

L A S T E J E D O R A S

Alfombras

Exhibition Catalogue, 2024

¡Una bolsa menos, una tortuga más!

Proudly sponsored by Rockflower Fund & Casa Congo™
Curated and directed by Nicholas Kaspareck



“ We are artists, entrepreneurs and mothers who are proud to protect our oceans and create a better future for our children.

Senelia del Socorro Vargas Sevilla
President of Las Tejedoras women collective

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Impact Threads

Our Story

In 2007, in El Astillero, Nicaragua, a team of dedicated women embarked on a mission to protect the local marine life by cleansing the shores from discarded plastic bags, which pose a threat to marine species, specifically sea turtles.

This team is known as Las Tejedoras, or "The Weavers".

Las Tejedoras follow an artisanal process and repurpose plastic bags into recycled threads that are hand woven into art.

Since our inception, Las Tejedoras have grown from a collective of 10 women to 17 women and our collection has evolved from 5 basic items to over 50 different fashion and interior design products.





Our mission

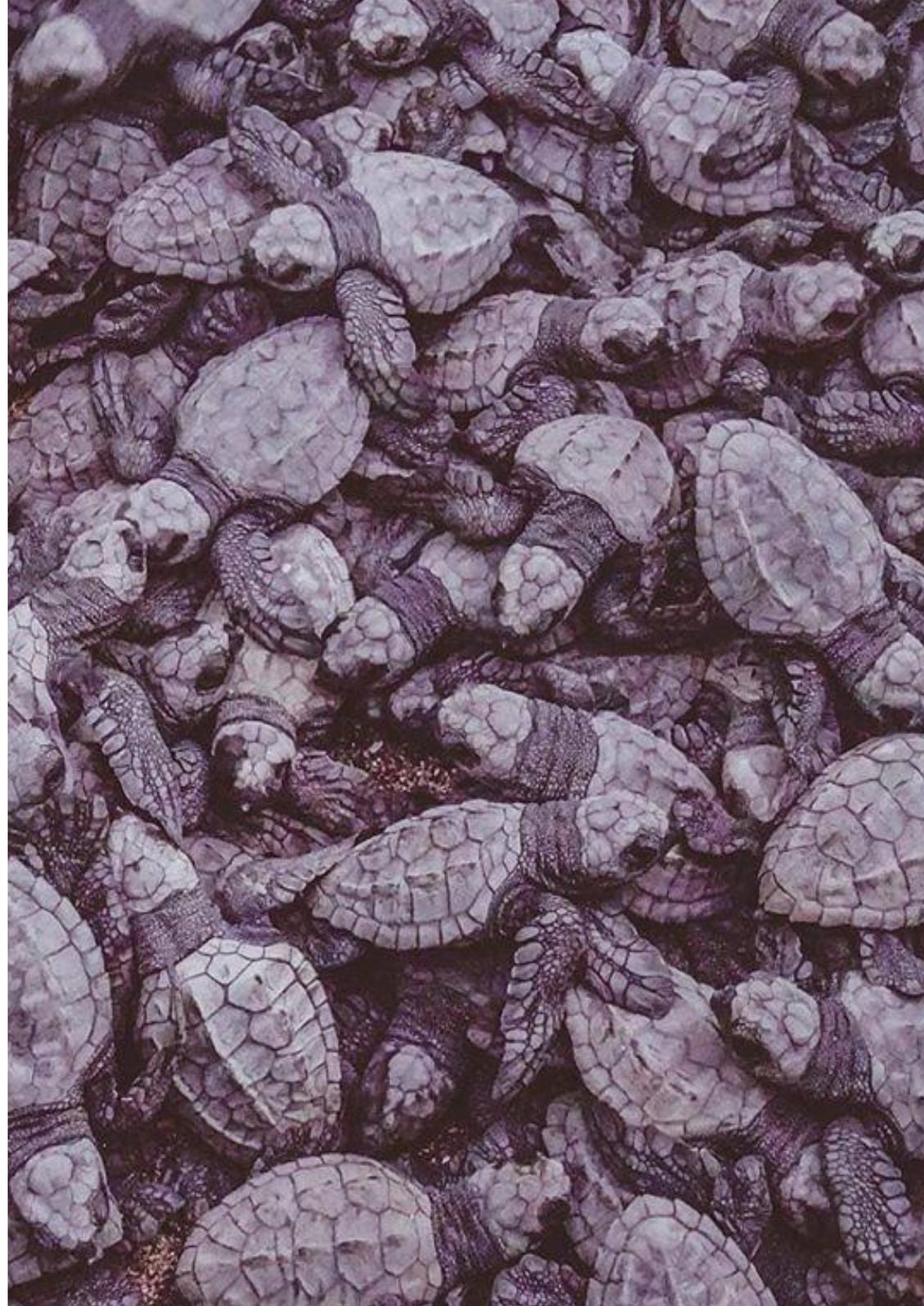
Las Tejedoras mission is to protect the ocean and create economic opportunities in the community of El Astillero. By setting an example of waste upcycling, our goal is also to educate.

We're a team of 17 artists and empowered women thriving to make an impact through our craft.

Las Tejedoras' mission is supported closely by the NGO Casa Congo, which enables us to run our own social enterprise and grow our impact at a global level.

You can join our mission too by purchasing and showcasing our art... help us alleviate poverty and protect our oceans!

“ ¡Una bolsa menos,
Una tortuga mas!



How we make our art

Step 1
Collecting



Step 2
Washing



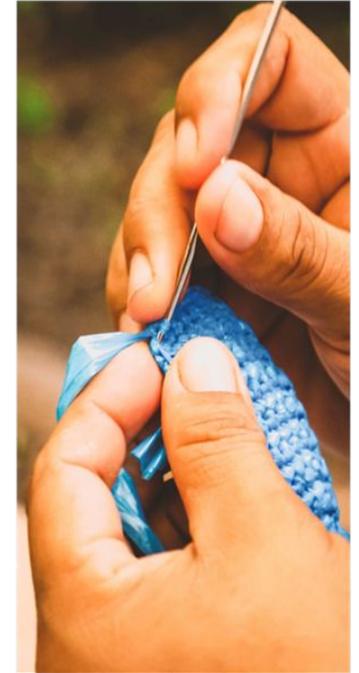
Step 3
Stripping



Step 4
Threading



Step 5
Weaving



Introducing our tapestries

Discover our collection!

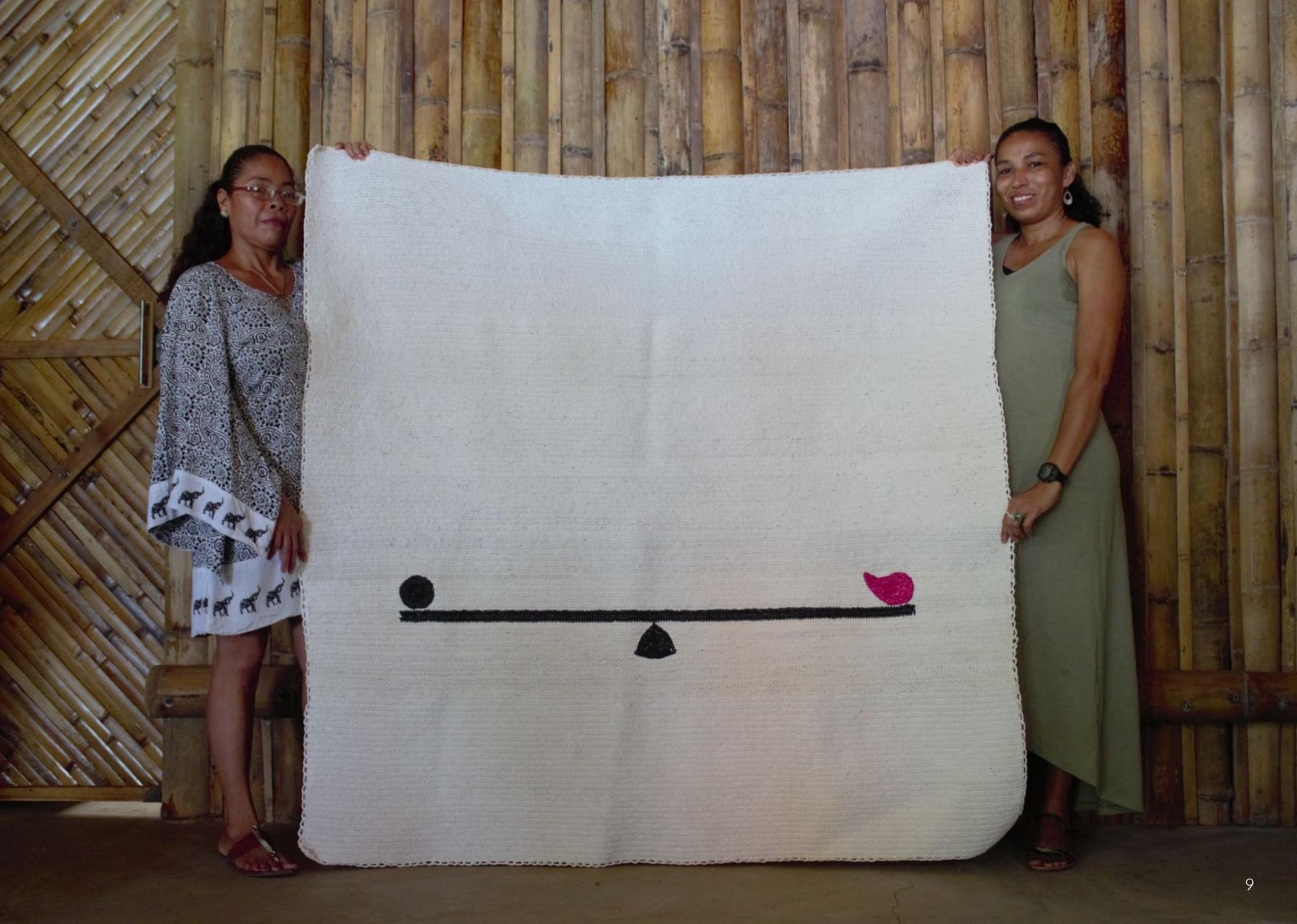
20 different models with unique stories, colours, patterns and sizes. Each tapestry ranges from 800 to 4000 recycled plastic bags.

Our tapestries were born from a spontaneous collaboration between European interior designers, Casa Congo and our 17 Tejedoras.

In 2021, the first ever Eco Alfombra was produced. It took 8 women 6 months to make and it was exhibited during Milan Design Week.

From there, more and more designs were developed as Las Tejedoras refined their craft to create cutting edge artworks for global clients.





