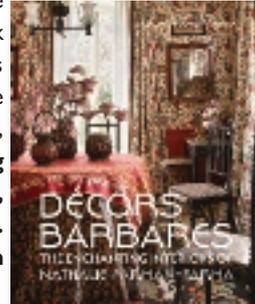




**Décors Barbares** is the textile design studio of designer Nathalie Farman-Farma. Her fabrics are inspired by the mix of colours and patterns found in traditional Central Asian costumes, as well as in Ballets Russes designs. The interiors she creates are full of folkloric charm and romantic exuberance. Drawing on the enchantment of fairytales and a history of material culture spanning Persia and Russia, Farman-Farma employs traditional printmaking techniques to create exquisitely detailed fabrics, which she uses to create interiors infused with pattern and warmth. With no formal textiles or design background, it was while living in Greenwich Village that Farman-Farma met Olya Thompson, a Russian immigrant who had previously lived in France before moving to the United States. Inspired by their mutual love for Russian culture, they started a fabric house called Tissus Tartares in 2009. Not long afterwards, Farman-Farma started her own company - and this was the beginning of Décors Barbares. Farman-Farma's new book is dedicated to the design language she has created under that banner - her style has been described as 'Silk Road chic' - and its lavish illustrations show how she has used the Décors Barbares fabrics across different homes, including her own, giving the reader a peek at Farman-Farma's vast collection of antique textiles, costumes and jewellery. ••• **Décors Barbares: The Enchanting Interiors of Nathalie Farman-Farma by Nathalie Farman-Farma, with photography by Miguel Flores-Vianna, Vendome Press, 2020. Vendome Press are offering Selvedge readers a 15% discount with the code SELVEDGE15 [www.vendomepress.com](http://www.vendomepress.com)**



**Megha Purohit** has turned from lawyer to artisan advocate with the creation of the Giri Foundation. Education and skill alone aren't enough to improve life for women in the Himalayas. They need access to global opportunities and start-up capital. As Purohit says, 'Local ownership, alternative sources of income, female empowerment, and long-term sustainable livelihoods will help to evolve a change in the mountain women's lives.' Purohit's vision is to extend India's mission of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (save a girl, educate a girl) to include Beti Kamao (employ a woman). 'The mountain women of India don't have access to the opportunities that are there in the urban cities, although they have a passion to work and make a living', she explains. The Giri Foundation works in three areas - connecting artisans with the companies who want their skills, educating artisans in anything from technical processes to data entry, and coordinating with micro-finance institutions to provide loans to women to enable them to access the tools and materials they need to meet the demand of their buyers. Purohit says, 'These women exist in one of the most deprived sectors of the world's population, and yet it is well recognised that their stewardship of mountain natural resources is closely linked to the sustainability of life in lowland areas. In these mountain regions, women are more undernourished, more undercompensated for their labour and more underrepresented in formal decision-making bodies than men. I want the Giri Foundation to help the women of this region to follow their own dreams of becoming independent women'. •••[www.girifoundation.org](http://www.girifoundation.org)

