

SOURCING THE MUSEUM @ THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

March 23 – August 19, 2012

The word “museum” derives from the ancient Greek mouseion—“temple of the Muses”—home of goddesses believed to inspire creativity. The Textile Museum’s permanent collections provided the source of creative inspiration for eleven contemporary artists.

Invited to participate by renowned textile designer Jack Lenor Larsen, the artists explored the Museum’s historically and culturally varied collections, and the exhibition will display the twelve new artworks the artists created, alongside the fabrics that inspired them. The historical textiles highlight the wide scope of the Museum’s collections, ranging from rare Pre-Columbian and Late Roman weavings to Japanese kimono and Central Asian ikats.

Diverse in background, preferred technique, and aesthetic, but all at the height of their careers, the invited artists include Olga de Amaral, James Bassler, Polly Barton, Archie Brennan, Lia Cook, Helena Hernmarck, Ayako Nikamoto, Jon Eric Riis, Warren Seelig, Kay Sekimachi, and Ethel Stein.

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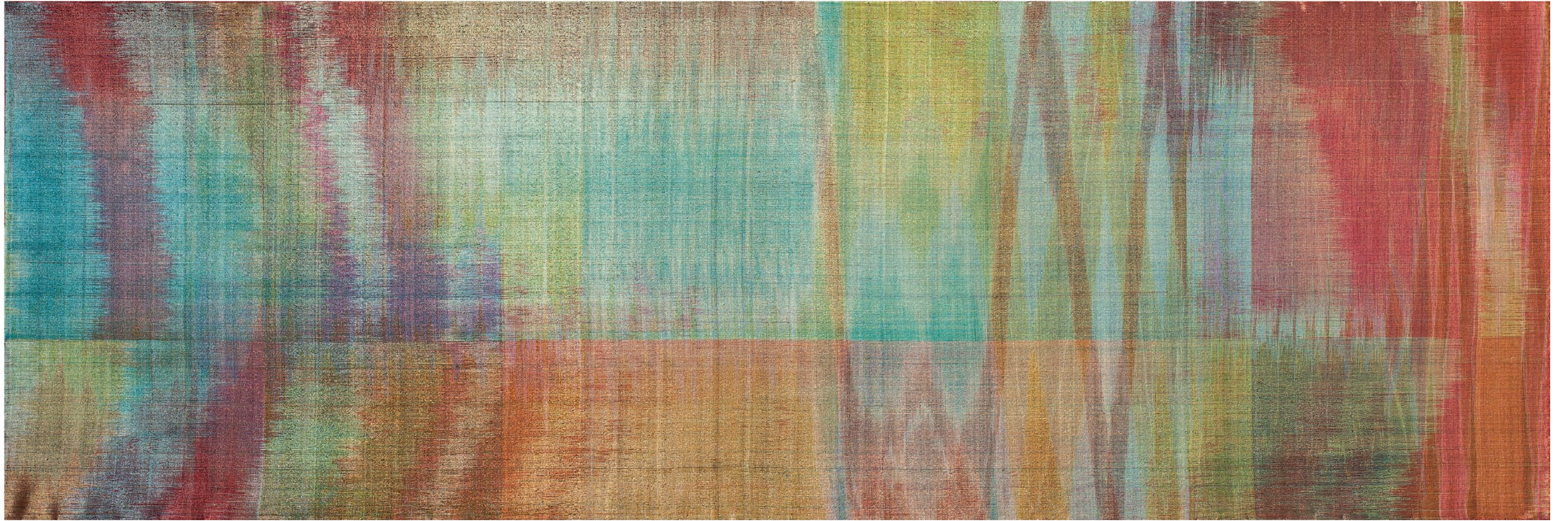


Polly Barton, *Arab Spring*, 2011-2012, 92" x 16", silk double ikat with painted warp 3 panels

The colors of the Textile Museum's collection of Egyptian 15th century Mamluk carpets took me by surprise. So sensuous and refined! A deep and regal red creating an overall lace of patterns through which I fell into an expanse of landscape breathing delicate greens and blues. I felt transported along the thread. It was the experience of falling through the threads more than the delicate mosaic of patterns that compelled me to chose this carpet and weave a response.

Working with the idea of transport, I chose to weave a sheer and lustrous silk organzine (*new to me*). I wanted to create a translucent fabric of jeweled colors. The ikat reveals its pattern in different lights, carrying the idea of movement, travel and the gesture of my journey. The viewer must walk around this piece to see the colors move and the delicacy of the silk.











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