#1 Big Ben



Big Ben

Number of plastic bags: 1500

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Adela Canales Chavez

Designer: Stuart Finnie

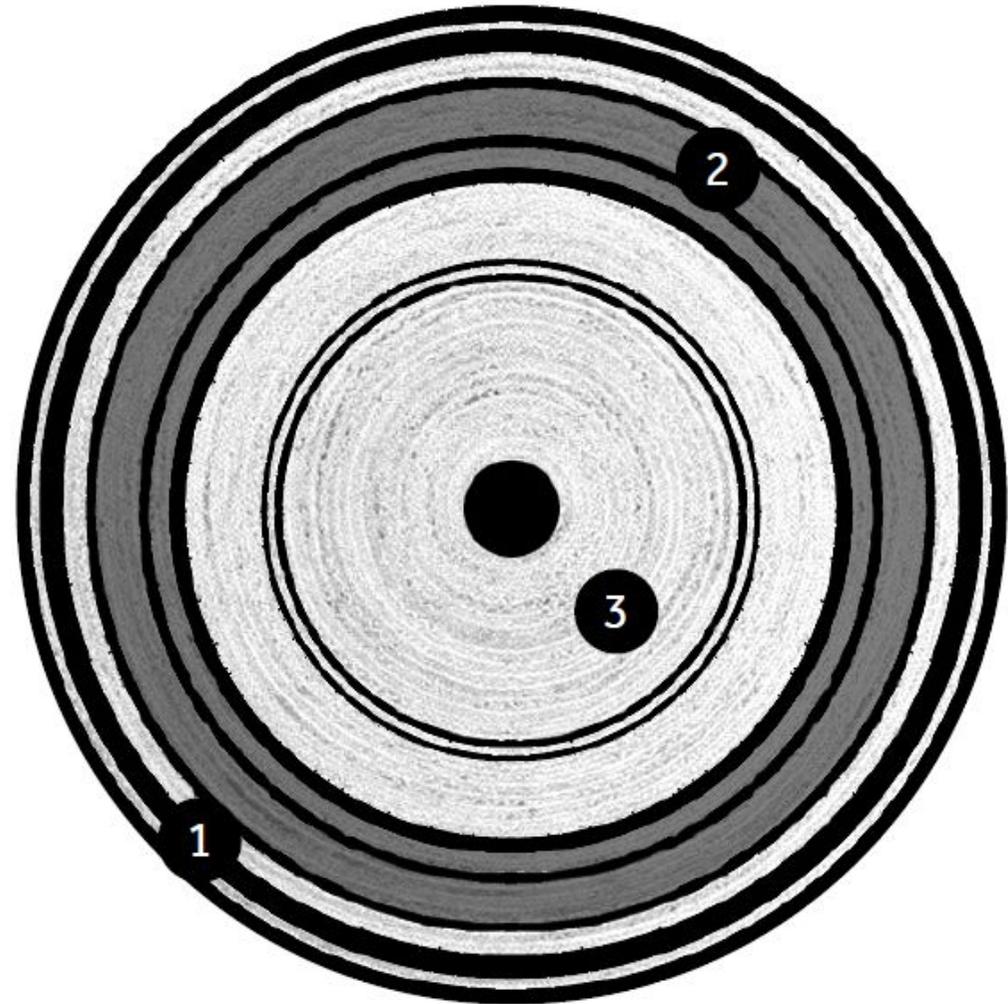


This design is inspired by London: a circular, regenerative city that never stops.

Taking the iconic Big Ben clock face as reference, the tapestry represents an individual moment in time.

As the lines start developing and becoming bolder across each concentric ring, the geometry comes to life.

Much like the city, it is always ticking and providing a story along the way.



#2 The Circle of Waste



The Circle of Waste

Number of plastic bags: 1500

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Fabiola de los Angeles Velasquez

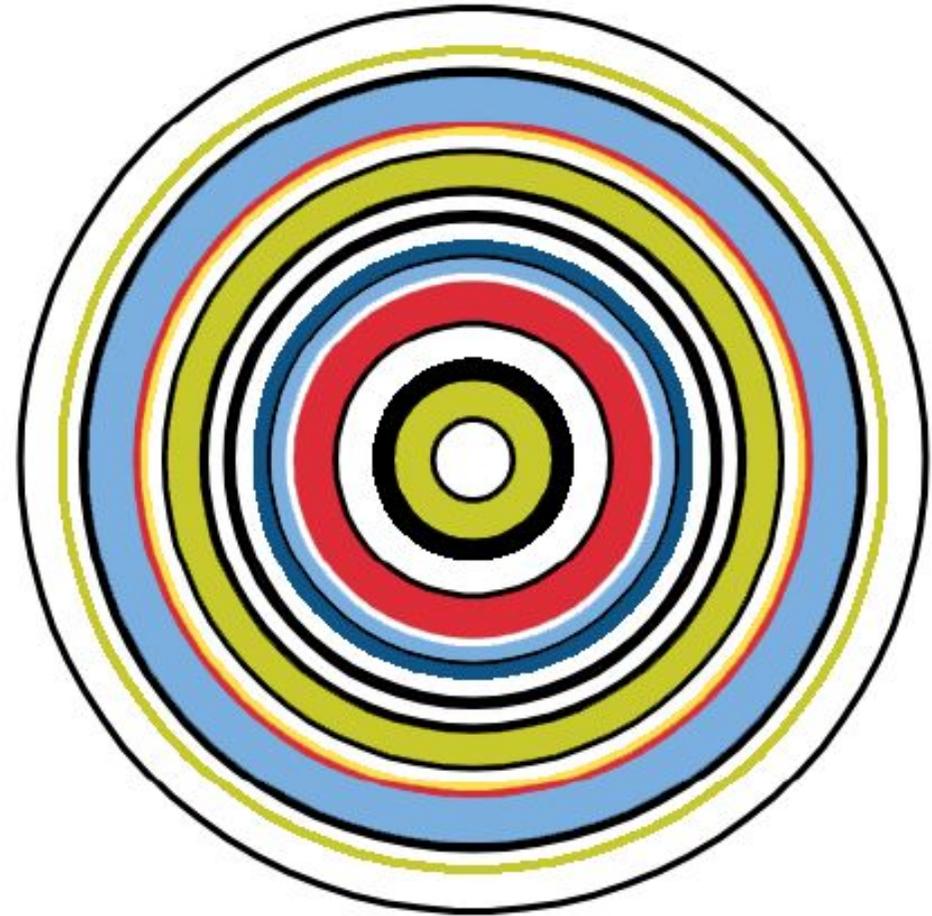
Designer: Nicholas Kaspareck



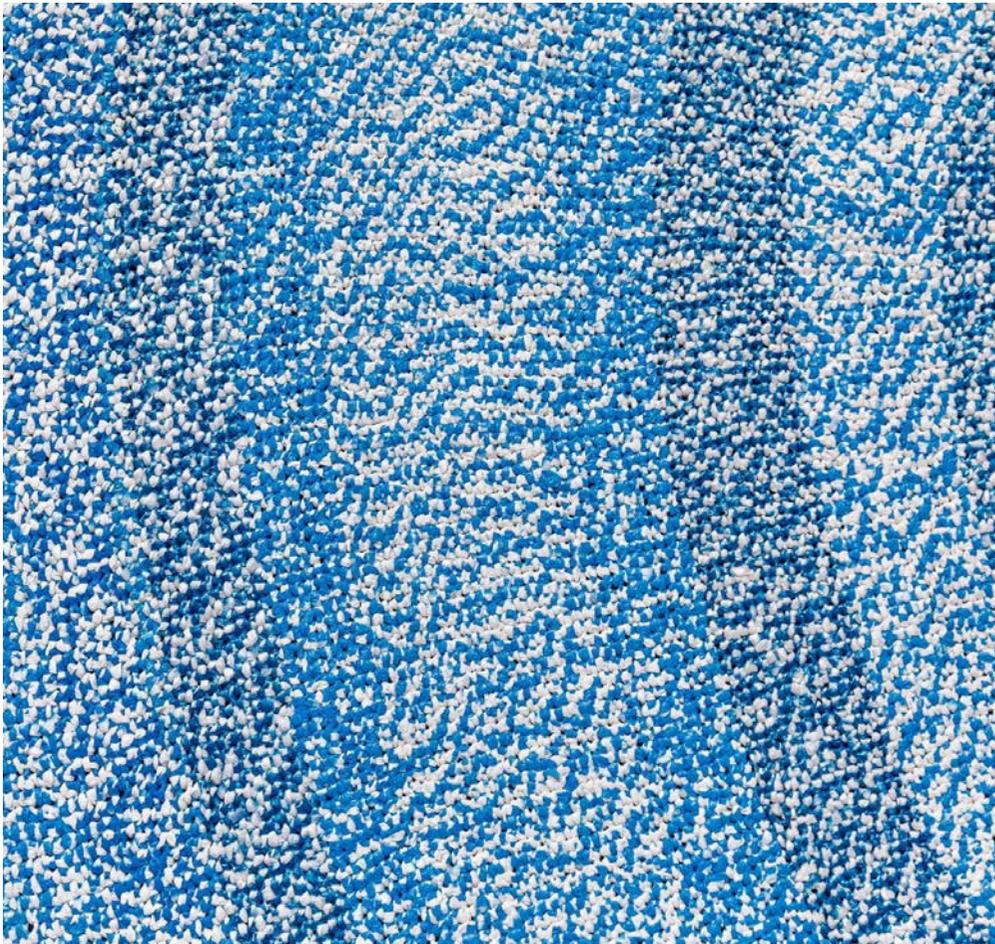
Born from a crazy idea for a Christmas present for a dear friend of Nicholas Kaspareck, this tapestry is the first design to ever be produced by Las Tejedoras.

It uses random combinations of discarded plastic bags to create concentric rings that highlight how waste can be transformed into beauty.

	1. Black/ Negro		5. Light Blue/ Azul Claro
	2. Orange/ Naranja		6. Red/ Rojo
	3. Yellow/ Amarillo		7. White/ Blanco
	4. Dark Blue/ Azul Oscuro		7. Green/ Verde



#3 Delft Blauw



Delft Blauw

Number of plastic bags: 1500

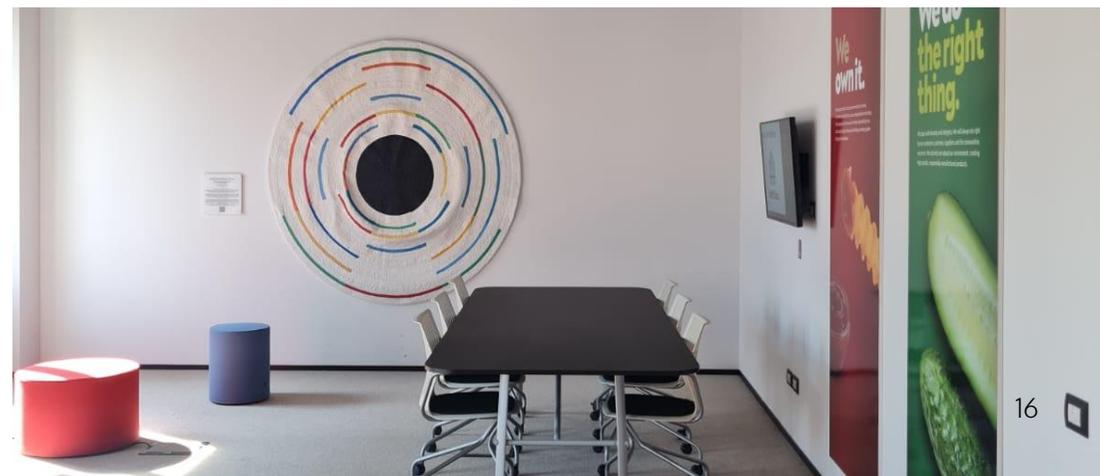
Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Gloria de los Angeles Velasquez

