

Miyabi

An Exhibition of Tapestries by Sachiyo Hori and Hillu Liebelt

7 April - 2 May
Orleans House Stables Gallery,
Twickenham

Tapestry has a long history in many countries throughout the world, fragments found in Egypt indicate that tapestries were woven as early as 3000BC. Regardless of where and when tapestries were produced, or what type of loom was used, the techniques were very similar and have remained basically unchanged until today.

Working in the traditional Gobelin technique, Sachiyo Hori and Hillu Liebelt will both be showing new work in 'Miyabi', an exciting exhibition at Orleans House Stables Gallery, combining handspun Japanese paper or aluminium with wool, linen, cotton and silk.

'Miyabi' is a Japanese term which

stands for elegance, refinement and grace. A person with miyabi is able to derive pleasure from detailed or simple beauty; the emphasis, however, is on perfection. Miyabi is, more than anything else, a perfection of form and colour.

Born in Japan, Sachiyo Hori recently moved to England, having studied tapestry weaving in Brussels (Flanders was the heart of the tapestry world in the 13th and 14th centuries), and worked as a weaver in Belgium for seven years. Her work, which has been exhibited in Belgium, Japan, France and Spain, has won a number of prestigious prizes and she has given lectures and taught the art of weaving on many occasions. Sachiyo's work is clearly influenced by the European style, but still has a certain Japanese feel about it.

Hillu Liebelt, whose work was featured on the front cover of *Craftsman Magazine* in November 2001, was born in Germany and moved to London in 1980. After an initial training as a designer for shop interiors and window display in her native country, she studied tapestry weaving

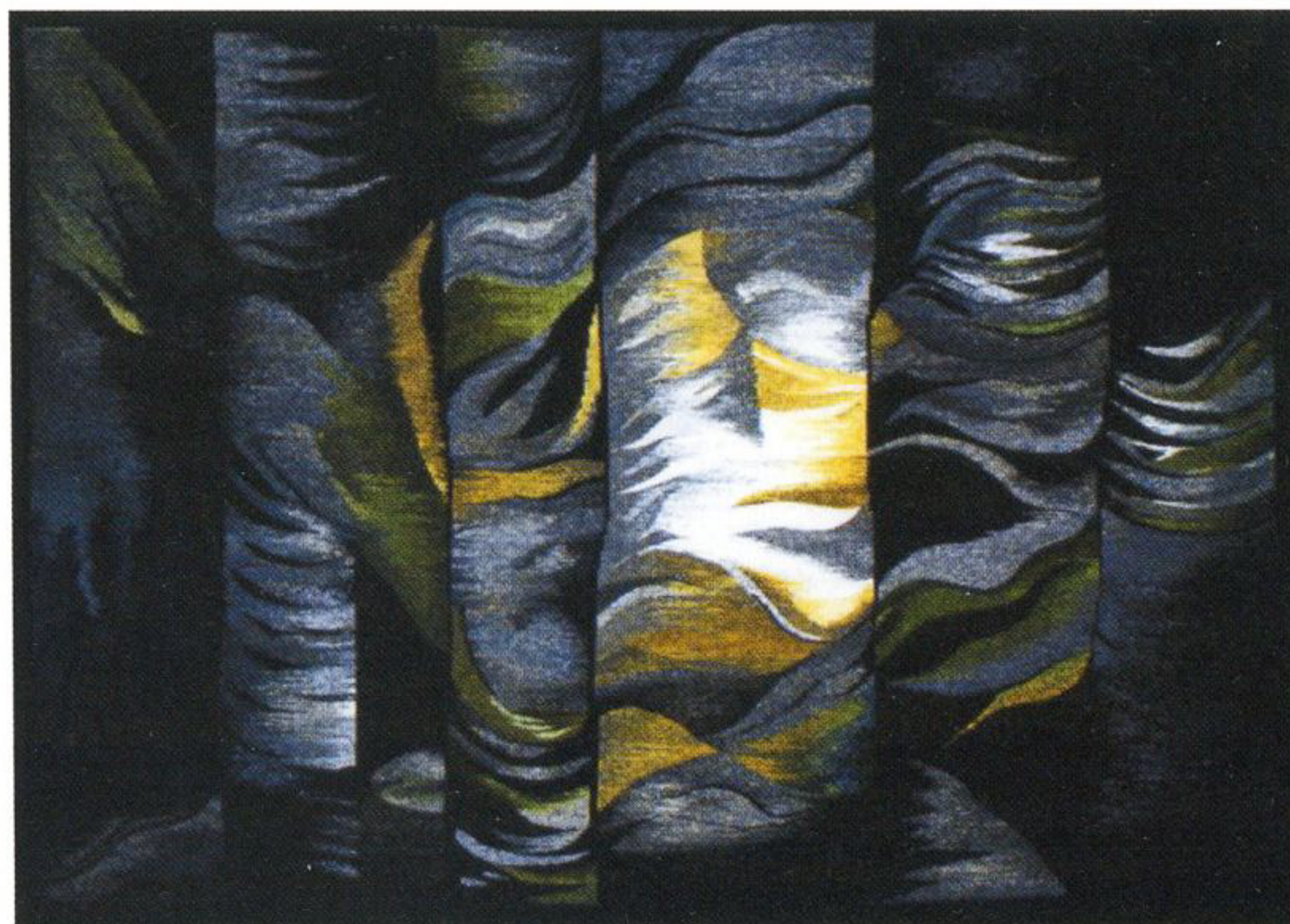
when she came to England. In London she discovered the rich textile tradition of this country as well as the collections from all over the world in the Museum of Mankind and the V&A. Exhibitions and bookshops further inspired her and finding the Handweavers Studio provided the support, knowledge and inspiration which lasted over the years. Her interest in tapestry started when she was very young, her first piece being woven on a rigid heddle loom when she was just seven. Hillu's work has been exhibited in Britain, Germany, Poland and Spain and she has been teaching tapestry weaving classes for over ten years. Frequently lecturing on her chosen subject, Hillu has been a Committee Member of the London Guild of Weavers since 2001. Her speciality is to combine metal with yarns to create small to medium sized wall-mounted or larger free standing objects. She says that she is interested in exploring all options of combining metallic and textile materials, the contrast between the hard and the soft, the rigid and the tactile. Hillu believes that her work is influenced by her admiration for Japanese art and design, the amazing simplicity, clarity and precision in approach and execution.

Surrounded by old woodlands on the north bank of the Thames, The Orleans House Stables Gallery is a fitting venue for this two-woman show, which is based on nature, human memory and time. These two women have discovered strong links in their approach to developing an idea and a dialogue has evolved. The exhibition will be a celebration of different cultures coming together in this country as well as a celebration of the tapestry medium, which has hardly changed in thousands of years.

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Above: 'Patmos III'
Above right: 'Lampi I'
both by Hillu Liebelt.
Right: 'White birch'
160cm x 200cm by
Sachiyo Hori.

