

# cover

ISSUE 73 | WINTER 2023

RUG STAR

## CELEBRATE CREATIVITY



WINTER 2023 £5 €8 \$10  
cover-magazine.com  
Hali Publications Ltd.

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01 *Blue Moon*, Ward & Gray

02 *Bergamot*, Ward & Gray

03 *Autumn*, Ward & Gray

04 *Winter*, Ward & Gray



02



## Ward & Gray

The intriguing blend of materials and techniques used by Christie Ward and Staver Gray for the interior designers' first rug collection creates a beautiful sense of history and lived-in luxury



03



04

When Christie Ward and Staver Gray of New York-based interior design firm Ward & Gray start working on the textiles and rugs of a project, the antique design features from the location have a bearing on the outcome. 'We love the idea of designs and construction methods that are rooted in history but reinvented to feel like something new,' says Staver Gray. 'We are drawn to a very handmade, honest aesthetic with our interior design and the rugs are an extension of this.' Christie Ward adds: 'We feel that antique/worn-in feel brings so much warmth to a project, so we've developed a distressing technique which makes the rug feel like an heirloom that has been passed down for generations.'

Therefore, it is no wonder that the rugs they designed for their own rug collection for 2023 have a distinctive antique feel to them, combined with an intriguing number of different materials and techniques.

'Our *Bergamot* rug has an antique-inspired construction and a botanical motif. However, for this rug we chose an unexpected colour palette of burgundies and teals,' says Gray. The antique-inspired designs of *Bergamot*, *Blue Moon* and runner *Forsythia*, plus the plainer *Terracotta by the Sea*, are all hand-knotted in Pakistan with Ghazni wool. All have the wonderfully worn, antiqued look.

'For our *Winter* and *Autumn* rugs, we used a mix of wool and jute to bring in a very natural

feel,' explains Ward. Gray continues, 'For those, we combined two different centuries-old weaving techniques—sumac braided sisal and hand-knotted wool—which aren't typically found in the same rug. We feel the result is something that honours the antiques we are inspired by, yet can also live in a contemporary design.'

The last rug design is the more contemporary *Dune*, flatwoven in a blend of hemp and jute, with hand-knotted New Zealand wool shag-pile overlay. Ward & Gray included a rug for every taste. Ward says: 'Every project inspires us in different ways to create the best rug for that space and area.'

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