Designer: Antonia Walmsley



#4 Everyone is welcome at our table



Everyone is welcome at our table

Number of plastic bags: 1500

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Adela Canales Chavez

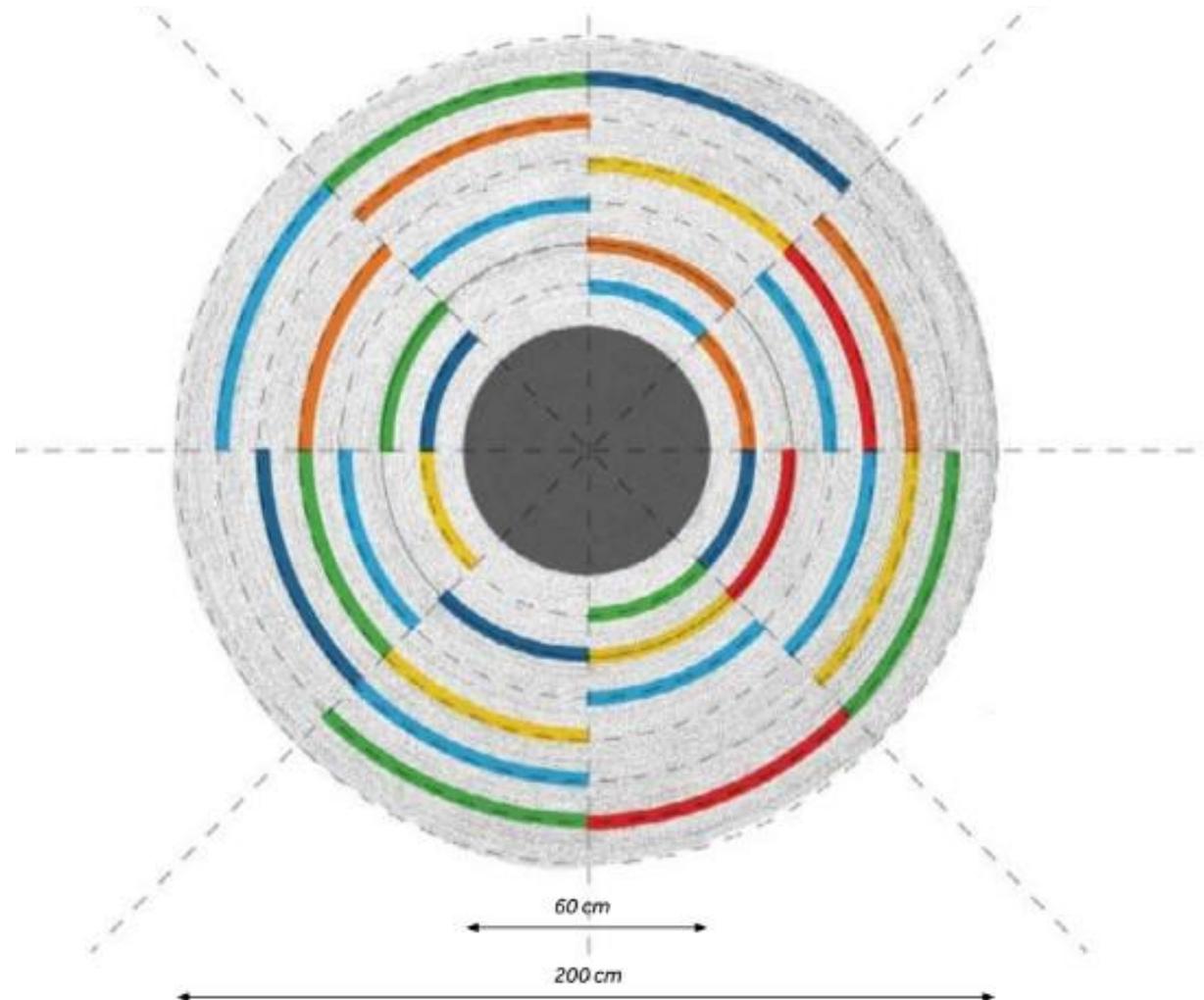
Designer: Simone Pietroforte

- White 
- Grey 
- Green 
- Blue 
- Yellow 
- Red 
- Orange 

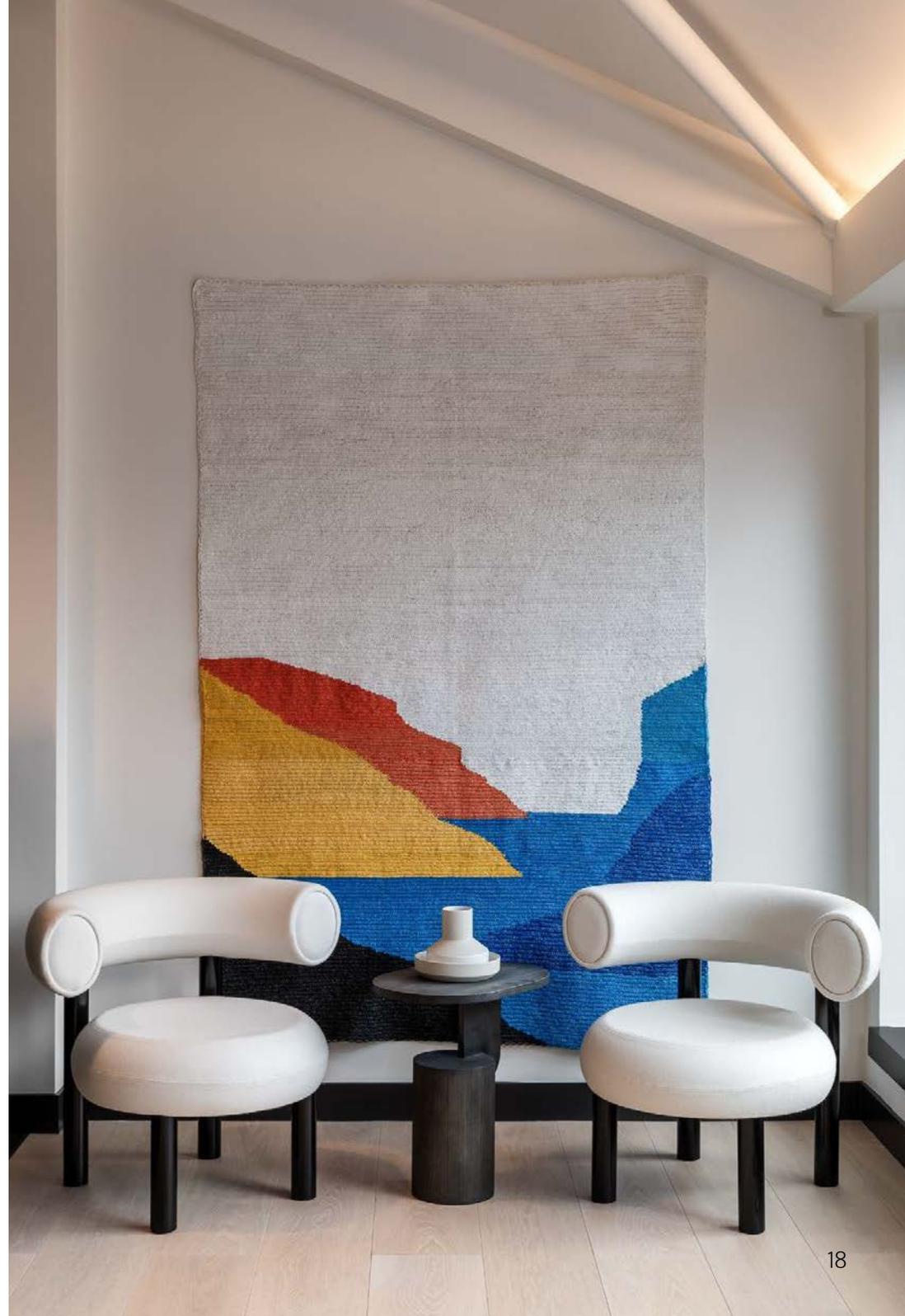


The aim of our design is to showcase the diversity of colours coexisting in a concentric and imperfect pattern. Everyone in on our community is welcome at our table and has a voice.

This tapestry was commissioned for the first time by Kraft Heinz in 2022 as part of their DEIB strategy for their corporate HQ in Milan, Italy. It was also featured in 2023 at Casa Las Glorias boutique luxury hotel in Careyes, Mexico.



#5 Environment



Environment

Number of plastic bags: 1650

Dimensions: 138 x 200 cm

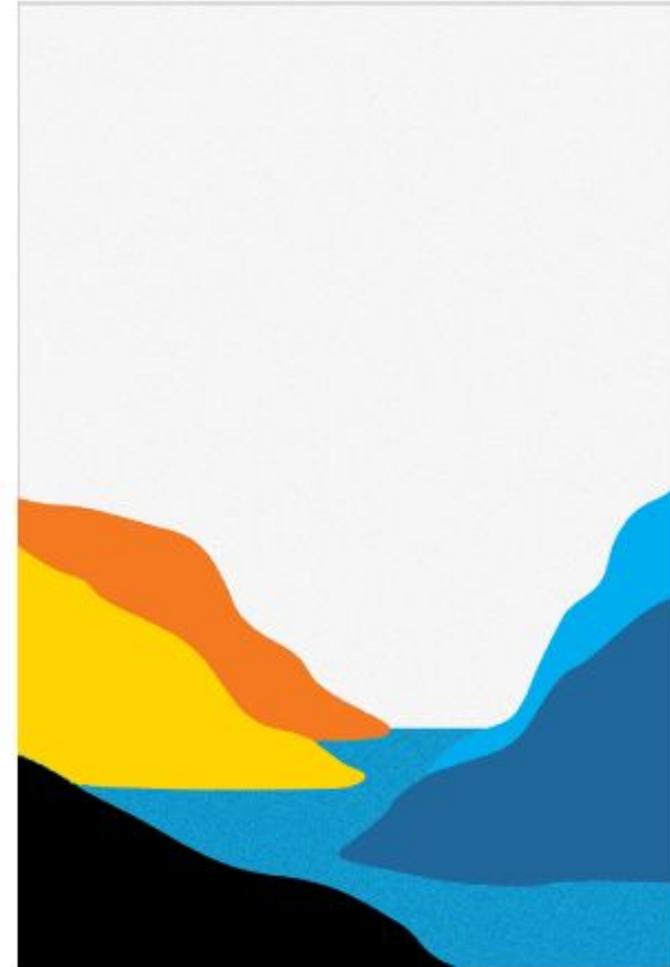
Lead Tejedora: Yerlis Berroteran

Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz

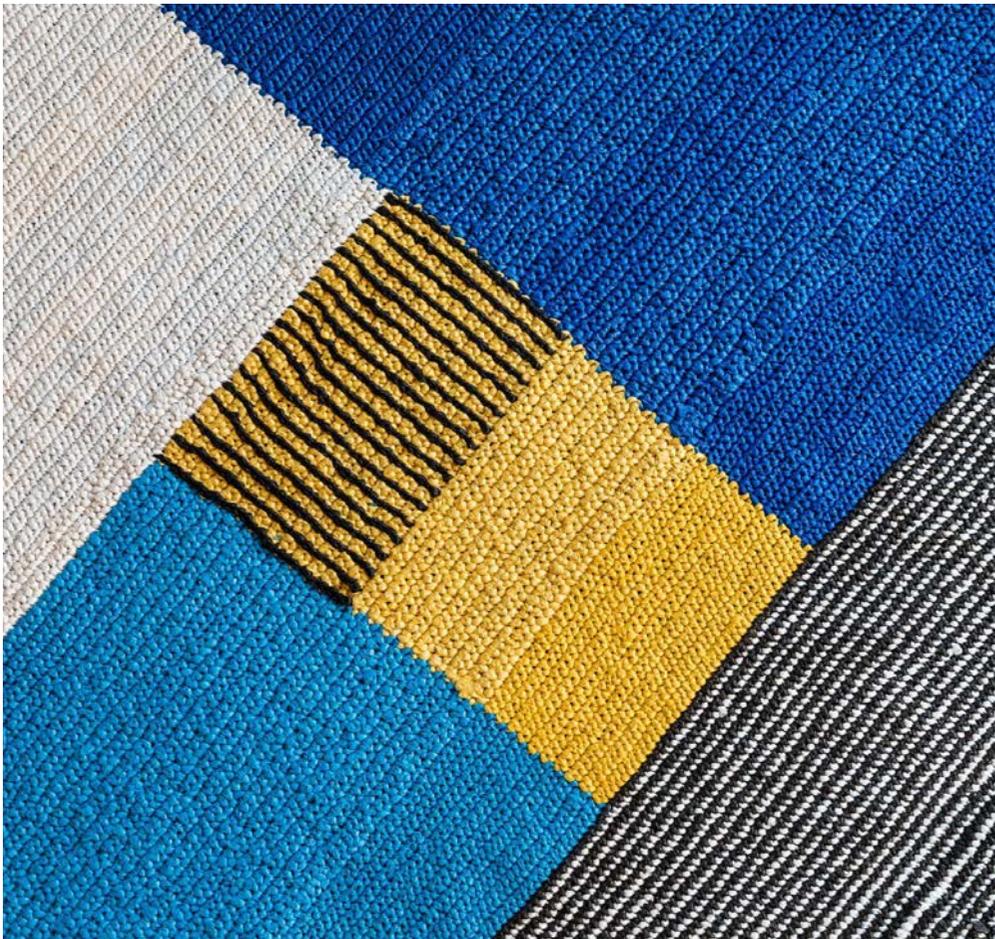


Inspired by a landscape of mountains and sea, this tapestry uses strong colours to define geometries and give users a perspective on the importance of environmental conservation.

