

HIGH STANDARDS

Stephanie Odegard's vision includes beautiful things and human rights.

BY SAXON HENRY

saxonhenry@aol.com

Miami Beach artist Miriam Odegard is visiting the Odegard collection for the first time to a religious experience. "It's so beautiful, it's like a cathedral," she says. "Everything in this very quiet way that I found."

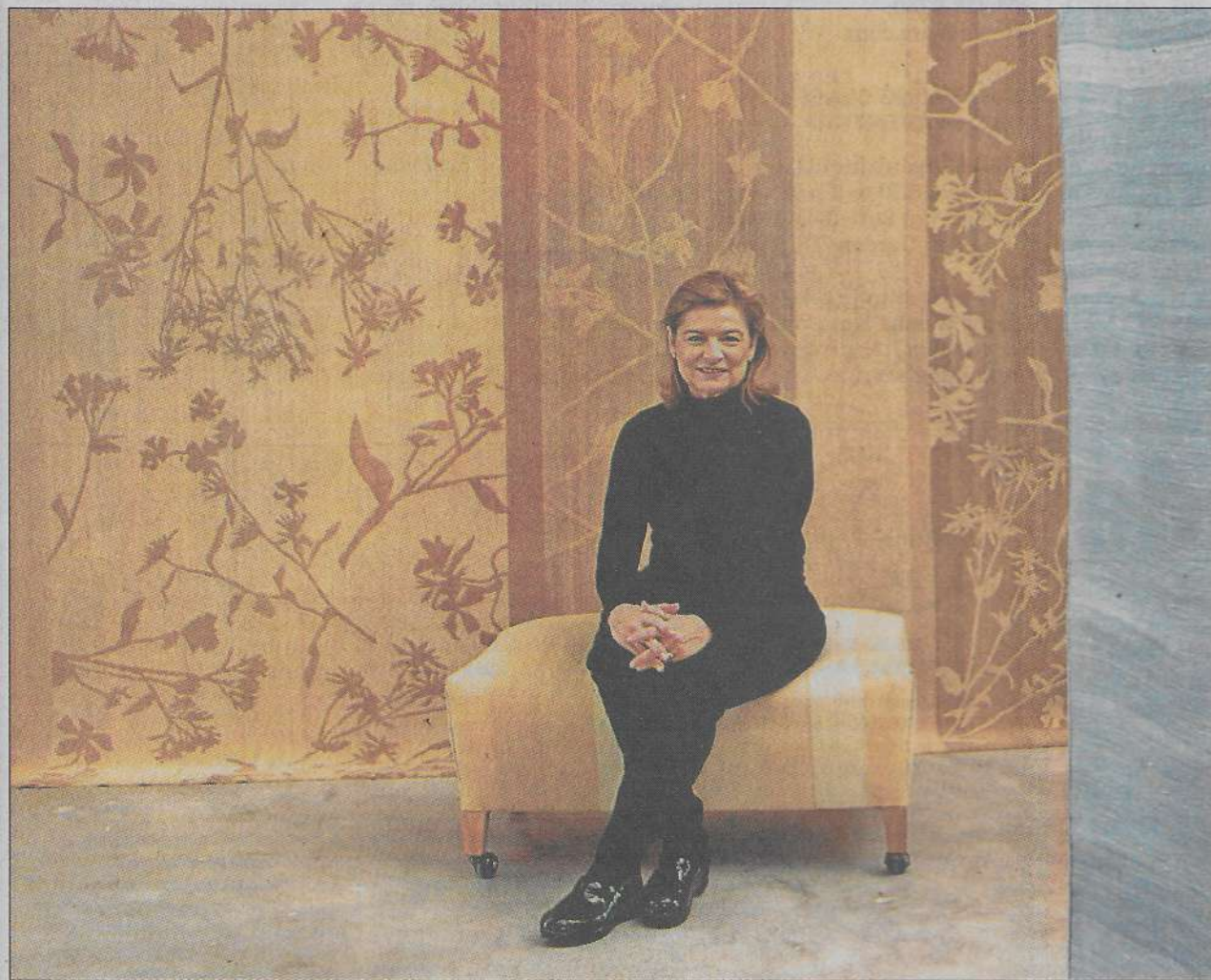
With a mix of furniture, art, and fine carpets, the collection reflects the sensibilities of Stephanie Odegard.

"My sense of aesthetics is innate, but as I have new experiences, I draw from — through living and maturing — my sensibilities continue to evolve," Odegard says. She also had a chance to work with some very talented artisans.

Odegard collaborates with artists, designing carpets in their art. One such artist is a woman who has a line of carpets designed from her paintings. Odegard also is a human-rights champion for people who make her products.

For instance, Odegard found on the floors of the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles, Aspen, Colo., home of Robert Rauschenberg, are hand-knotted in Nepal, countries where she hopes her work will help to resuscitate stricken economies.

