

Desmond Brambley Photography



Antiquities, Rare and Ancient Fabrics Specialist



Case study: “Chintz: A Global Story. The Karun Thakar Collection”

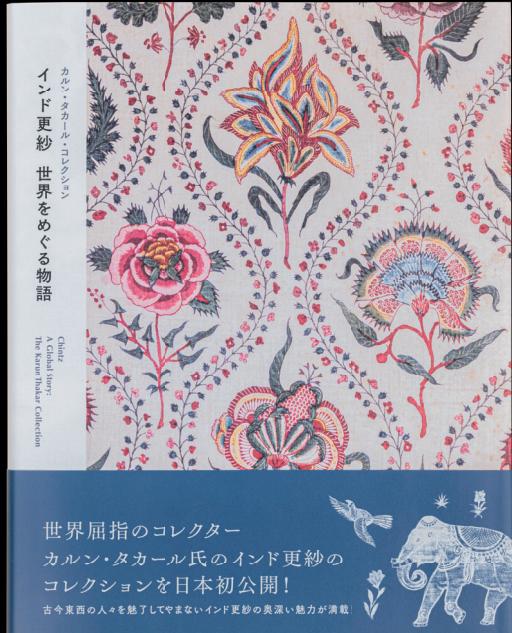
Karun Collection/East Japan Culture Foundation

Exhibition catalogue, merchandise and ticketing.



ISBN: 978-4-7630-2516-6

167 pages



The paperback catalogue is for the touring exhibition of Karun Thakar's extensive collection of chintz. The tour of Japan' museums and galleries will run until June 2027.

The images come from an extended shoot of Karun's collection for a dedicated book on Chintz, published in November 2025.

I worked closely with the Tokyo design team and Karun, completing production in just over twelve weeks.

Posters were distributed around Tokyo, and will be used to advertise upcoming exhibitions around Japan.



Exhibition dates and venues

Tokyo Station Gallery: 13th September – 9th November 2025

Yamanashi Prefecture Museum of Art: 25th April – 21st June 2026

Fukuoka Art Museum: 17th October – 20th December 2026

Paramita Museum: 5th February – 28th March 2027

Otani Memorial Art Museum: 10th April – 27th June 2027



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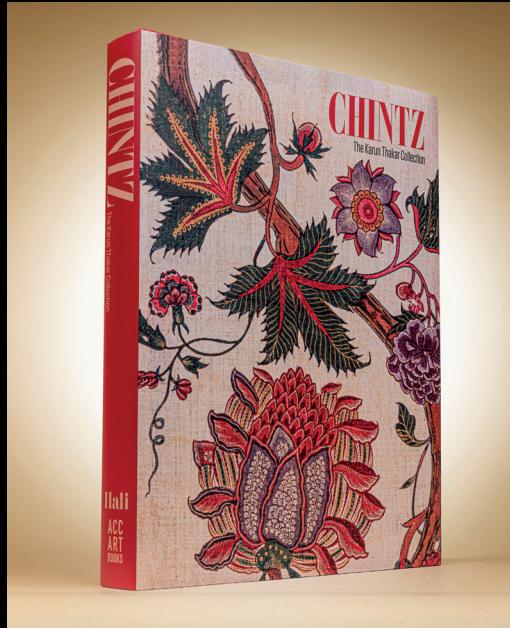
Case study: “Chintz: The Karun Thakar Collection”

Karun Thakar/Hali Publications



ISBN: 978-1788843454

414 pages



Chintz: The Karun Thakar Collection was published in hardback in November 2025

Chintz explores the historic importance of Indian printed and painted cotton textiles, drawing on the Karun Thakar Collection. Assembled over thirty years, the collection comprises over two hundred examples, many of which have featured in significant museum exhibitions.

With contributions from leading scholars and curators, including from the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, this book examines the historical significance of Indian printed cottons and their influence on global trade from the 14th century onward, and includes examples found in Sri Lanka, Japan and throughout Europe.



