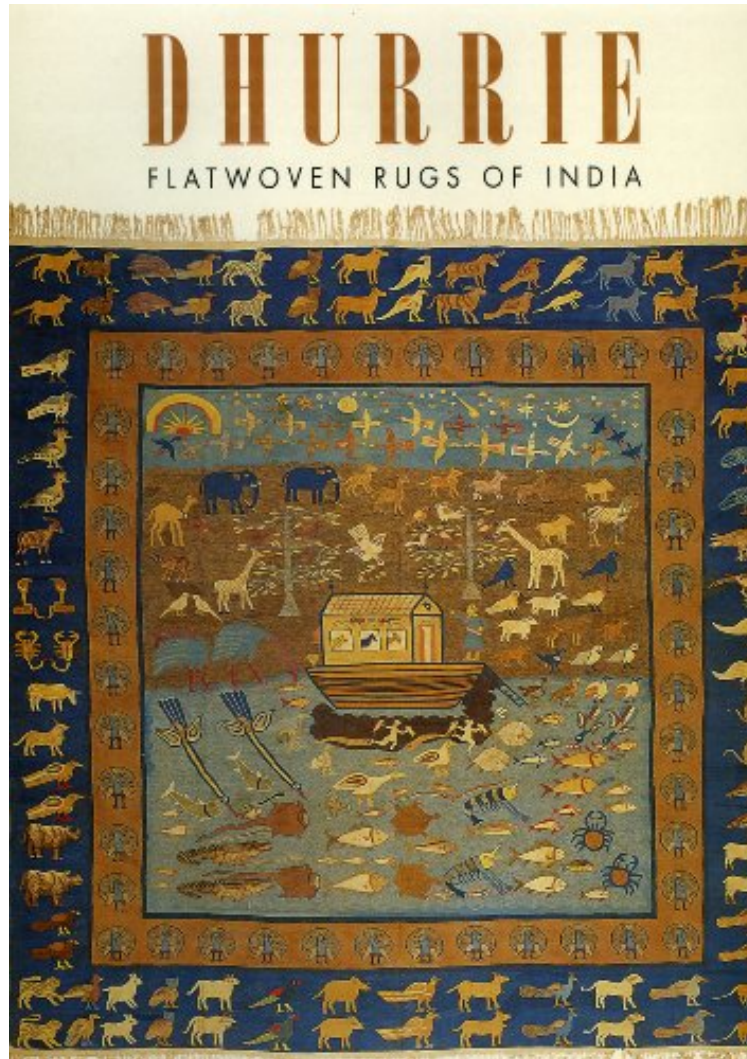


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Dhurrie--Flatwoven Rugs of India

Shyam Ahuja

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Shyam Ahuja : Dhurrie--Flatwoven Rugs of India before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dhurrie--Flatwoven Rugs of India:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Indian styleBy raju@ihug.co.nzA dhurrie is a flatwoven rug and has for too long been overshadowed by pile carpets.Almost a dying art and style it has been rejuvenated in part by the efforts of the author, Shyam Ahuja, a name familiar to those who deal in Indian materials. The book is a fascinating look at the art of the dhurrie. Ahuja starts at the beginning trying to unravel the origins. Cotton cultivation started in the Harrappan age around 3000 BCE. Spindles and other weaving atefacts have been unearthed from this period. Around 320 BCE the Arthashastra lists a range of floor coverings and the oldest dhurrie fragment comes down to us

from around 100CE. Ahuja started his affair with dhurries in the sixties and has continued to stimulate growth of this dying art form. He takes all flat-woven rugs to be dhurries; it is not the material they are made in but the style and colour. "The dhurrie is all about colour- there has to be poetry. There is no set formula, only an unerring instinct- you have to feel the design in your gut." Along with the history of dhurries it takes you the different stages of a dhurrie's creation, the colour, the weaving and brings the whole into a modern context with contemporary designs. My grandmother and aunt used to weave dhurries. It was fascinating to sit and watch their fingers on the loom as they wove their magic and created wonderful designs. It is gratifying to see justice finally being done to this art form by this wonderful book.

Largely unappreciated, the traditional flatwoven Indian dhurrie has long been overshadowed by the luxuriant Mughal pile carpets. For the first time the dhurrie is given the prominence it deserves. Transcending social boundaries the dhurrie was used by commoner and royalty alike - at its simplest it was a multi-purpose textile used as floor covering, bedding or packaging. At its most elaborate, however, woven with the finest fibres and enhanced with gold threads, it graced the palaces of royalty. This pioneering work traces the dhurrie back into the mists of prehistoric India with beautifully reproduced photographs of extant examples through the centuries. It pays particular attention to the design and colouring of dhurries from classic stripes to ornate geometrical designs as well as pictorial dhurries. The many stages of dhurrie making are comprehensively covered - from the selection and dyeing of the yarn to the final processes of weaving, washing and finishing. A particular feature is the coverage