We suggest to use this piece especially as a wall hung artwork.



#6 The Divine Proportion



The Divine Proportion

Number of plastic bags: 2400

Dimensions: 155cm x 250cm

Lead Tejedora: Anica Cruz

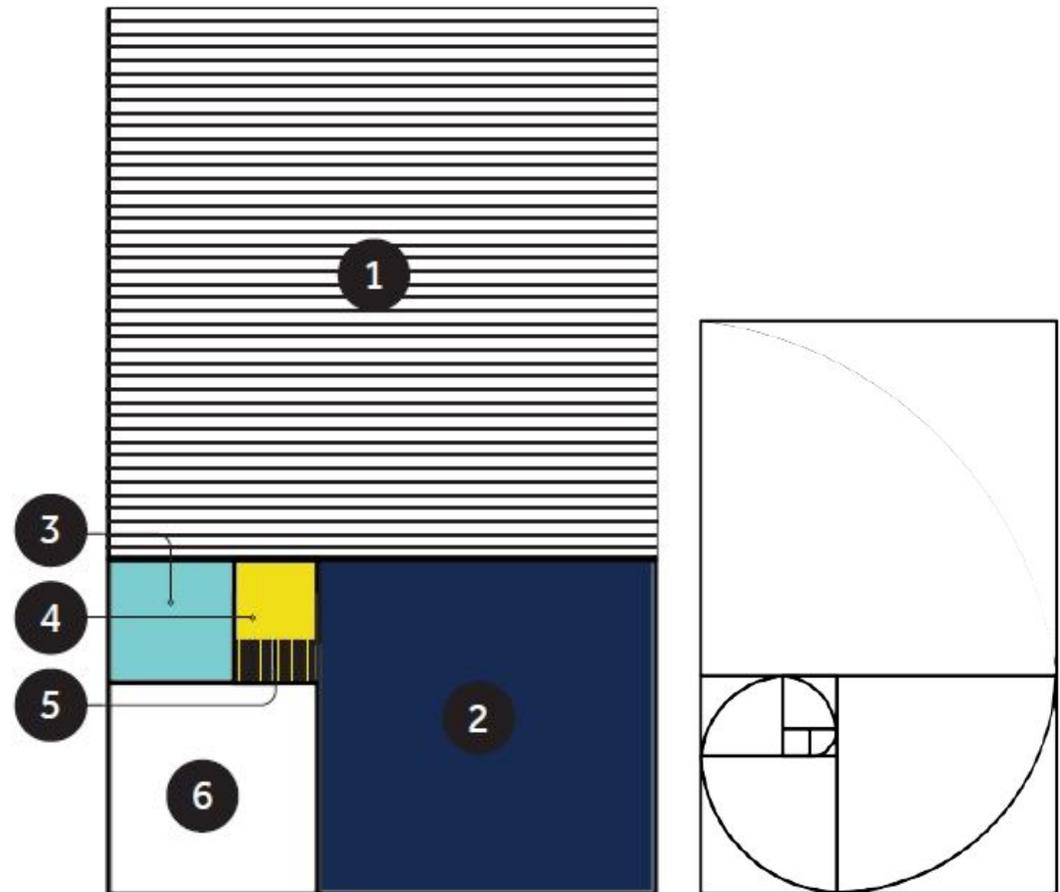
Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz



The golden ratio (symbol is the Greek letter "phi") is a special number approximately equal to 1.618. It appears many times in geometry, art, architecture and other areas.

"Beauty is produced by the pleasing appearance and good taste of the whole, and by the dimensions of all the parts being duly proportioned to each other."

- Vitruvius



#7 Horizon



Horizon

Number of plastic bags: 2550

Dimensions: 170cm x 250cm

Lead Tejedora: Anielka Aguirre

Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz

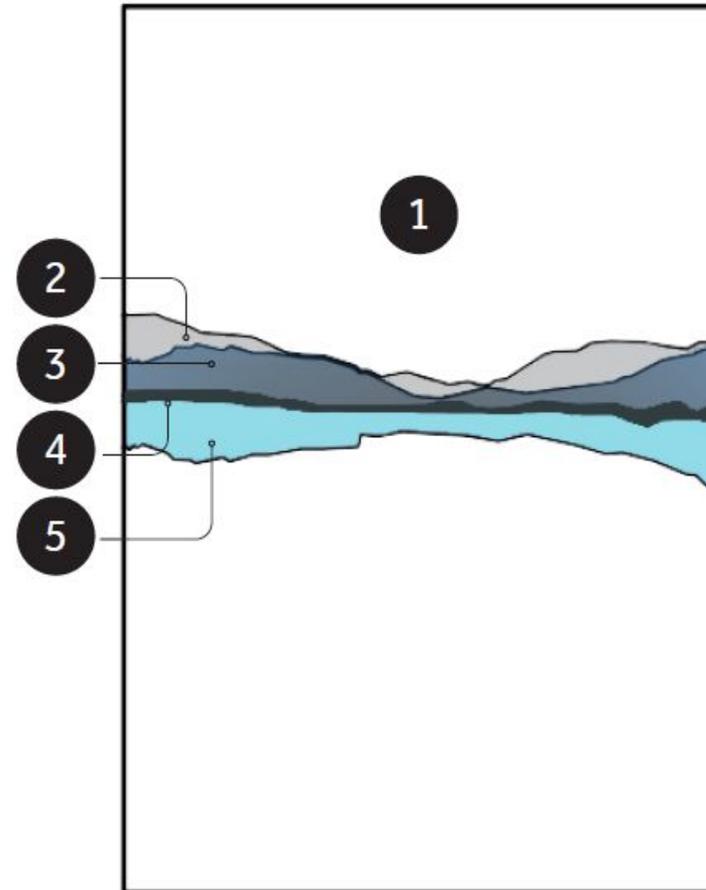


The horizon is the line that separates the Earth from the sky. This tapestry is inspired by Nicaragua's natural landscape.

Some of the best places to see the unobstructed horizon are beaches, where the ocean meets the sky in an uninterrupted line.

"The horizon underlines the infinity"

Victor Hugo



#8 Nature Speaks



Nature Speaks

Number of plastic bags: 2550

Dimensions: 170cm x 250cm

Lead Tejedora: Claudia Ortiz

Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz

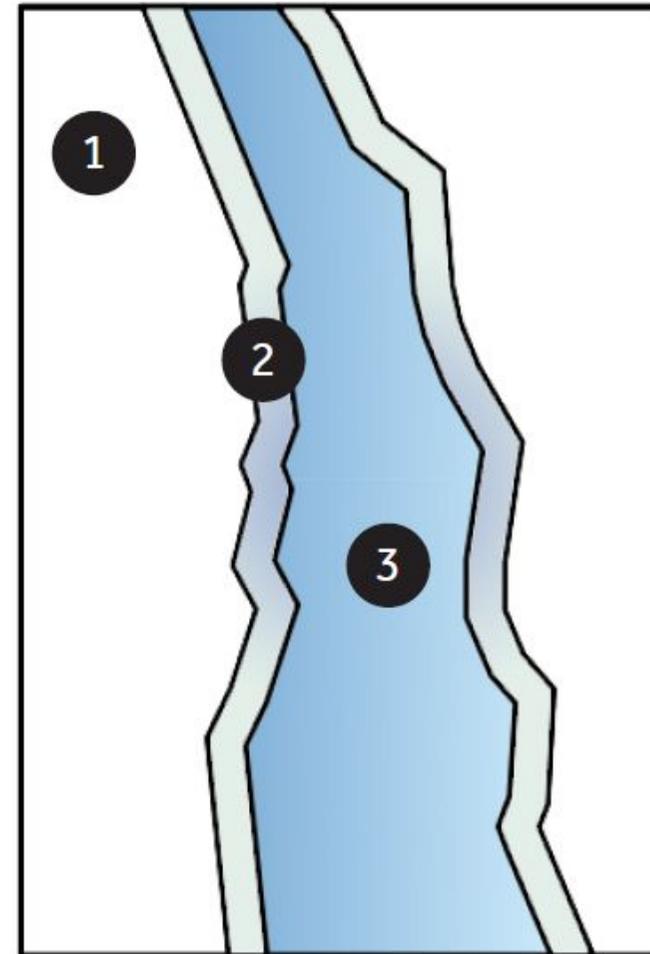


Climate change is a fact and it's consequences for the development of our planet.

Nature Speaks is an statement for the impact we, as humans, are having in this planet. This piece of art reflects realities such as the melting of the poles and Andean glaciers.

In April 2023, this tapestry won the Sustainable Design Collective (SDC) prize.

"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home"
Gary Sherman Snyder



#9 Matterhorn



Matterhorn

Number of plastic bags: 2420

Dimensions: 144cm x 280cm

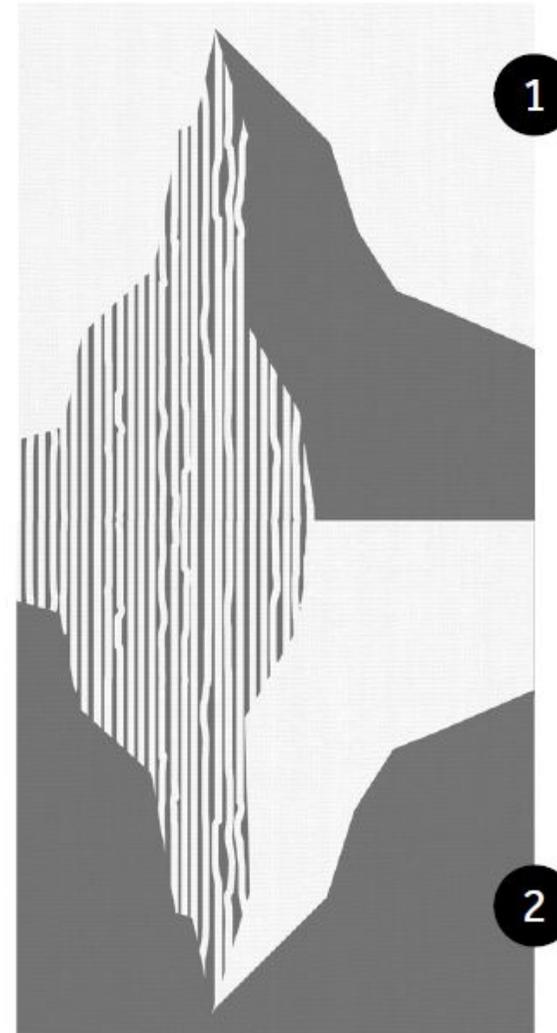
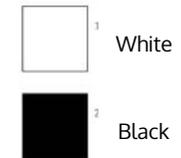
Lead Tejedora: Yadira del Socorro

Designer: Francois Lourme



The Matterhorn is the most famous mountain in the Alps and an enduring symbol of the natural beauty of Switzerland. Standing at 4,478 meters tall, it is defined by its neatly symmetrical triangular form.

Affectionately called Berg der Berge (mountain of mountains) it has inspired countless alpinists, naturalists, artists and visitors over the centuries.



