

MEDIA IMAGES

To Dye For Ikats from Central Asia

On view March 24–July 29, 2018, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

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freersackler.si.edu/press

@FreerSackler #ToDyeFor

With their vivid designs, ikats are among the most distinct fabrics produced in Central Asia. They are notable for their complex technique: bundles of threads are patterned by repeated binding and dyeing before they are woven. Not surprisingly, the fabrics' brilliance has attracted contemporary designers, most notably Oscar de la Renta, who in 2005 included ikats in his collections. Since then, ikat motifs have become ubiquitous—from jeans, T-shirts, and socks to carpets, sofa covers, and bedding.

To Dye For brings together about thirty of the finest historical Central Asian ikat hangings and coats from the Freer | Sackler collections, donated by Guido Goldman, as well as a number of Oscar de la Renta's iconic creations. The aim is to explore the original use of these remarkable fabrics and the enduring appeal of their extraordinary designs.

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Complete loom length

Central Asia, 19th century

Silk velvet

Gift of Guido Goldman

S2004.78



Wall hanging

Central Asia, 1875–1900

Silk, cotton, and wool

Gift of Guido Goldman

S2004.82

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Woman's robe (*munisak*)

Central Asia, 1850–1875

Silk velvet

Gift of Guido Goldman

S2004.94



Woman's robe (*munisak*)

Central Asia, 1850–75

Silk velvet

Gift of Guido Goldman

S2004.96



Woman's robe

Central Asia, late 19th century

Silk, cotton, and wool

Gift of Guido Goldman

S2005.13



Woman's robe

Central Asia, 1800–50

Silk, cotton, and wool

Gift of Guido Goldman

S2005.15



Woman's robe (*munisak*)

Central Asia, 1850–1900
Silk, cotton, and wool
Gift of Guido Goldman
S2005.16



Wall hanging

Uzbekistan, Samarqand, 1840–75
Silk and cotton
Gift of Guido Goldman
S2006.20



Wall hanging

Uzbekistan, Bukhara or Samarqand, mid-19th century
Silk and cotton
Gift of Guido Goldman
S2006.21



Wall hanging

Uzbekistan, Samarqand, mid-19th century
Silk and cotton
Gift of Guido Goldman
S2006.30



Wall hanging

Uzbekistan, 1850-99
Silk and cotton
Gift of Guido Goldman
S2006.31



Ikat-patterned gown

Silk and wool jacquard
Oscar de la Renta Collection, fall 2013 collection
ELS2018.5.1



Evening ensemble

Polychrome silk embroidery and silk taffeta;
pants of silk shantung
Designed by Oscar de la Renta
Balmain Haute Couture, spring/summer 1997 collection
Collection of Annette de la Renta
ELS2018.6.1



Julkhyrs (sleeping carpet)

Uzbekistan, Samarqand (?), late 19th century
Wool
Richard Isaacson Collection, ELS2018.4