artisan who does the felting, the sheep wool is washed at multiple occasions before being carded between two combs fitted with small nails, the «korechale», 3 women take part in this task. Then, the wool goes to be dyed.

The maâlem uses only 3 elements of water, and relies on his tacit knowledge for the design. Perfectly mastering these gestures, as he repeats them regularly, the felt remains malleable. Water and soap are adequate to bind the fibers.

The wool is stretched then dyed. For the hats, they are shaped around a bowl. To make the bags, the artisan uses a wooden template.





Traditional Khaimas

As social and family oriented spatial units, the arrangement of the tent remains congruent to age-old tradition while other elements were usually modernized.

Designed to be reassembled easily, it traditionally shapes and arranges specific spatial features. Originally woven by women, who found in the work an opportunity to socialize, the traditional khaima is made out of dromedary fur or vellus hair, woven sheep or goat hair.

This type of weaving is still practiced but rarely so due to expensive manufacturing costs. The traditional Khaima remains important to nomads' cultural heritage.