

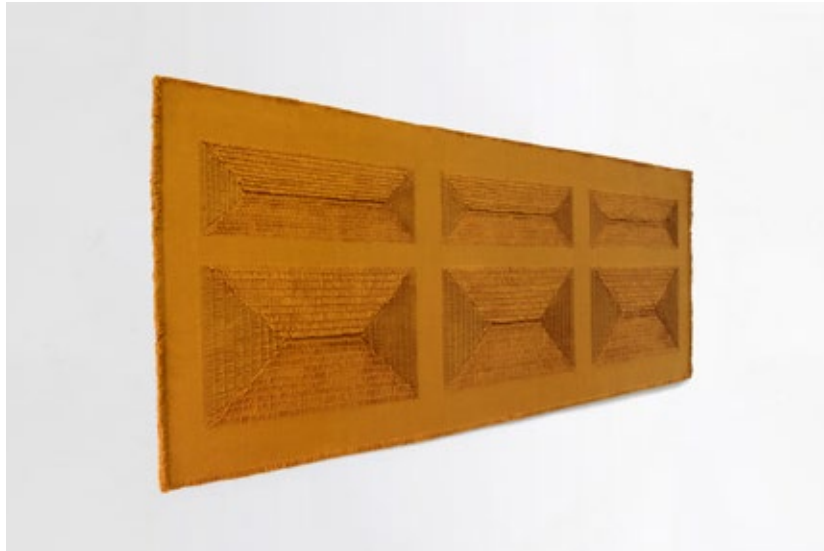
SIDE GALLERY

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SOPHIE ROWLEY (1986-)

Tapestry model Khadi Fray

Manufactured by Sophie Rowley

Produced in exclusive for SIDE GALLERY

Berlin, 2020

Handloomed curry cotton

Measurements

300 cm x 120 cm

118,11 in x 47,24 in

Edition

Unique piece

Concept

'Khadi Frays' is a series of textile wall pieces Sophie Rowley developed during a recent one-year stay in India. They are inspired by the Khadi Spirit, an Indian term which describes the state of illimitable patience.

In 'Khadi Frays', the repetitive actions of conventional handweaving techniques were reversed. Instead of building up the material thread by thread, a solid block of multiple weaves forms the starting point. Each layer undergoes a carefully calculated destructive process, during which over 10 000 threads are patiently removed, leaving frayed finishes behind. Through eating into these material blocks, multi-dimensional textures are created, gradually dwindling down to the base layer. The differences in weight and tension of the warp and weft lead to subtle variations in shade and dependent upon the perspective angle, reflections on the surfaces occur.

Through this technique simplistic and modest materials were transformed into intricate arrangements and elegant wall pieces, endeavouring to give a modern twist to textile craft. The experiments with stencils led to three different design outcomes made from natural canvas cloths, rough linen fabrics and cottons hand-dyed in Indian tumeric.

Biography

Sophie Rowley (*1986 in New Zealand) is a material designer based in Berlin. With an academic background in textile design, she completed the MA Material Futures at Central Saint Martins in London in 2014.

Through research and experimentation, she pushes the physicality of materials to their limits, revealing new features and hidden unexpected aesthetics. Using a wide range of techniques, her approach focuses on sustainability and innovative material development.