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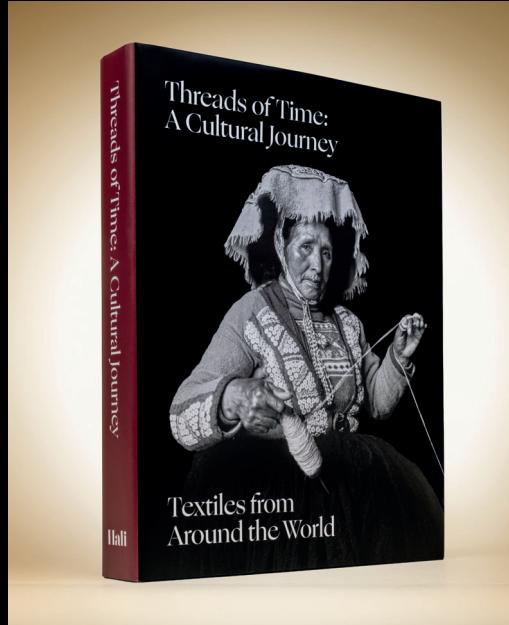
Case study: “Threads of Time: A Cultural Journey”

Daniel and Dara Brewster/Hali Publications



ISBN: 9781898113744

423 pages



Threads of Time is a journey around the world through the medium of textiles. In many communities, cultural heritage and traditions have been handed down through generations by textile artisans.

Their beliefs, history, ceremonies, and traditions have been woven into cloth with meaning and purpose sometimes lasting thousands of years. Textiles are special in that they can create narratives that are personal as well as eminently portable



The pages of *Threads of Time* illustrate exquisite textiles with location photography, from historical examples of centuries past to extraordinary contemporary expressions, revealing a continuum of inspiration and beauty.



Locations explored include: Indonesia, China, Vietnam and Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, Bhutan, Nagaland, Punjab, Peru, Guatemala and Navajo Nation.



The sixteen chapters, covering regions from across the globe, feature contributions from local textile makers and experts, bringing together over 30 voices to tell stories of cloth.



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I became involved in this project very late in production. It had been decided the original photographs were not of the standard that the Brewster's were happy with. As they both come from publishing and news backgrounds – Dara was the editor of 'Life' and Daniel was the CEO Time Inc, they wanted images of an exceptional standard.

They requested quotes, with samples, from fabric specialists around the world. They chose me because of the quality of my imaging.



When the contract was awarded to me the initial deadline for print had passed, but they understood that a delay was unavoidable.



Their collection is kept in Fall River, Massachusetts, USA. I flew out three days after winning the contract.



Initially I was engaged to shoot one-hundred and forty textiles, for which I had calculated three weeks to shoot and five weeks to process. It soon became clear there were far more than agreed. In total there were two hundred and forty-three items. Although there were more items, shooting and processing were delivered on time.

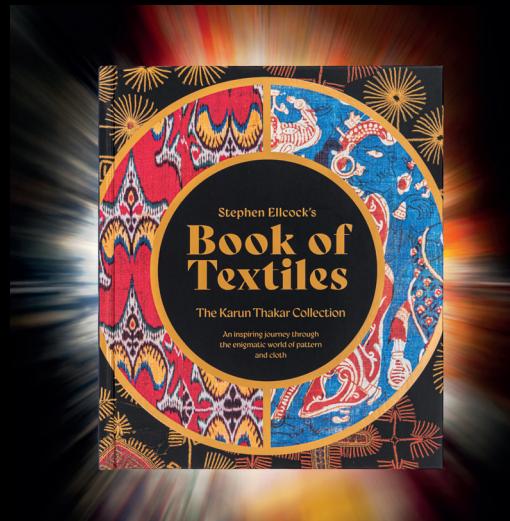
Case study: "Stephen Ellcock's Book of Textiles"

