

cover

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COLOUR AND OPTIMISM FOR 2022

JAIPUR RUGS



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Emma Boomkamp

'I am passionate about graphics. I feel that these forms give texture to life by providing a tactile element that interests me a lot'

Of Dutch and Mexican origin, Emma Boomkamp is a creative who wants to work in different media and materials. Her creative output consists of trying to understand the production processes and peculiarities of different techniques. After studying product design and economics at the University of Amsterdam, she moved to Mexico to explore texture, colour and pattern through craft. 'I love how surreal Mexico is. I really appreciate the diversity of this great country, which is actually many countries in one.'

Textiles have been her first stop; in them she finds an abundance of possibilities in terms of colour and texture. The patterns of large tapestries reveal her northern European origin. 'I need a structure to design. The symmetry, in tune with the warp and weft structure typical of weaving, makes sense to me. I am passionate about graphics. I feel that these forms give texture to life by providing a tactile element that interests me a lot, precisely because it is lacking in the digital world of today.'

Her work focuses on textiles and glass. 'I design rugs made by weavers in Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca. I work with artisans in Yucatán to create pieces with sisal. In recent years, I have kept my hands happy by knotting macramé. I also design hand-blown glass. I enjoy working with all these different techniques where the common denominator is craftsmanship and tradition.' Her favourite medium is always what she is working on at a specific moment, and she prefers to use natural materials 'like jute, sisal, wool and cotton. I firmly believe that any worthwhile project starts with good material.'

Boomkamp acknowledges that she has absorbed some of the European visual culture of the Netherlands, where she spent her early life. 'I'm sure my own visual language is influenced by my surroundings growing up. All my life I have been constantly moving and travelling with my mother. We would move between my grandmother's house filled with antiques and books, a Buddhist retreat in the redwoods of California, and many different Dutch apartments and houses. This continuous movement has taught me that each place has its own character and needs.'

Boomkamp loves studying the work of other artists, particularly Anni Albers, but her 'favourite type of inspiration comes as a gift, suddenly and very easily'. Most of her creations come from special requests from clients and arise from conversations about their needs and the spaces they inhabit. The work with henequen (Yucatan sisal), however, is different and arises from an intimate conversation with the material. In fact, Boomkamp is bringing a humble material used, pre-plastic, for packaging, to the arena of contemporary art. Right now, she is into exploring the world of knots: 'Basic knots are the best—square knots, half knot and nail hooks—because they allow us to create endless new combinations. When I make macramé, I love being able to start and see where the knots take me.'

For Boomkamp, handmade represents the new luxury, because it leads us to that original being that values human processes, organic forms and living textures: 'The handmade is our creative essence.' *Marcella Echavarría*

www.emmaboomkamp.com



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Opposite *Deborah and Maria Isabel, Emma Boomkamp*



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01 *Anne, Emma Boomkamp*

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