

FLOOR STORY reveals new collections from Gill Thorpe and Bek Smith, as part of Open Studio, during the London Design Festival

For the London Design Festival 2025, East London's FLOOR STORY hosts an exhibition of new designs, with demonstrations and workshops exploring craftsmanship and design processes found in rug making. **'Duct'** and **'Allotment'** are 2 new collections, developed in-house and made by the skilled weavers of FLOOR STORY's partners across India, Afghanistan and Nepal.

Allotment by Gill Thorpe, in collaboration with Turquoise Mountain

Allotment by Gill Thorpe, is a series of vibrant, floral- inspired designs created in collaboration with the charity Turquoise Mountain and a female weaving collective, protected by the charity, which strives to support localised craft and tradition in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The hand-knotted rugs are vintage in style and feature traditional medallion and quad motifs, brought into a modern and vibrant context, with bold colour combinations and a beautiful, textured aesthetic. Each of the 4 rugs in the ALLOTMENT series, showcases traditional hand-knotted techniques, woven with high-quality Ghazni wool, a regional wool known for its curled texture. The rugs feature a grainy effect when dyed, adding a distinct character to the weave.

Duct by Bek Smith

'Duct' by Bek Smith is a graphically inspired rug available in handwoven and tufted constructs, with a surface pattern drawn from shapes and shades found when sticking tape is scrunched into a three-dimensional textural surface.

The patterns of **'Duct'** are borne from Smith's experimentation with duct tape, which involved manipulating the material to form a hyper-textural surface. It was through this process that Smith observed the interplay of shadows created from the creases, using this to form the striking graphic composition.

'Duct was born from a moment of play that I wanted to carry into larger spaces, in a way that feels stylised yet approachable. The design is a subversion of a material found everyday into a decorative and functional handmade rug.' Bek Smith

The tonal colorways of **'Duct'** - neutral browns, acidic greens, and forest greens - create an unusual, pleasing blend, while the contrasting purple and green colourways accentuate the composition.

Workshop in collaboration with Basketry

In addition to the new collection reveals, FLOOR STORY bring visitors closer to the handmade nature of rug making with a weaving workshop on Tuesday September 16th, in collaboration with Basketry. Attendees will have the opportunity to create a colourful coaster to take home, using the same wool yarns employed in the rug making process. This mindful, creative experience is a chance to connect with fellow craft enthusiasts.

ENDS

For more information and images, please contact:

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- Duct and Allotment will be exhibited at the FLOOR_STORY showroom during London Design Festival, September 13th-20th 2025
- The weaving workshop with Basketry will take place on Tuesday September 16th from 11.00-13.00, to attend please RSVP katie@Katierichardson.co.uk
- Opening hours during London Design Festival:
Saturday 13th: 10AM-6M
Monday 15th – Saturday 20th: 10AM-6PM, Tuesday 16th 10AM-20PM

ABOUT GILL THORPE

Working as the designer for FLOOR_STORY, Gill's portfolio spans across several collections; the ridge and trough inspired *Rigg & Furrow*, the subtle gradient *Diffuse* and the irregularly bordered *Curb*. As well as her core collections, Gill works with clients on residential and trade projects, designing from briefs to create large scale artworks suited for various interior environments.

When it comes to colour, Gill takes a methodical approach with influence spanning across photography, history and fashion, devising and developing palettes through her study of colour psychology.

ABOUT BEK SMITH

With a background in textile design and set production, DUCT rug designer Bek Smith combines process with everyday materials to recontextualise craft. Bek's approach to process includes an interplay between 3D modelling and research and has used these methods to develop fashion, costume and accessory pieces as well as exhibition spaces. Such work includes Break Factor, an immersive textile installation at the East Space Gallery which was noted as one of Time Out's top exhibitions to see in the Summer of 2019.

Her methods in research include archival studies, looking at textile production throughout the ages, which she is currently developing through her Masters in Design History at the Royal College of Art. Bek is also the Communication Manager for FLOOR_STORY, shining a light on how we approach the world of collaborative rug-making through production and media content which includes our photoshoots and exhibits for shows such as London Design Festival 2025.