

# PORTRAITS of PLACE

Like imaginative engines of modern craft, four powerhouse hubs making enduring imprints on global design

**CERAMICS AT THE CROSSROADS** → Cape Town artist **Michael Chandler** produces painted tile murals and “Afrochine” decorative pieces that draw on European delftware with the flora of his adopted home. [chandlerhouse.co.za](http://chandlerhouse.co.za)



**WEAVING NATURE'S COLORS** Bringing sun and land together underfoot is the magic practiced at **Coral & Hive**. Its Veld collection rugs are handwoven with karakul wool and mohair from sheep and goats grazing beneath the African sun. Fibers hand-spun by artisans like Nyameka Nxam are dyed and dried in that same bleaching sunlight for a palette that whispers the landscape's nuances. [coralandhive.com](http://coralandhive.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
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WRITTEN BY  
**TRACEY MINKIN**



## SOUTH AFRICA

### The Art of Color

Bordered by sea and bright with sun, the nation shimmers in myriad hues. In and around Cape Town, artisans capture color in crafts equally varied, from fiber arts and beadwork to ceramics.

**A NEW AFRICAN TEXTILE** Amid a revival of interest in Ankara batiks, the hand-painted textiles of **African Sketchbook** surprise and delight. In its workshops, women hand-paint and silk-screen designs that combine English Jacobean motifs with South African elements (look for the leopard's spots). Through Justin van Breda. [justinvanbreda.com](http://justinvanbreda.com)



**THE BEAD MASTER** Zimbabwean-born **George Magaso** taught himself the pan-African craft of beadwork, making wire and bead bicycles for sale for about \$1 each. Now in partnership with Michael Chandler, Magaso crafts pieces like *The Gardener's Mirror* and sculptural sconces for clients (and on display) at Chandler House. [chandlerhouse.co.za](http://chandlerhouse.co.za)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (FROM TOP) COURTESY OF MICHAEL CHANDLER/CHANDLER HOUSE; CHERYL MCEWAN FOR CORAL AND HIVE

PHOTOGRAPHS (FROM TOP) COURTESY OF SHE FORTINER/LE GRAND JARDIN; PHOTOGRAPH BY KARI ROGERS; STYLING BY MARTIN JACOBS; COURTESY OF MICHAEL CHANDLER/CHANDLER HOUSE

COLOMBIA

# The Art of Weaving

From the Andes to the Pacific Lowlands, Colombians have long woven local fibers, building a colorful legacy that endures in traditional and thrillingly updated forms.

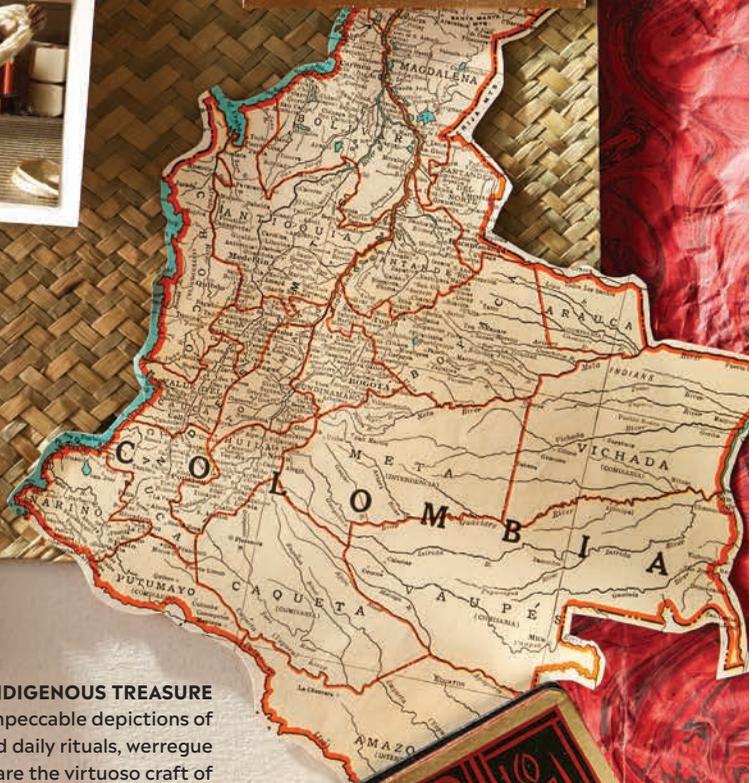
### PRECIOUS METALS

Architect and self-taught weaver Jorge Lizarazo and his Bogotá-based **Hechizoo** atelier create large-scale architectural pieces with strands of metal and vinyl—sometimes combined with natural fibers like alpaca and other times solo acts, as in this “Candelaria” rug woven of copper and bronze string. [hechizoo.com](http://hechizoo.com)