#11 Kintsugi V1



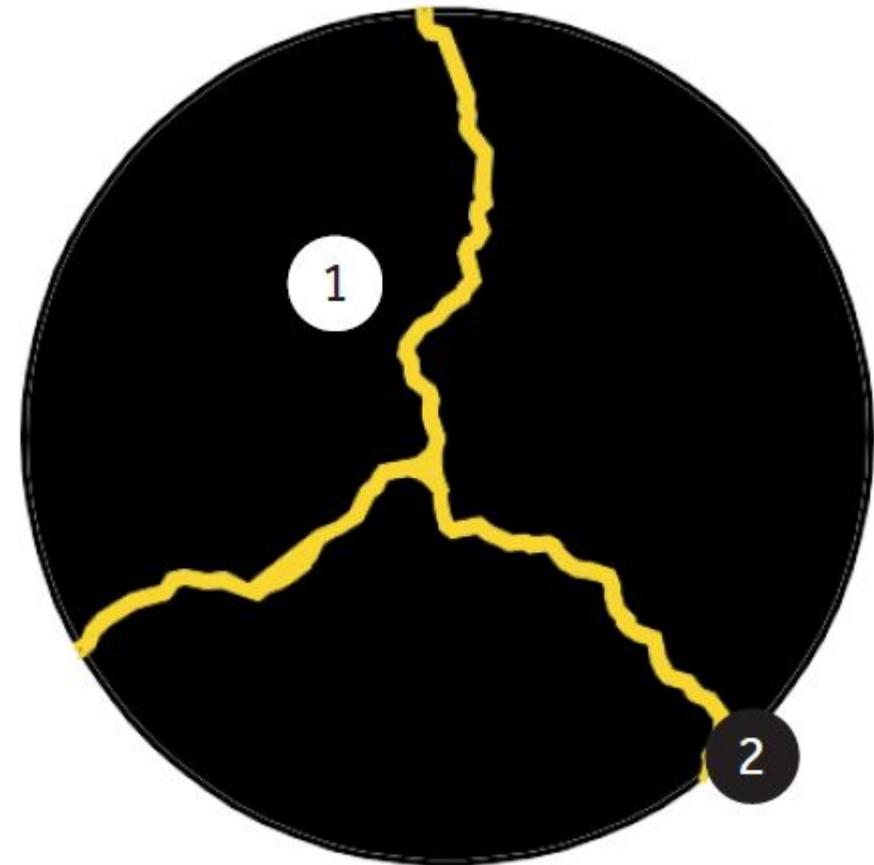
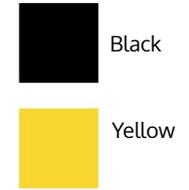
Kintsugi (V1)

Number of plastic bags: 1885

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Fabiola de los Angeles Velasquez

Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz



The art of fixing the broken with gold.
As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

There is beauty in broken things, in broken people ... as our scars are part of who we are.

"Heal your life, repair the cracks and embrace imperfection...The Japanese way"

#10 Kintsugi V2



Kintsugi (V2)

Number of plastic bags: 2400

Dimensions: 155cm x 250cm

Lead Tejedora: Arelys Martinez

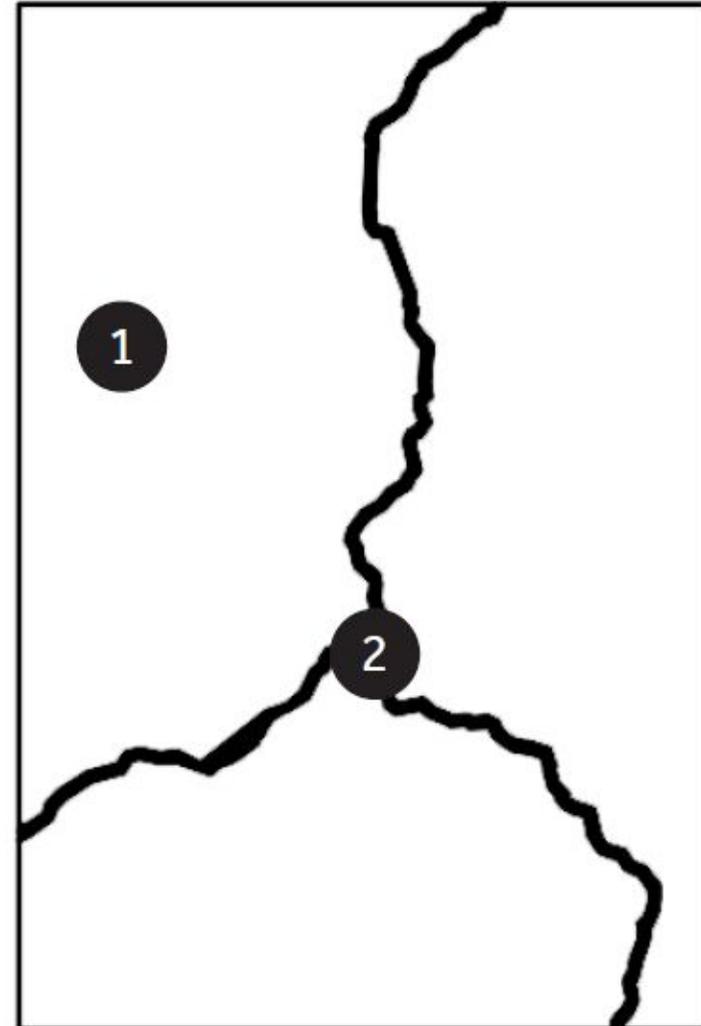
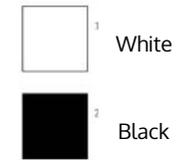
Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz



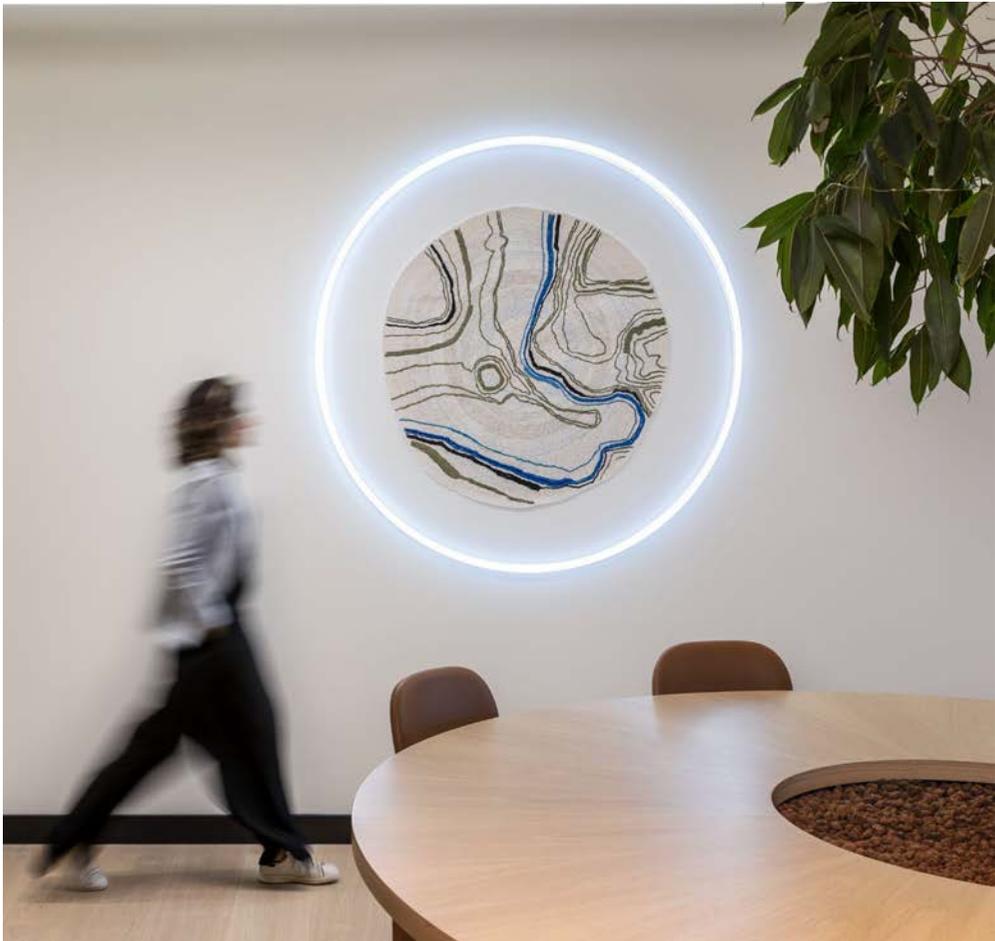
The art of fixing the broken with gold.
As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

There is beauty in broken things, in broken people ... as our scars are part of who we are.

"Heal your life, repair the cracks and embrace imperfection...The Japanese way"



#12 La Seine



La Seine

Number of plastic bags: 500

Dimensions: 1 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Suyen Chavez Cortez

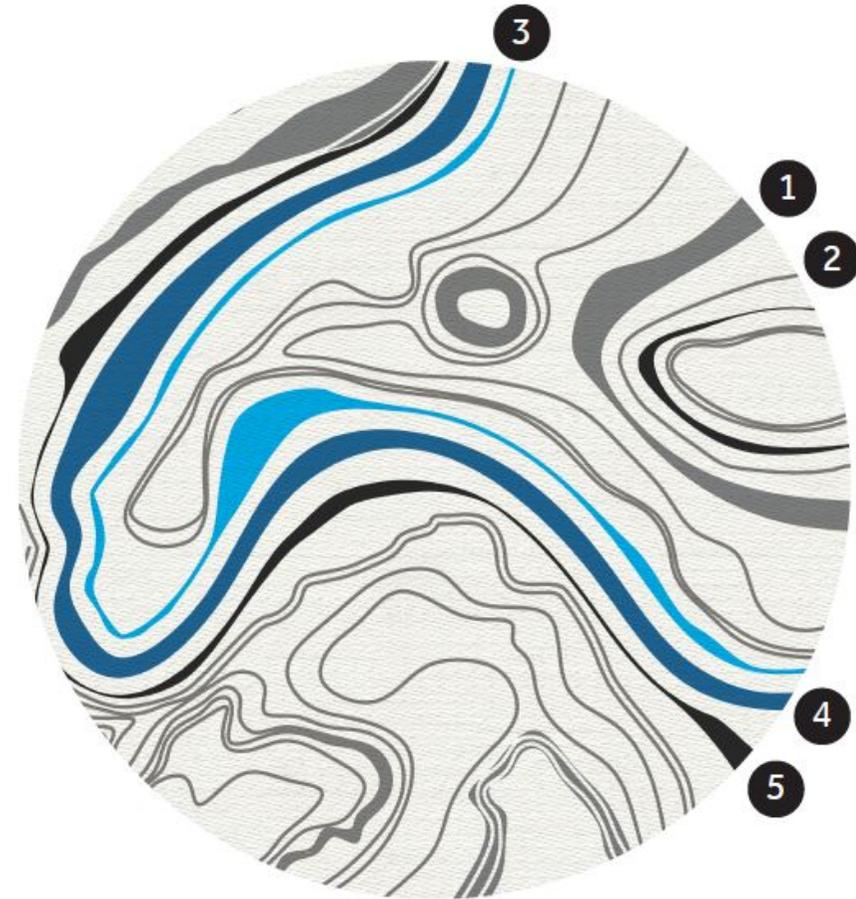
Designer: Mathilde Lucas



This tapestry is inspired by the Seine River, an iconic natural element of the Parisien landscape and history.