Stephen Ellcock/Karun Thakar/Hali Publications/ACC Art Books



ISBN: 978-1-78884-249-5

257 pages



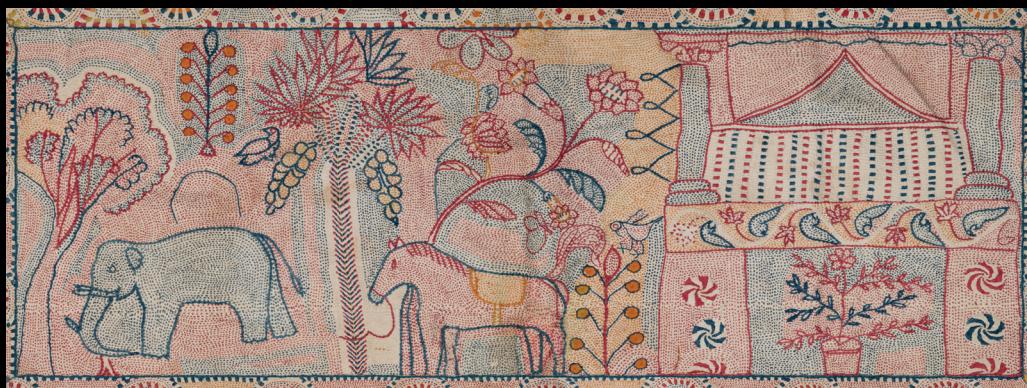
From the bestselling author of All Good Things, England on Fire and The Cosmic Dance.

Stephen Ellcock's Book of Textiles is a unique collaboration between bestselling author Stephen Ellcock and textile expert Karun Thakar.

Conceived as an inspiring vision of the world seen through the lens of textiles, the book features a spellbinding selection of more than two-hundred of the most significant, extraordinary and distinctive pieces in the collection.



This project began in earnest in early 2021 with photography taking until early 2024. In total more than 6,000 images were taken. The final selection was made by Stephen and Karun collating them into the various sections of the book.



"For anyone involved with textile arts, fashion, design, or art—from makers to collectors, from students to museum curators—this book is an absolute must-have. A feast for the eyes, a source of inspiration, and a reminder of how art, craft, and imagination are intertwined." - NL Magazine

"It is difficult to leaf through this book without saying 'wow' over and over, which means this is definitely top of the Christmas reading list." - Embroidery Magazine