### PALM FUN DAYS

Bogotá-born fashion designer **Mercedes Salazar** turns her vivid sensibility on the ancestral craft of weaving *iraca*, the fibers of the toquilla palm, to create woven pieces including placemats and napkin holders full of wit and joy. [int.mercedessalazar.com](http://int.mercedessalazar.com)



### AN INDIGENOUS TREASURE

With their impeccable depictions of nature and daily rituals, *werregue* baskets are the virtuoso craft of the indigenous Wounaan women of the Pacific Lowlands. Woven tight enough to carry water, the baskets (sold at Cartagena boutique **Casa Chiqui**) are made from the fiber of the *werregue* palm and take about 20 days of work; larger vessels can take up to a year. [casachiqui.com](http://casachiqui.com)



PHOTOGRAPHS (FROM TOP) COURTESY OF MERCEDES SALAZAR; COURTESY OF CRISTINA GRAJALES GALLERY AND HECHIZOO (2)



← **PAST IS PROLOGUE**  
Embracing a history of high craftsmanship for 181 years, family-owned **Rinck** declares equal love for the contemporary in its Ornaments capsule collection with wallcovering powerhouse Fromental. The Furstenberg bench—with a needlepoint cushion paying homage to the early 20th-century tapestries of Jean Lurçat—is a modern masterpiece. [rinck.fr](http://rinck.fr)



FRANÇAISE • FABRICATION • FRANÇAISE 4

**FRANCE**

*The Art of Furniture*

Nothing is more emblematic of French refinement than the furniture born of its artisans. From medieval guilds to today's visionaries, la belle France invites us all to fill our rooms with Gallic style.



**FROM HUMBLE TO CELESTIAL** ↗

To cut open a piece of straw and flatten it, then carve shapes to place in marquetry may be the most achingly beautiful of France's decorative arts (a square meter takes about 30 hours). Which makes Yann Jallu's allegiance to the craft a thrill to witness, particularly in **Jallu Ébénistes's** veneers for cabinetry and lighting. [jallu.com](http://jallu.com)

**THE REGAL REBORN**

Summoning the nation's legacy of cabinetmaking and seat joinery, **Maison Taillardat** recreates 18th-century designs, from a Louis XIV dresser to a marquise chair. So compelling are the maison's constructions and finishes that director Sofia Coppola used its furniture in her period film, *Marie Antoinette*. [taillardat.fr](http://taillardat.fr)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) GASPARD HERMACH/RINCK (2); EMMANUELLE THION; MAURINE TRIC.

**THE ESSENTIAL CERAMIC** ▶

The third firing is the charm, which has set **Este Ceramiche Porcellane** apart for centuries. The historic workshop takes that third hot pass to secure gold, platinum, and saturated colors to its porcelain tableware. [esteceramiche.com](http://esteceramiche.com)



**ITALY**

*The Art of the Table*

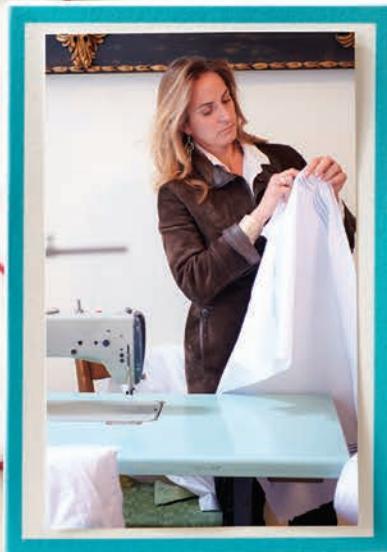
An Italian meal is an aesthetic and culinary tour de force. From Milan to Tuscany, these masters of ceramics, linen, and glass create a veritable feast.

**BREATHING NEW LIFE** ▶

Consider these vessels from Milan-based **Stories of Italy** the artistic apogee of reuse: Shards of previously blown Murano glass are fused by master glassblowers into fresh-blown opaque glass. The result is a contemporary collectible—each distinct—with Italy's iconic artistry embedded within. [storiesofitaly.com](http://storiesofitaly.com)



**VERDEROC CIA**  
MADE IN ITALY  
COTONE PURO  
100% FINEST COTTON



▶ **A TUSCAN REVIVAL**

Inspired to revive her husband's famed family linen business, Gaia Leonori Pratesi launched **Verderoccia**, pairing jacquards and percales with embroidered designs. "We're bringing forward a four-generation heritage of Tuscan know-how," she says. [verderoccia.com](http://verderoccia.com)



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