



## FLOORCOVERING 'BACKSTITCH' RUGS RAW-EDGES FOR GAN

*These rug designs turn traditional embroidery upside down and explore the unseen beauty of the messy reverse*

London-based multidisciplinary studio Raw-Edges' collection of rugs with Spanish textiles brand Gan celebrates the art of embroidery and all its flaws. The pieces extol and showcase the messy underside stitches found on textiles, putting them unusually at the forefront of the design.

'The "backstitch" has a hidden beauty to it,' say the duo. 'Our aim was to understand the language of it and incorporate that into our rug collection, focusing on colour, rhythm of patterns, tactility and craftsmanship.'

The three designs in the collection each represent a stage in the process – the first, 'Calm', is a loose, abstract arrangement; 'Busy' is a steady flow of stitches; while 'Composition', the most complete, features an outline of a house. From £985 (gan-rugs.com).

## YOUNG DESIGN TALENT LUCY KURREIN

Being fearless is clearly an invaluable virtue when it comes to pursuing a design career, and Lucy Kurrein has it in spades. As she says of her Docklands-based design studio's debut year in 2013: 'I didn't hold back. I approached two established manufacturers, London-based SCP and Spanish manufacturer Capdell, who commissioned my 'Panel' chair on the spot during Salone del Mobile. That was my big break, and the work has been relatively constant ever since.' Upholstery is her forte, with a roster of sculptural pieces already created for the likes of Offecct, SCP, Molinari Living, Joined + Jointed and, most recently, Heal's with her 'Isola' range. It's a raft of partners she very much appreciates, as she says, 'Bringing new design to market is a risky business, so this award means everything to me and the brilliant producers I work with.'

Kurrein built an impressive pedigree prior to going solo, from roots that run deep in both form and function. 'I grew up in a leafy 1980s housing estate in a suburb in Leeds,' she says. 'My mum was into antiques, so the interior was a mixture of art deco and the set of *Murder, She Wrote!* Dad worked in printing, but had studied industrial design, so he kept a workshop in the garage.'

From these beginnings, the drawing-obsessed young Kurrein headed off to study an art foundation course,

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but wise tutors set her on a different path of 3D design, which culminated in a contemporary furniture degree at Bucks University. Her prototypes for a student project with Ercol were spotted by Matthew Hilton, and an apprenticeship with the leading British designer followed graduation. 'Matthew taught me how to sculpt, how to move on from primary shapes and how to be daring,' she says. Expanding her experience beyond the domestic, between 2009 and 2013, Kurrein worked for London design consultancy PearsonLloyd on projects from retail to transport, but ultimately seating proved to be her passion.

Now she is a solo enterprise, one of her biggest champions is SCP-founder Sheridan Coakley, so what has he taught her? 'Among many other things, how to throw a good party!' she laughs. For 2020, Kurrein says she is working on wooden pieces in a slight departure from her usual projects. As for advice for any other aspiring young designers, just three words imparted by designer Michael Young have consistently spurred her on: 'Do good work.' [lucykurrein.com](http://lucykurrein.com)

INTERVIEW: BETHAN RIDER; WORDS THROUGHOUT: AERA BUCKEY-JONES, KATE WORTHINGTON; CLARE SARTIN; CAT O'LEARY; PICTURE: AUN CALLENDE



Winner of Young Design Talent, Lucy Kurrein, who has already created sculptural pieces for the likes of SCP, Molinari Living, Joined + Jointed and Heal's