

# ALBERTO LEVI GALLERY

MILANO

TAPPETI ANTICHI E CONTEMPORANEI DAL 1878

## Antique Textile Art II

### A Collection of Oriental and European Carpets and Textiles

By Alberto Levi

Given the enormous success of last year's exhibition of 'Antique Textile Art', I have decided to make the show an annual event. The exhibition is designed to benefit both my established clientele, who will have the opportunity to see a selection of my most recent acquisitions, and those who are approaching my gallery for the very first time, enabling them to sample the unifying style that characterises all our pieces. Last but not least, it will be useful to me personally as it will allow me to reflect on twelve months of intense international travel, searching out distinguished works of textile art.

This year's choices cover very vast territories. The Karapinar carpet with a medallion and pendants design surely represents a discovery of great importance, especially given the fact that it was previously unknown and is an addition to the very restricted group of carpets of this typology. Given their large dimensions, both of the Bakhshaishes and the light blue Serapi carpet satisfy both a decorative need as well as being rare and unusual carpets within the realm of Persian weavings.

The four Causasian rugs embody the best graphic, chromatic and tactile qualities that make us appreciate

this popular carpet family. The complex and varied textile art of the Turkomans is represented at its best by a very rare Ersari chuval and by an unusual green ground ikat silk velvet. From China and Mongolia we have a selection of large carpets distinguished by very minimal compositions of great visual impact.

A similar aesthetic outlook is seen in the choice of the Indian carpets, among which there is an unusual Agra with a monochromatic background and a rare cotton example with a geometric design. A strong personal interest in tribal rugs led me this year to discover the visually compelling weavings of the Berbers of Morocco. As such I took the chance to include in the exhibition a carpet from the Middle Atlas; made with natural undyed wool, it features an engaging abstract pattern.

A very rare and unusual Portuguese carpet, a Bessarabian kilim with soft colours, an Aubusson with a very elaborate design and a series of French carpets woven in the Art Déco period, among which a very rare example signed by Ivan Da Silva Bruhns, typify the best weavings from the European tradition.

This year's exhibition has an even greater emphasis towards an aesthetic reading of the Eastern and Western textile heritage, one which is aimed at thinking of carpets by abandoning the limiting classifications of so-called 'tribal' and 'city' weavings, or 'collectible' and 'decorative' rugs, bringing instead each of these pieces to a single domain, that of textile art.