

CARPET WOVEN FROM A SKETCH BY JŪLIJS MADERNIEKS

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ABOUT

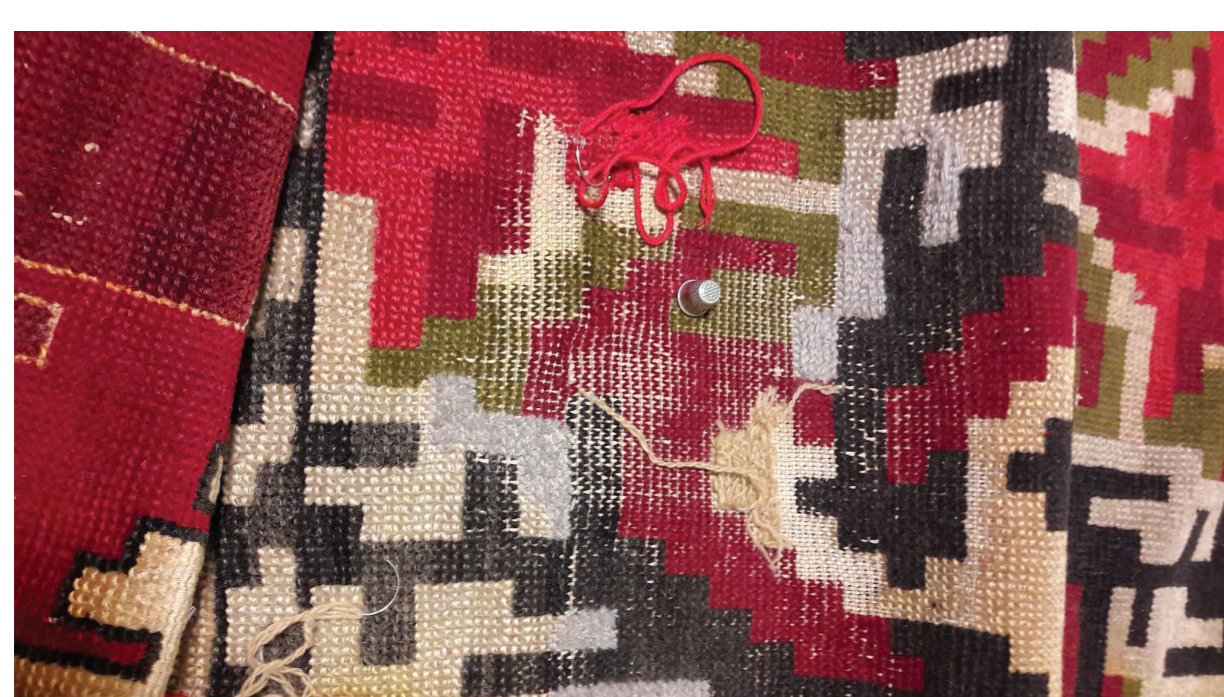
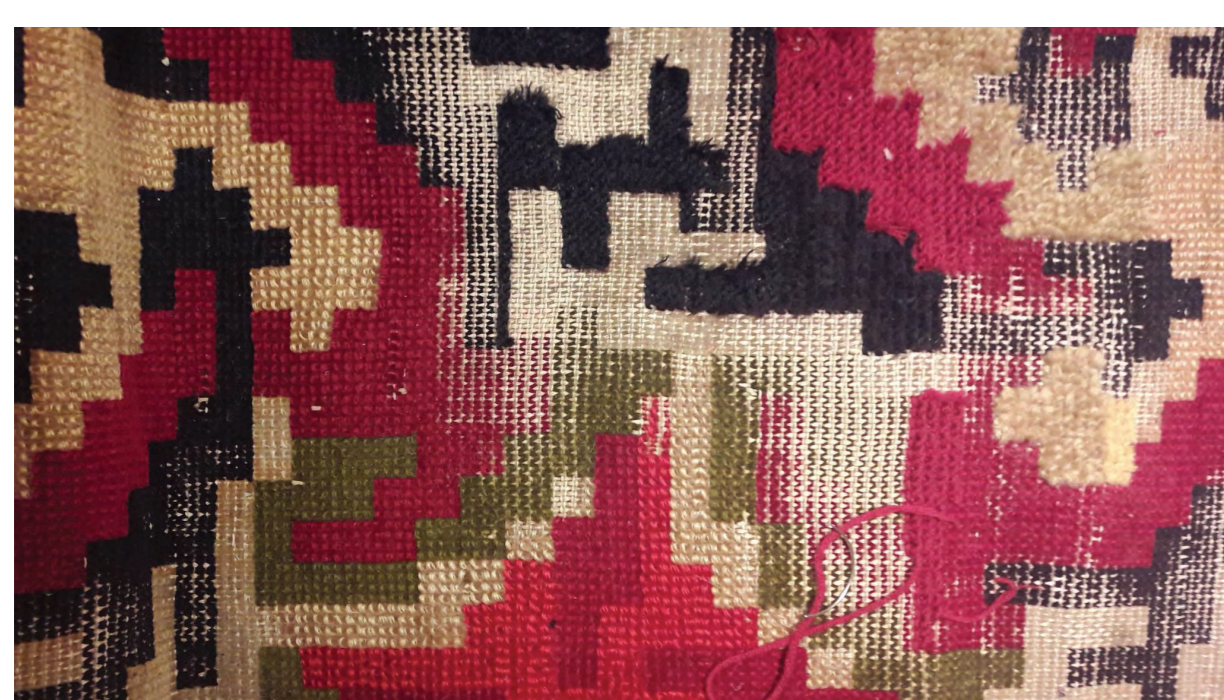
The carpet is one of the most characteristic examples of the ornamental textile compositions of Latvian professional decorative arts pioneer, ornament master, graphic artist, art critic and teacher Jūlijs Madernieks (1870-1955). It was made in 1929 at Paula Tilts' course weavers' workshop in Riga, at Kr. Barona Street 66-68. Linen was used for the warp of the foundation material and wool was used for the weft. The composition was created, portraying dynamic movement with symmetrically placed geometric forms. The colour used is polychrome - red, black, green, yellow and beige tones. Persian weaving technique was used in making the carpet. Size - 317 x 288 cm.