*She goes to the sea
Passing through Paris...
And... walks between the quays
In her beautiful green dress
And her golden lights.*

–Jacques Prévert, “Chanson de la Seine”



#13 Blu



Blue

Number of plastic bags: 2400

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Senelia del Socorro

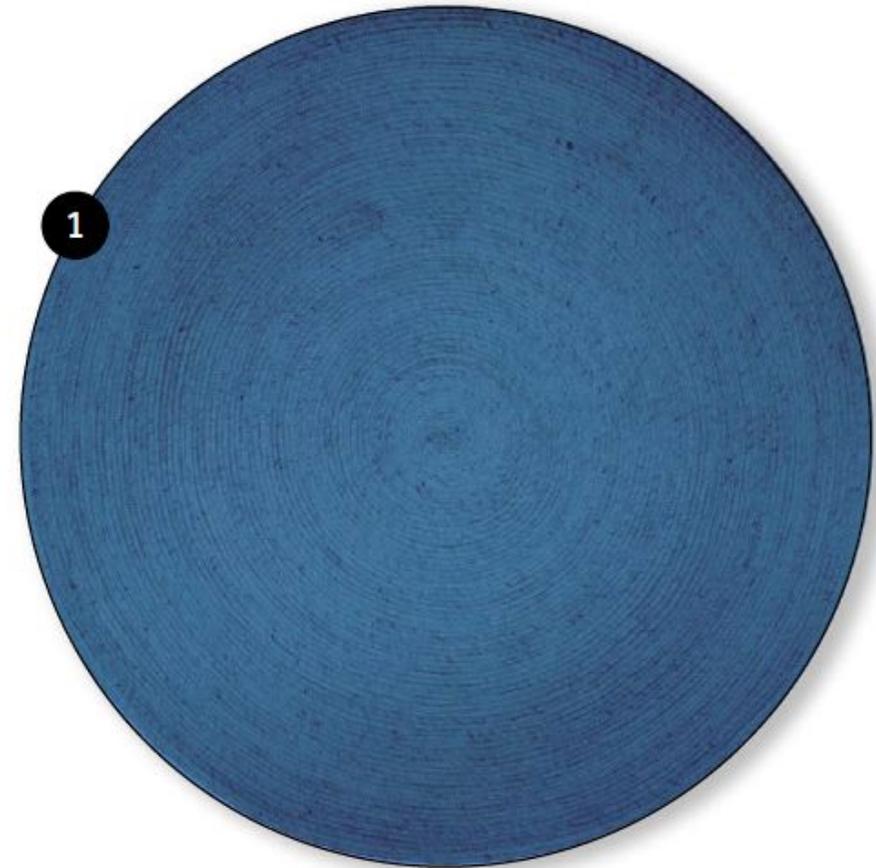
Designer: Elena Maria Caregnato



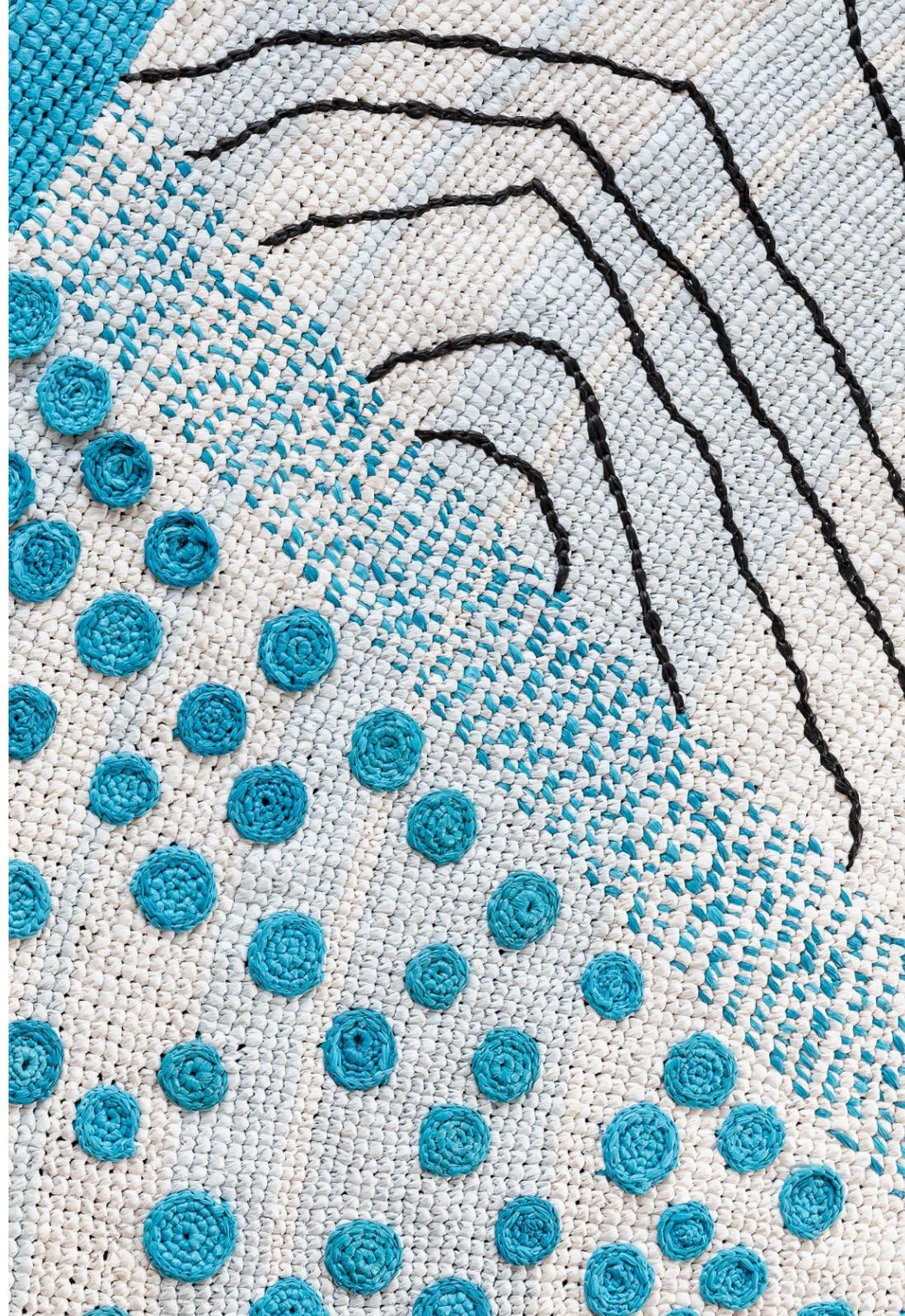
Blue like the ocean, blue like the sky.
This tapestry is our most simple design, yet one of the most beautiful. The many random shades of blue recycled plastic bags create an optical effect that highlights the beauty and imperfection of nature.



Different shades of blue



#14 Landscape



Landscape

Number of plastic bags: 1900

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

Lead Tejedora: Gloria de la Cruz Velasquez

Designer: Shauna Fitzpatrick



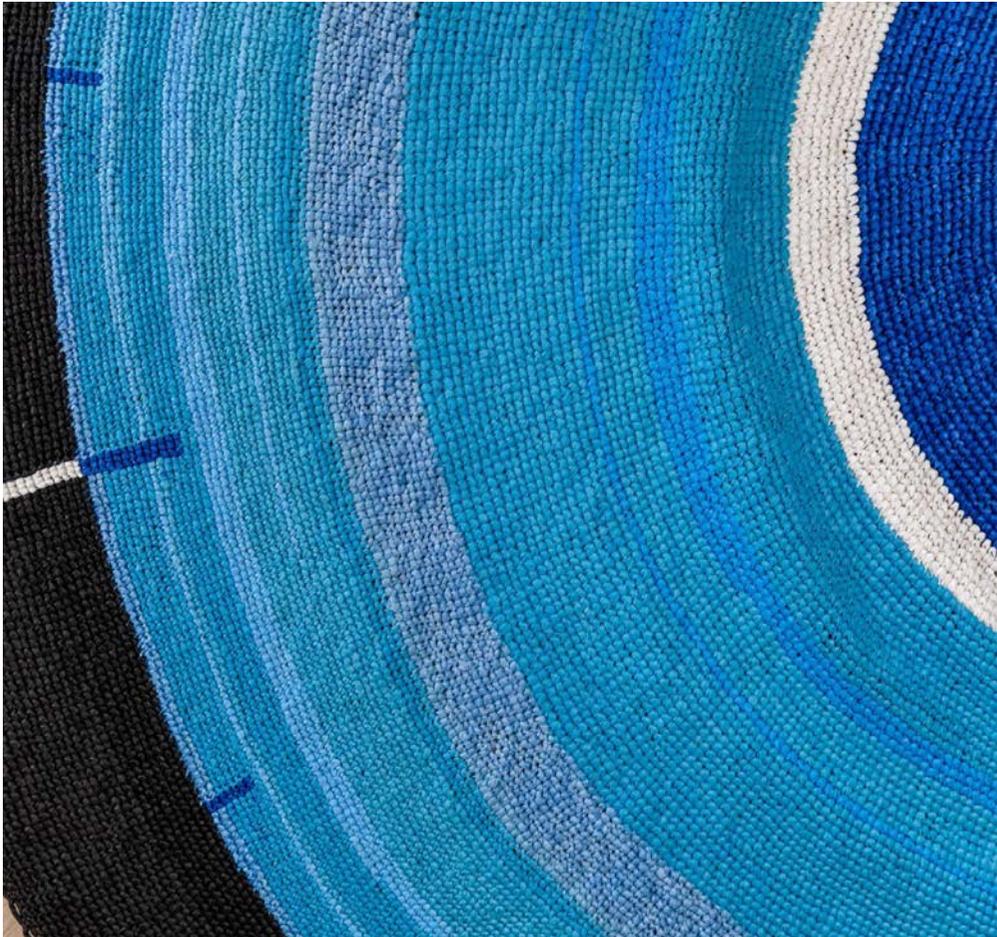
Nature is the world's greatest artist.

We often seek to create beauty from things, whilst this artworks seeks to highlight the beauty in things. From oceans, to rivers to mountains, the world is made out of complex layers that blend together in a harmonious geometry.

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you"

Frank Lloyd Wright

#15 Speed



Speed

Number of plastic bags: 1885

Dimensions: 2 meter diameter

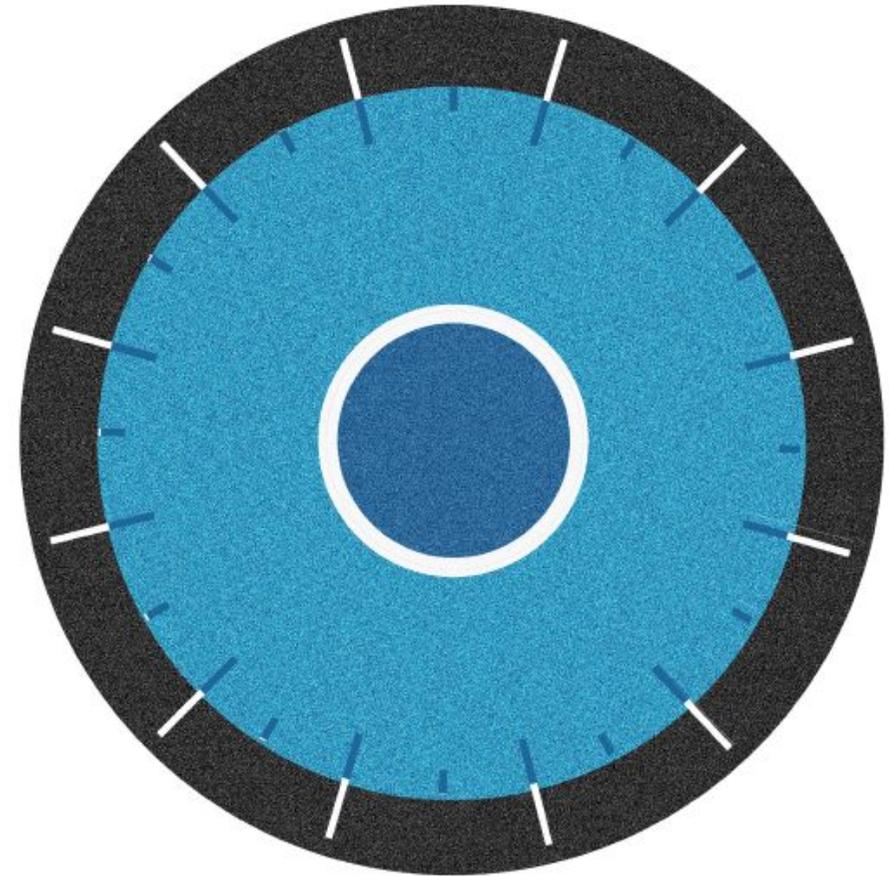
Lead Tejedora: Reyna Canales

Designer: Andrea Wigett



We believe in the power of creating a world with fewer obstacles and limits, where people have the freedom to build a better life and pursue their dreams. To shorten the distance between where you are and where you want to go.