As early as 1987, Odegard began to establish a market for carpets by creating contemporary designs (only traditional designs have been used before), thus giving hundreds of Nepalese craftsmen a chance. She increased the knots per inch to 100 from the traditional 60 and developed new dyes, richer, more modern shades, making the rugs more attractive to the luxury market, which is growing more. Prices range from \$123 for a pure Himalayan rug to \$6,570 for a pair of copper and iron. The carpets are certified by Rugmark, an international label against child labor in the carpet industry.



PHOTOS BY DONNA E. NATALE PLANAS/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

QUEEN OF HER DOMAIN: Stephanie Odegard sits in front of a carpet, Clementine, from the Botanical Collection (\$12,700). Right, a baby blue flat weave rug from India is priced at \$3,600. Below right, fireplace, \$15,715; dragon door knocker, \$2,000, and gold plated with copper and iron, \$6,570 for a pair.

HOME

ACCESSORIES:

Right, untitled painting by Russell Sharon, \$12,000; early 19th century Tibetan trunk in leather and tiger fur, \$5,100; copper hammered club chair by Paul Mathieu, \$2,780.

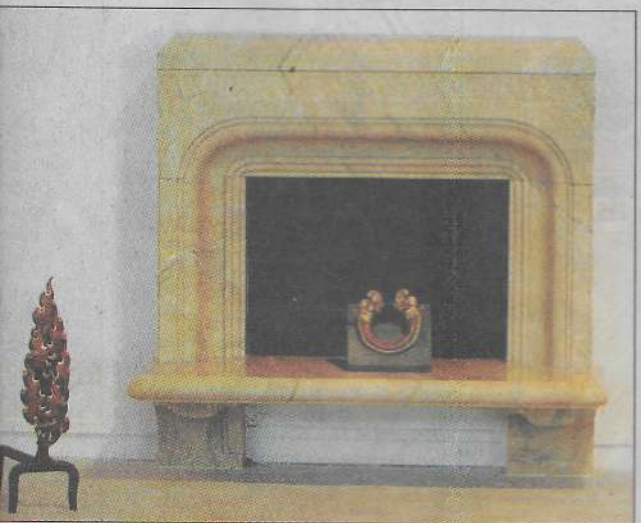


STANDARDS



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Stephanie Odegard's vision includes beautiful things and human rights

BY SAXON HENRY
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Miami Beach artist Mira Lehr likened visiting the Odegard showroom for the first time to a religious experience. "It's so beautiful, it's like a cathedral," she says. "Everything is arranged in this very quiet way that seems profound."

With a mix of furniture, accessories and fine carpets, the showroom reflects the sensibilities of founder Stephanie Odegard.

"My sense of aesthetics is definitely innate, but as I have new references to draw from — through living, studying and maturing — my sensibilities continue to evolve," Odegard said. "I've also had a chance to work alongside some very talented artisans."

Odegard collaborates with visual artists, designing carpets inspired by their art. One such artist is Lehr, who has a line of carpets designed after her paintings. Odegard also has been a human-rights champion for the craftspeople who make her products.

For instance, Odegard's carpets, found on the floors of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the Aspen, Colo., home of Robert Redford, are hand-knotted in Nepal and India, countries where she hopes her efforts will help to resuscitate strife-torn societies.

As early as 1987, Odegard began trying to establish a market for high-end carpets by creating contemporary designs (only traditional motifs had been used before), thus giving jobs to hundreds of Nepalese craftspeople. She increased the knots per square inch to 100 from the traditional 50 or 60 and developed new dyes to add richer, more modern shades to the palette, making the rugs more appealing to the luxury market, which can pay more. Prices range from \$30 per square foot for cotton flat-weaves to \$123 for a pure Himalayan wool rug with special vegetable dyes. Her carpets are certified by Rugmark, the international label against illegal child labor in the carpet industry.



LIGHT IT UP: A '70s Italian ceramic lacquer lamp costs \$3,900.

In her newest venture, Odegard is collaborating with French designer Paul Mathieu to produce smooth and hammered metal furniture and carved marble accessories crafted in Udaipur, India. The lines, which include a beautifully patterned Semainier (chest) from the Louise Collection (\$7,895) and a set of nesting tables (\$5,360), have just debuted in the Miami showroom.

Miami architect Alison Spear trekked to India with Odegard and was inspired to create a line of side and coffee tables. Spear's drinks tables, which are \$710 each, are available in white metal, brass, copper and silver.

Among the accessories in the showroom are marble goblets (\$280 each), gold-plated lotus candle stands (from \$150 to \$405), hand-embroidered blankets of Kashmir wool (\$670) and sterling silver spice spoons (\$360 for a set of seven).

"I always have a vision that I want to communicate," says Odegard, a former Peace Corps volunteer. "I appreciate simple, beautiful things."

IF YOU GO

What: Odegard at Paradeisos Miami

Where: 3621 NE Miami Ct., Miami

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, Saturday by appointment

Contact: 305-576-7166 or www.odegardinc.com.