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Ornamentation of carpets in the context of contemporary art

I am interested in the form of eastern carpets. My doctoral dissertation is a result of a desire to understand the culture that created it - a culture that, as a means of expression, adopted the aesthetics of signs and ornaments.

Pattern, ornament, sign, symbol are the guiding concepts of my written work. I am interested in the distinction between patterns and signs, i.e. between the decorative and symbolic areas, as well the way and the moment when the ornaments cross the boundaries of pure decoration. I consider eastern carpets as the intended form of communication. I wonder about the origin and role of single signs placed on their field. How shapes and colors do create meaning? How often patterns form are a message carrier? Can values, expressed by complicated patterns and ornaments, be readable and read today?

For me, the starting point for such searches, is the method of iconographic analysis developed by Aby Warburg and published in his *Atlas Mnemozyne* and expanded by Erwin Panovsky. I am also referring to the concepts of Carl Gustav Jung and Mircea Eliade. The reference to these researchers and philosophers gave me the basis for placing eastern carpets in the context of Western contemporary art based on remix culture, appropriation, quotation, where the source of the original is often lost.

In one of the chapters, I analyze the history of the *Hobo* language, American migrant workers from the late nineteenth century. The symbols used by them, seem to me extremely interesting from the perspective of considering the sign as an information carrier. Can a simple drawing be a carrier of content and a clue.

In my work I also include my observations and conclusions regarding decorative art. I consider it in the context of carpets as well as abstract art, especially geometrical abstraction, where the main sense is in the form, not in the content of the work of art. I am referring to the theory of beauty of Plato, Aristotle and Kant.

In the final part of the text, I am present the work of artists who have undertaken or continue to take up important issues related to the pattern, sign and symbol. They are Hilma Af Klint, Zofia Kulik, Beatriz Milhazes and Wim Delvoye. They are Hilma Af Klint, Zofia Kulik, Beatriz Milhazes and Wim Delvoye. Artists who refer in their actions to decorative and ornamental art, as well as to religion. Their works are an important reference point in my perception of beauty.