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# Julie Mayo Makes Magic Carpets In Wool

By Laretta Phillips  
 Beacon staff

Once upon a time a long, long time ago, a princess sat upon a magic rug and made a wish. She wished to fly to a place where she could see all the beautiful colors of the world. A place that would let her explore all the excitement and joy of things both old and new. A place of beauty.

When you walk into Julie Mayo's home, you find yourself in a place of quiet comfort. A place where you can see all the magical colors of the world. You take a deep breath and wish you could sit down on her magical rugs, and you can. One of the first projects in rug hooking for Julie when she began rug hooking in 1987 was chair pads for the chairs at her dining room table.

The next thing you want to do is to take off your shoes and feel the wonder of the color and design with your feet, and you can. The rugs abound, gracing hardwood floors with lovely flowers and baskets. There are designs of pottery and leaves. There are story rugs that tell the tales of grandchildren.

If you ask her, Julie will take you along on the magic carpet ride that led her to create the award-winning rug *Lucetta's Tree Of Life*, designed by Pearl K McGown and hooked by Julie in 2000. This rug appeared in shows and magazines and was in *Rug Hooking* magazine in 2002.

Julie's first experience with flat wool hooked rugs was through her Aunt Lillian, who originally came from Belgium. Julie still uses a rug that her aunt created. The colors and design are beautiful.

When I began my interview with Julie, I told her to treat me as though I knew nothing about rug hooking. I really didn't, and she made sure I un-

derstood the difference between latch hooking and flat wool rug hooking.

According to some of the books and magazines that abound on rug hooking, the art is said to be centuries old. The exact age and origin is debated among hookers everywhere. Some history

By the 1940s, rug hooking had become a cottage industry and a practical past time as well as a means of artistic expression.

Julie took me through the steps of choosing a design, color planning, wool dyeing, and hooking. She even told me about "reverse hooking" (which applies in some form to every craft). If you don't like it, or you made the stitches too long, or the color of the paint is wrong, you rip out the seams, paint over it, or in this case, you "reverse hook." Julie believes the color planning to be one of the most important steps.

Julie learned to hook rugs using the Pearl K McGown method and designs in 1987. Her teacher was Betty Malley. Julie began going to the Pearl K McGown teacher's workshop in 1996. She still goes to that workshop and teaches.

"You need to keep learning and growing," Julie said. "That week-long workshop is a hard but exciting and interesting week for teachers. You take workshops, you must complete workshop assignments, you do a show-and-tell of your students' work, you do a show-and-tell of your own work, and you teach a day-long workshop. You come home



Julie Mayo at work.

Photo: Laretta Phillips

books state that descendants of ancient Egypt made the first hand-hooked rugs between the third and seventh centuries. Other historians claim that it all began in China, and still others claim Europe as the place of origin. Many people believe that rug hooking is one of America's indigenous folk arts.

Rug hooking experienced a surge of popularity in the mid-19th century in the New England states and the provinces of Canada. Hand-hooked rugs were created out of necessity by rural women to cover the cold, bare floors of their homes.

tired but excited and passionate about your work."

Yes, Julie is passionate about her work. Her eyes sparkle when she talks about it, and her work shows the love she has for it.

Julie also teaches classes in her home in East Andover. Her next classes will begin in the fall. They fill up fast, so be sure to let her know if you are interested in being a part of one of these 10-session classes. You'll have the opportunity to pick your own design and dye and cut your own wool. Contact Julie, and learn to create your own magic carpet.

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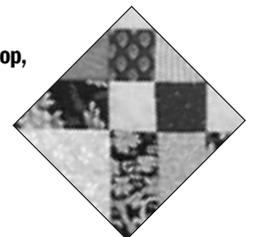
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