To connect people down the road and over the horizon — to discover possibilities, and enjoy the thrill, adventure and pride of moving freely.



#16 Zoom



Zoom

Number of plastic bags: 2400

Dimensions: 155cm x 250cm

Lead Tejedora: Anielka Aguirre

Designer: Peta Heys

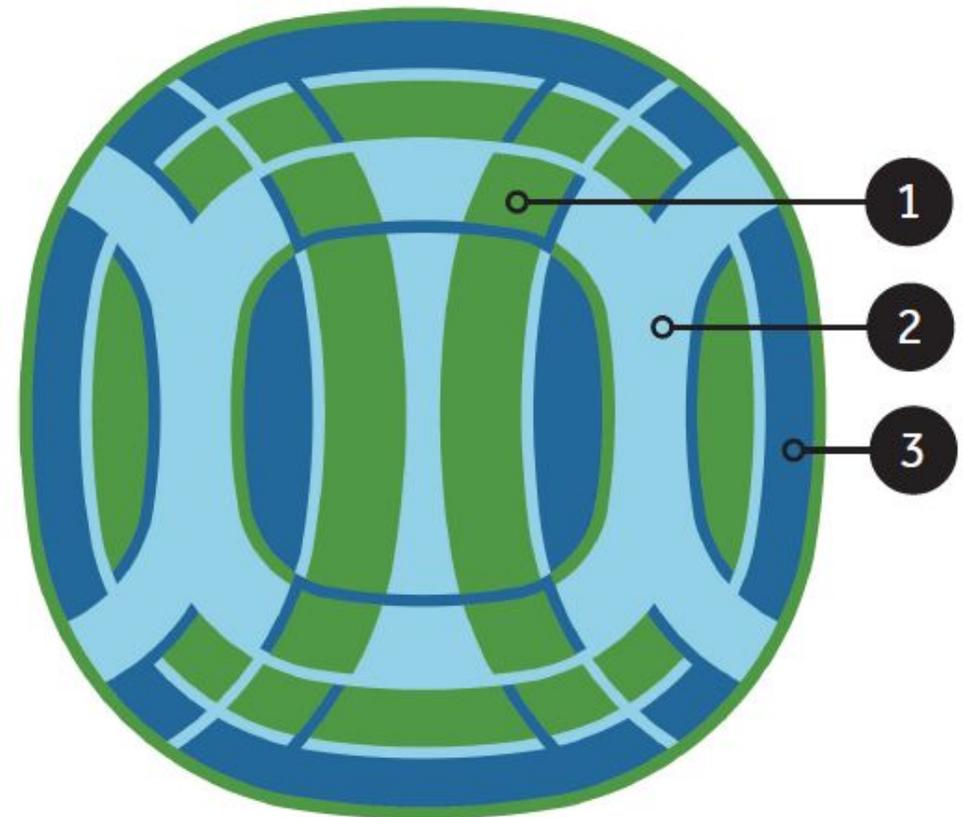


This tapestry is our only artwork shaped as a square with rounded edges.

The strong colours and geometries are inspired by the concept of dynamism and quick adjustment of a camera lens, which allows us to focus on details or zoom out to see the big picture.

"Anybody can be a great photographer if they zoom into what they love"

David Bailey



#17 Art of Kindness



Art of Kindness

Number of plastic bags: 900

Dimensions: 1 meter x 1 meter

Lead Tejedora: Maria Isabel Espinoza

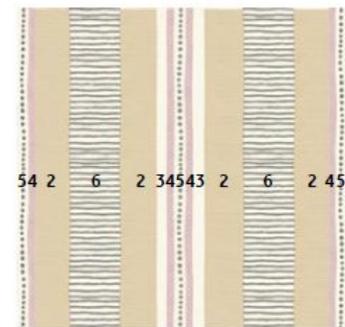
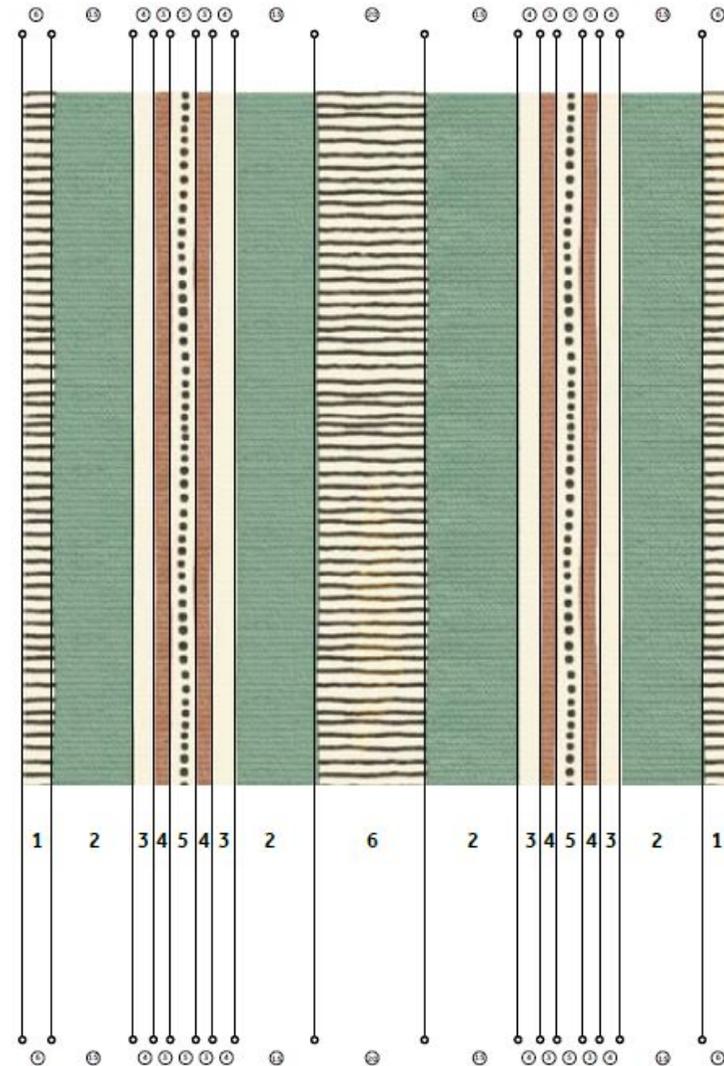
Designer: Alice Bassi



Inspired by nature and the freedom of travelers, this design plays on colour and pattern sequences, as an immersive trip inside indigenous culture.

This tapestry comes best in pairs designed with symbiotic sequences and each artwork can be produced as a 90cm square or a 180cm square.

- Cold White 
- Orange 
- Green 
- Black 



#18 Tatami



Tatami

Number of plastic bags: 1045

Dimensions: 132 cm x 132 cm

Lead Tejedora: Adela Canales Chavez

Designer: Carmen Malo Sanz



Fitting in naturally with Zen-influenced design elements of minimalism, tatami are an essential part of every Japanese room.

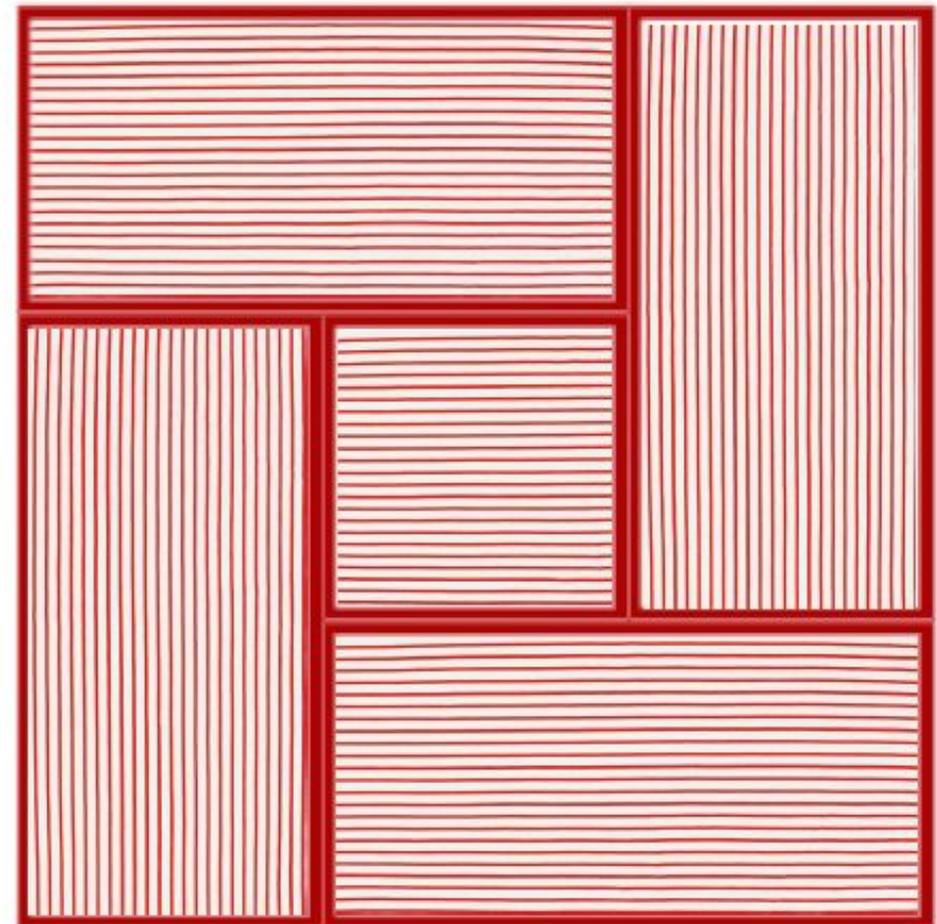
This artwork can be produced with alternative colours to the red lines, for example blue or black.



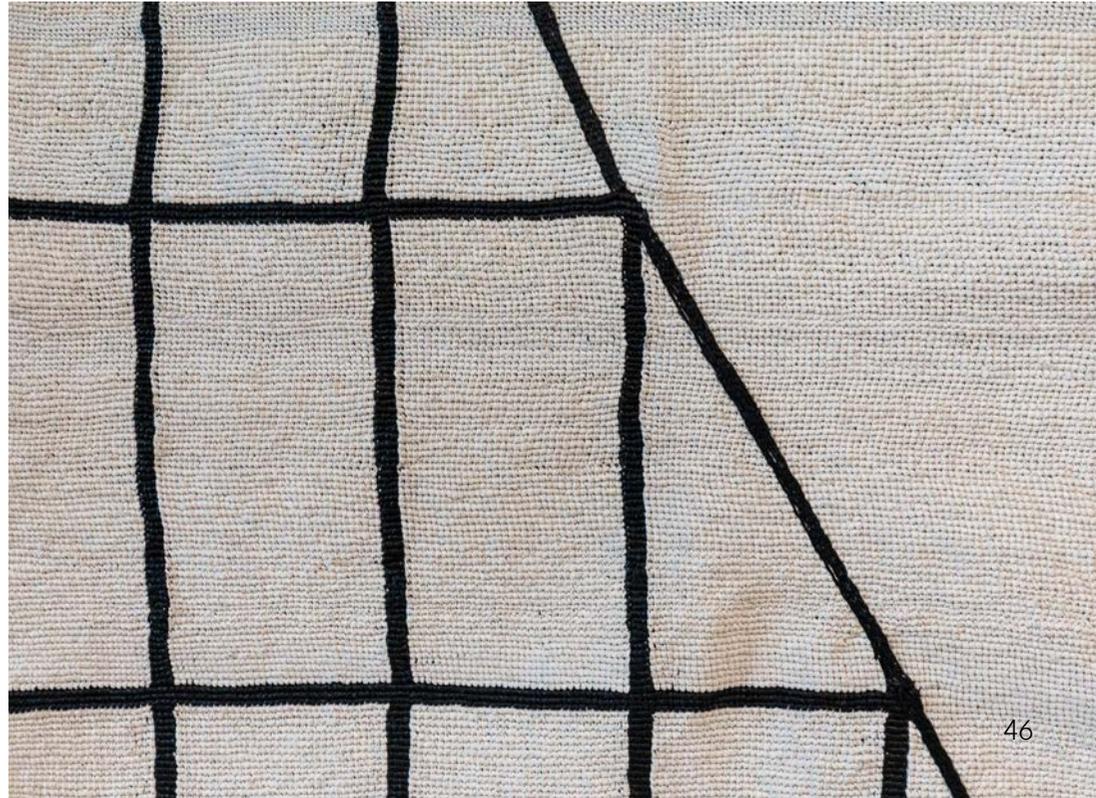
1. Dual White & Red/ Mezcla de Blanco & Rojo



