



INTERVIEW / FORT STREET STUDIO

The Haute Couture Carpets

Fort Street Studio has reopened its showroom in Hong Kong and its founders share with HOME the reason behind their return.

Text Nia Tam



Renowned for its luxurious hand-knotted wild silk carpets and the sophisticated artistic watercolor patterns, Fort Street Studio was founded by a pair of talented artist couple, Janis Provisor and Brad Davis.

Their carpet-making journey started from a 1989 visit to Hangzhou, China where they originally made woodblock prints, but subsequently came up with the idea of making silk carpets instead. Soon, they seized the opportunity to start their business, leading to the establishment of Fort Street Studio in 1996 in Hong Kong.

After a stint of eight and a half years, they decided to make a move to New York where they opened a showroom. They then opened one in Los Angeles as well.

Blessed with natural light through the floor-to-ceiling windows, the new showroom in One Island South, Wong Chuk Hang, showcases the company's range of wool and silk collections in a setting of modern art gallery.

Complementing their high-end carpets are the founders' personal collection of vintage George Nelson furniture and carefully selected art pieces by local artists.

"We have always wanted to come back to this city. We spent three years searching for such a perfect space to be our Hong Kong showroom that reflects the DNA of the company," Sitting comfortably on the armchair in the homey showroom, Janis tells us their home-coming excitement. "Guests can't imagine what it is like to be living with these exquisite carpets."

Highly sought after by celebrities, namely Madonna, Elton John and Brat Pitt, their luxurious silk carpets blend traditional weaving techniques with modern artistic senses. The patterns are based on watercolors – painted abstract patterns with exquisite color gradations to complement every residence with a touch of contemporary sense.

"Each of our carpets and rugs is entirely hand-knotted and a standard size 9x12ft carpet has over 1.5 million knots," explains Janis. "It takes our artisans up to five months of time to complete one carpet. Therefore, the workshop can produce only ten to twelve carpets a year."

Their continuous efforts in bringing striking fabric artworks are embodied in their latest limited editions. Requiring high-level weaving techniques and much longer production time, the LUXE and Glimmering editions blend silk and metal into one. The dynamic creations have been well received by their clientele.

It may not be a common practice to place a carpet in Hong Kong's residences, but if you do, a statement carpet like this should definitely take the floor. **Fort Street Studio** | Suite 901-906, 9/F, One Island South, 2 Heung Yip Road, Wong Chuk Hang | 2889 5150 | www.fortstreetstudio.com