Up until the German occupation, the carpet was in the Red Hall of Riga Castle in Latvia. In 1944, it was taken to Germany and was used for many years as a floor carpet by a German family. After Latvia regained its independence, the carpet, through the good offices of the Latvian Embassy in Germany, was placed in the charge of Riga castle, but due to its poor preservation, the carpet could not be used in the Riga Castle's interior, and ended up in the charge and ownership of the Decorative Arts and Design Museum as an art and cultural historical treasure.

LEVEL OF PRESERVATION PRIOR TO RESTORATION

Damage was established due to the long years of its use and storage - the carpet fibre had worn out throughout; the most marked losses were in the pile, and there was damage caused by moths. There were two 18 x 14 cm and 13 x 3 cm tears in the edge of the carpet with a loss of fabric, as well as a hole, 10 x 3 cm in size. One of the side edges had fully crumbled. The textile fibre was dirty, dusty and yellowed. The work process was burdensome and work intensive due to the large size of the carpet, its density and the weight of the fabric's structure (about 30 kg)

Fragments from restoration process:



The carpet folded in half before restoration. Photo: Māris Kundziņš



The carpet after restoration. Photo: Ansis Starks

RESTORATION PROCESS

Careful dry cleaning and dust removal. The damaged areas were stitched with appropriate colours and woollen thread of a similar structure. The sewing was undertaken in the Persian technique for the entire area of the carpet.

Fragments from restoration process:



EXHIBITING

The carpet reveals Jūlijs Madernieks' creative style very well and convincingly characterizes its author's textile style. After restoration, the carpet was exhibited in 2020 at the Madernieka stils [Madernieks's Style] exhibition at the Decorative Arts and Design Museum.