



GOLDEN GIRLS

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THE STYLE ISSUE

top tastemakers invite you in

DISCOVERIES



CREATIVE FORCE

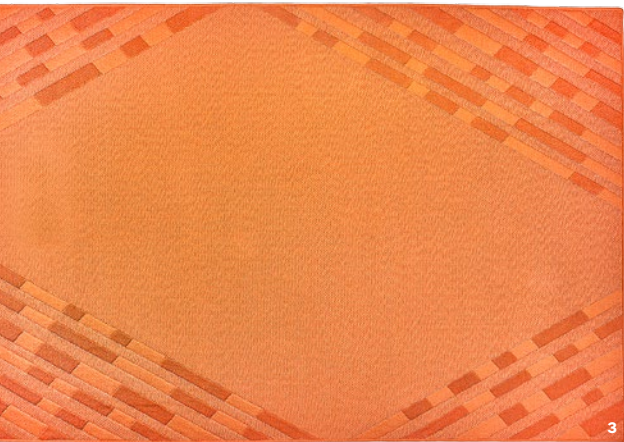
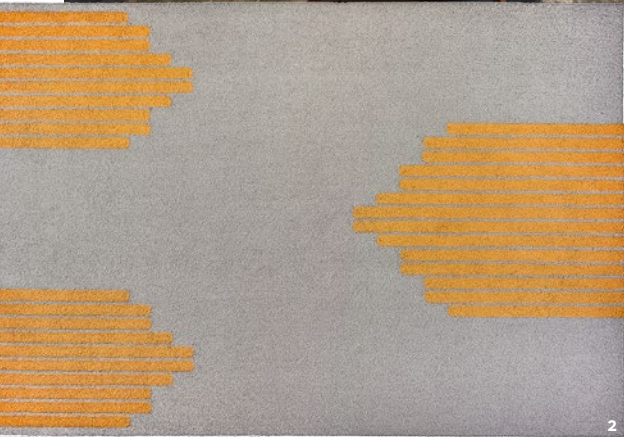
Sylvie Johnson

From her Paris studio, the design sensation weaves a new narrative

Sylvie Johnson's atelier brims with books—more than 700, by her estimate. There's a 19th-century technical guide to weaving, and reference books that range in subject matter from Japanese textiles to Donald Judd. She credits such volumes—and the mentorship of a haute couture weaver—with teaching her a new craft when she

left the art world some 15 years ago. Studying complex techniques, then experimenting on a small hand loom, she eventually created samples that could be produced at large scale by a team of weavers. AD100 maestros like Lee Mindel, Annabelle Selldorf, and Jacques Grange took notice, becoming loyal clients. And just last year, the rug company Merida tapped her as its creative director. “Without the technique, you don't have freedom,” says Johnson, who has impressed the artisans at Merida's Massachusetts mill with her know-how. Four collections in, she has pushed those experts beyond their comfort zone with her approach.

As evidenced by her latest line, *Atelier*, debuting this month, her designs are sophisticated and subtle—monochromes, stripes, simple geometries—while her techniques are complex and her fiber blends unusual. “Silk, linen, cotton—it's how you use them that makes them shine. Yarn is like words. And every rug is poetry.” meridastudio.com —HANNAH MARTIN



1. SYLVIE JOHNSON'S PARIS STUDIO.
2. MESA 609 RUG FROM JOHNSON'S ATELIER COLLECTION FOR MERIDA.
3. SAHARA 409 RUG.
4. JOHNSON AT HER DESK.

SYLVIE JOHNSON CREDITS: 1, 4, AMBROISE TÉZENAS; 2, 3, ANGEL TUCKER; WATCHES: COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

TRENDING GO LONG

Stretched and sculptural, our favorite new watches give great face

1. HERMÈS GALOP D'HERMÈS WATCH IN ROSE GOLD; \$15,400. HERMES.COM.
2. BULGARI SERPENTI SEDUTTORI WATCH IN ROSE GOLD; \$22,800. BULGARI.COM.
3. CARTIER LIBRE BAIGNOIRE ALLONGÉE WATCH IN YELLOW GOLD; PRICE UPON REQUEST. CARTIER.COM.