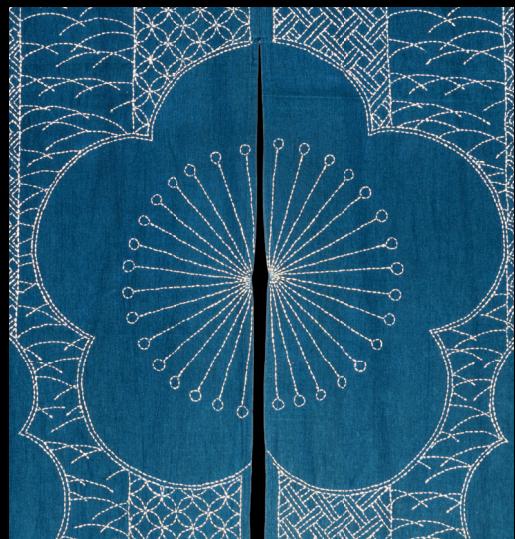
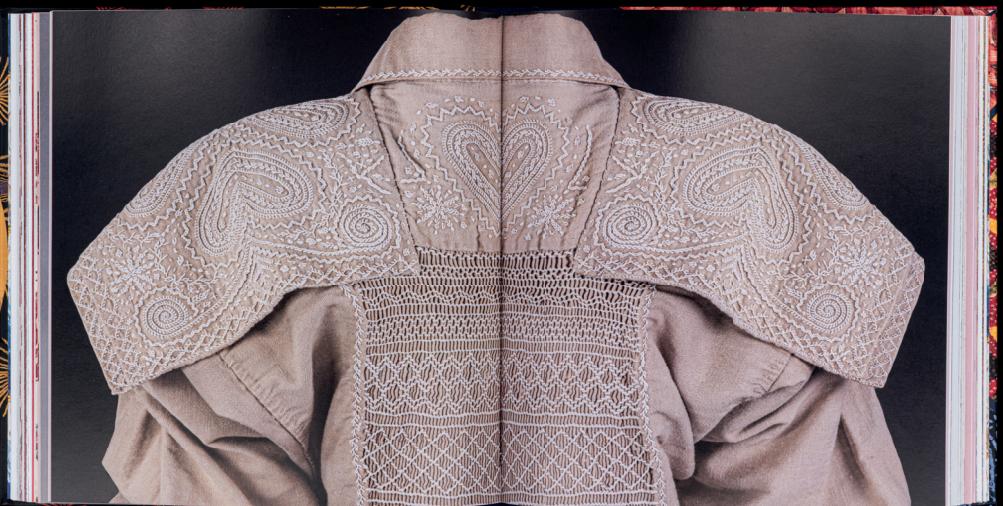
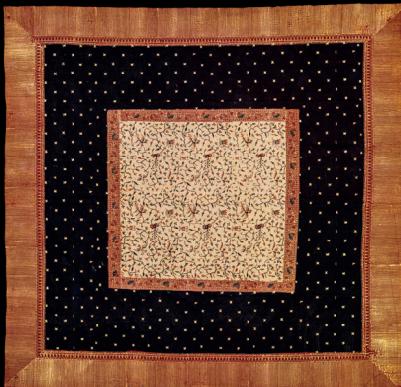
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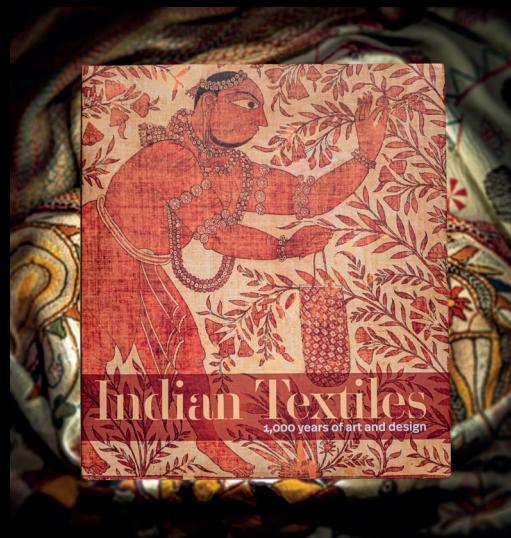
Case study: "Indian Textiles: 1000 years of art and design"

Karun Collection/Hali Publications/George Washington Museum, The Textile Museum



ISBN: 9 781898 113966

416 pages



With essays by three leading international Indian textile curators, the publication's focus on textile ornament rather than date, region, usage, or technique provides new perspective and scholarship on this ancient artistic tradition.



The book features items from one of the world's foremost private collections of Indian textiles, the Karun Thakar Collection, together with key pieces from two recently united American collections, The Textile Museum and the Cotsen Textile Traces Study Collection in Washington, DC.



The book and accompanying exhibition offer a unique approach to understanding Indian textile culture through reference to three distinct traditions: abstract, floral and figurative design.





About me



My photographic career began in the film era. I started freelancing in 1987. Two years later I joined an advertising studio in London working with blue-chip clients. I managed studios and labs across the UK moving to Ireland in 1994, where I worked as a journalist, writer and playwright as well as a photographer for a live music venue. I later became a cameraman and producer for a UK TV production company.

With the transition to digital in 2008, I rekindled my passion for stills photography. In 2009 I refocused my business, exploring untapped photography markets. I rapidly built a client list across the country catering to antique dealers. Since then, I have served a diverse range of clients including major publications, collectors, academic institutions and museums across the UK and internationally.

A lifelong interest in material culture has allowed me to work with artefacts from around the world, capturing their essence through photography. I am passionate about the ethics of collections and the principles of decolonisation. I strive to share information about artefacts with the public, ensuring their appreciation and understanding in their full historical and cultural context.

Clients include:

Karun Collection
Architectural Heritage
Hali Magazine
Hali Books
The Michael Franses Collection
The Crawford Collection
The Brewster Collection (USA)
The Strelitz Collection (Mexico)
The Estate of Ashley Haviden OBE

Institutions supplied include:

George Washington Museum and Textile Museum (USA)
UCLA (USA)
Cambridge University
National Trust
DeMontford University
Haverford College (USA)
SOAS

