COLOUR AND OPTIMISM FOR 2022

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I am very attracted to crafts because they are closely linked to the territory, to the local. Crafts respond to the materials that are in a certain place.

Living in Mexico the past few years has impacted her textile choices. "When I arrived in Mexico, I was coming from my master’s in sustainable textiles. Then, arriving in Mexico, I was very struck by the diversity of natural fibres. I was even surprised to see cleaning products and brushes in the markets made of different natural fibres. In Mexico, manufacturing with natural materials is part of the culture. I once read that there are several objects that have hardly changed their shape over time and that they continue to be used just as the Aztecs or the Mayans did, such as baskets."

Infante started from exploring the possibilities of each material in relation to the technique. Her recent textile explorations come from her research on natural fibres present in Mexico. Palm, oyamel, bejuco, henequen, sansevieria, cotton, palma and lechuguilla are some of the plants that skilled local hands transform into raw materials to create objects that speak to us about territory and culture. Her initial material explorations in Mexico were done with vegetable dyes. Then her eyes turned to henequen (Yucatan sisal). "When dyeing fibres of vegetable origin, they usually absorb less colour than those of animal origin, and with henequen I was surprised because it absorbs the colour deeply and also has a beautiful soft shine. So that’s how I became enchanted with it. It has always been used as a “service” material for ropes or sacks, but without exploring its beauty."

In the recent works she has potentialised the natural characteristics of henequen such as henequen, exposing the sinuous curves of the material at the edges. In Coatl, she explores the use of ropes in different thicknesses for the weft of the rug. She has worked in collaboration with weavers from Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca, giving a twist to the traditional tapestry technique.

Infante’s dream of collaborating with carpet and textile companies is clearly a perfect next step. Marcella Echavarría

www.isabelinfante.com