2. RED/ Rojo



#19 The Shard



The Shard

Number of plastic bags: 600

Dimensions: 1 meter x 1 meter

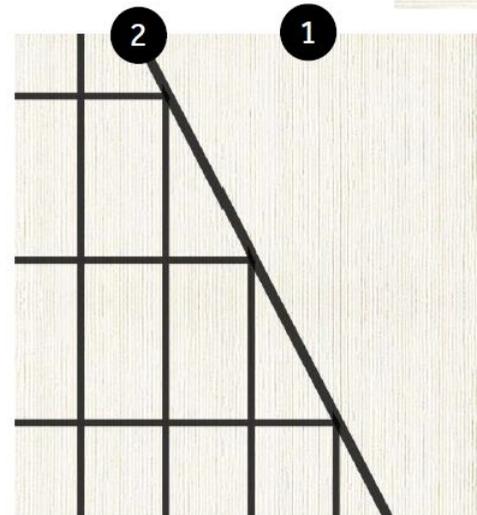
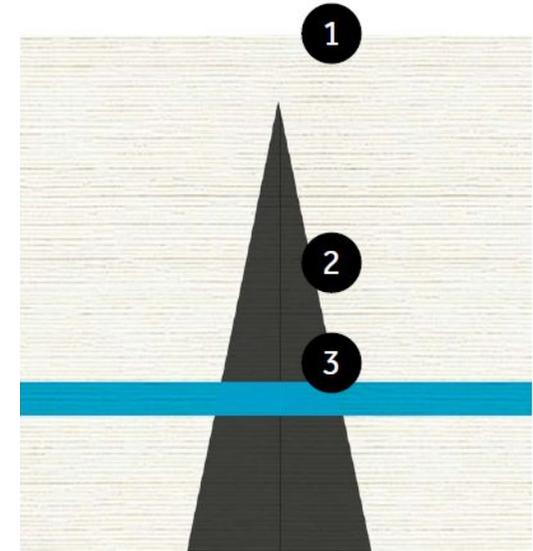
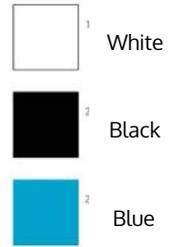
Lead Tejedora: Caris de Los Angeles Traña

Designer: Great Kriovaitė

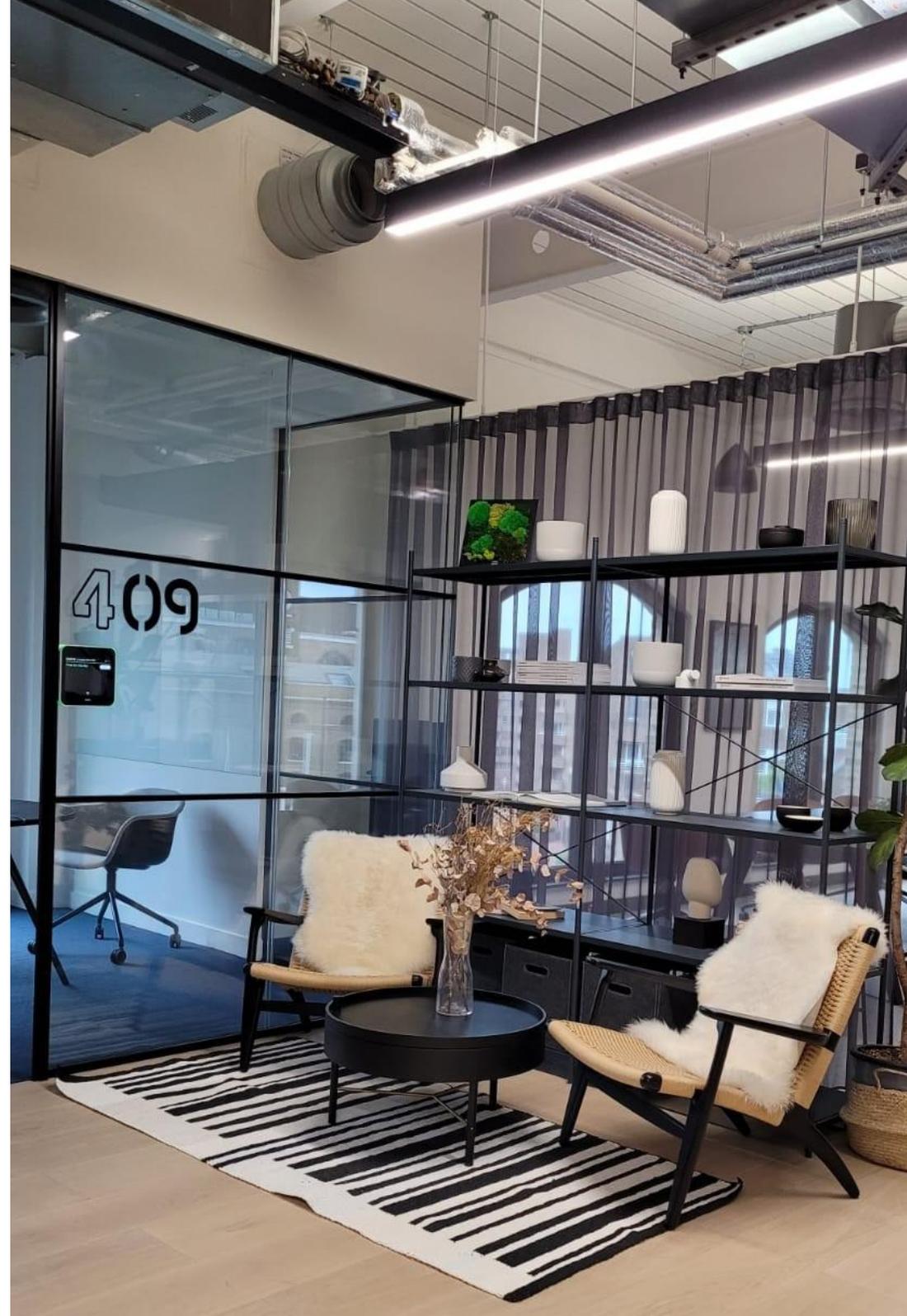


The Shard is a masterpiece in London's skyline. At daytime or at night it's always the most bright.

The architectural geometry of this building is our inspiration for this pair of tapestries, which can come in different sizes. Due to the acute angles, this is one of our most complex artworks to produce.



#20 Bar Code



Bar Code

Number of plastic bags: 600

Dimensions: 1 meter x 1 meter

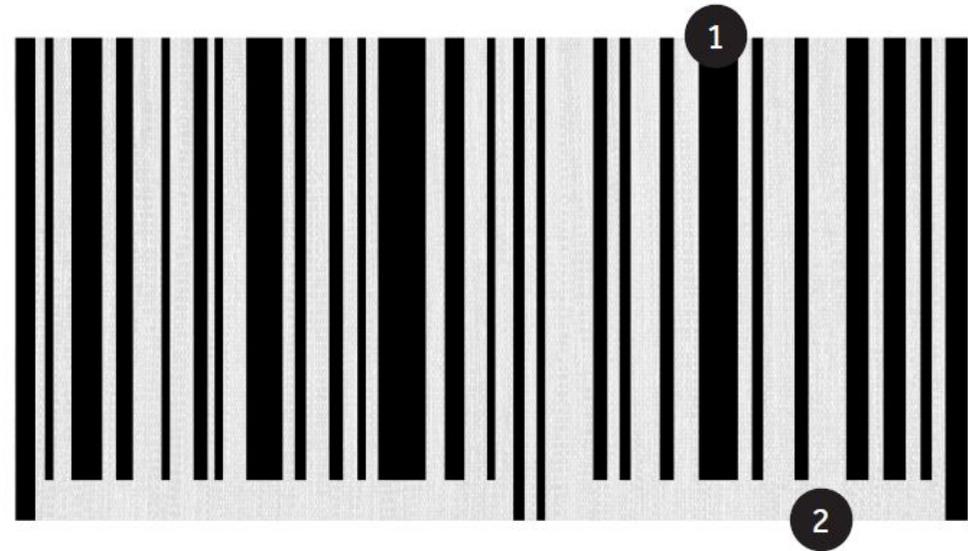
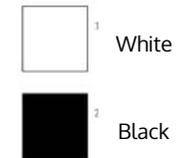
Lead Tejedora: Sandra Maria Berroterran

Designer: Rebecca Fielding



The barcode is one of the oldest examples of representing data in a machine-readable format. An object that is ingrained in our lives, on everyday commodities, often appearing mundane and invisible. Each barcode is unique to the object that it represents. Similar to the artworks created by Las Tejedoras, each is a unique piece.

The tapestry design is a celebration of the barcode, enlarged and featuring a series of parallel lines with varying spacing and widths. It is an homage to it's past, bringing the forgotten to the forefront.



Meet the collective!





Adela
Canales



Arelis
Hernandez



Anica Yesca
Cruz



Anielka
Aguirre



Caris de los
Angeles



Claudia Ortiz
Velázquez



Fabiola de
los Angeles



Gloria de los
Angeles



Gloria de la
Cruz



Maria Isabel
Villagra



Reyna
Canales



Sandra
Berroteran



Senelia Varga



Suyen
Chavez



Yamilet
Obando



Yadira del
Socorro



Yerling del
Carmen Traña

Awards

From Nicaragua... to the world!

Our award winning tapestries have been exhibited in prestigious venues around the world.

2021: Finalist @ Rossana Orlandi Guiltless Plastic Exhibition in Museo Leonardo da Vinci.

2021: Exhibited at Doha Guiltless Plastic Expo.

2022: Milan Design Week

2022: Great Place to Work Gala, Venice

2023: Winner of Sustainable Design Collective Prize, London

2023: Exhibited at PAC Museum in Milan.





Our Funding Model

Empowering women and alleviating poverty.

El Astillero, the village where Las Tejedoras live and work, has a daily average income of \$3 / family with many people living in conditions of poverty.

The income from purchasing our art is split 50% for the 17 Tejedoras, 40% for the NGO Casa Congo and 10% for logistics and overhead.

The women use their 50% to cover household expenses, invest in their children's education and support their extended families.

Casa Congo uses its 40% to fund local community projects, such as bamboo social housing, or conservation education for the local kids.





Acknowledgements

Gracias!

Las Tejedoras tapestries would not be possible without the support of our many partners and friends.

We want to acknowledge the brands on this page for having made significant contributions to our mission and for supporting our growth.

In particular, thanks to Tine Ward and Rockflower Fund for being a seed of hope for many women worldwide.

From pro bono expertise, to seed funding, tools and international marketing efforts, it's really taken a village to get to where we are today and we're very grateful for the help.

Thank You.

Una bolsa menos,
Una tortuga mas!



The Asika Foundation



**Coming soon... don't miss
our documentary film!**



L A S T E J E D O R A S

Showroom: Casa Congo, El Astillero, Tola, Nicaragua

Email: lastejedoras@casacongo.org

Website: www.las-tejedoras.com



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