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01 *Saturne* rug, designed by Nicolas Aubagnac for Pasua/Galerie Chevalier

02 *Eos* tapestry, designed by Marie Bastide for Diurne

03 *Ondine* fabric, designed by Geert Voorjans for Jim Thompson

DESIGN FAIRS

Déco Off

Between 18-22 January, this year's Paris Déco Off took place in over a hundred textile and rug showrooms throughout the city, the dates almost exactly overlapping with Maison et Objet. Here are three highlights from the event.

In addition to the 'rug paintings' of their prolific founder, Marcel Zelmanovitch, shown in one showroom, across the street Diurne displayed a new collection by Marie Bastide inspired by primitive mythology. Abstract and often painterly, these designs are also available fabricated as tapestries, some of which were also on view.

Galerie Chevalier, fourth-generation purveyors of antique rugs and tapestries, were presenting new rugs in their Parsua Collection. The only rug makers in the show working exclusively in Iran and using only natural dyes, they showed several dramatic new designs by Nicolas Aubagnac, including *Byzance*, a pleasing rug with an art-deco sensibility, and *Saturne*, which glowed like the planet it represents.

Jim Thompson was started by the eponymous founder, who began importing Thai silk to the west in the 1940s and disappeared mysteriously from Malaysia in 1967. Handwoven silk is at the core of their many lines of fabrics, wall coverings and clothing, so it was exciting to see the launch of a completely new range of colours, called Every Colour Under the Sun. Also noteworthy, was a new collection by Geert Voorjans, including *Ondine*, a tribute to Fauvist painting. *Emma Gardner*

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