

A WEAVER AT WORK

1 Jan checks the warp threads. 2 Ikat hand-dyed threads are used, where areas of the thread are left undyed. 3 Metallic thread and fishing weights in a piece called *Jewel One*. 4 Detail of a series of pieces called *Waterfall*. 5 A bobbin winder transfers threads from a cone to the bobbin



‘It’s amazing to make something original by starting with just one thread’

the finest silk and cotton threads, which she dyes herself. ‘I found some cotton made in the 1960s. It is superb quality, almost like silk.’ After dyeing, skeins are prepared for weaving using an old 19th-century warping mill, which she restored with husband David’s help.

Her pieces are triple cloths, with 48 threads to the inch – a complex technique where Jan weaves three layers of cloth at once to create a unified piece of fabric – and they require much thought with regard to pattern. ‘Because the work is so stretched on the loom, you never know how it will look until you take it off.’

She also weaves monofilament (fishing line) and fishing weights into the fabric, which give the patterns a delicate, cobwebby look, as well as subtly echoing the sea theme. ‘I like to source things that are unusual,’ Jan explains. The muted palette makes ‘the structure visible and does not detract from the qualities of a piece’. It’s labour intensive and each wall hanging



SIGNATURE STYLE

★ Jan’s triple-cloth wall hangings are made of silk, with cotton and monofilament. Her focus is on texture and structure, enhanced by delicate colour. To commission or buy a piece, or find out about upcoming shows, call 07967 150295, or email Jan at janet_garside@hotmail.com.

takes around six to eight weeks to make, hence prices range from £250 (for a small Perspex-boxed piece) to £850-£900 for larger works.

Interest is growing and she regularly shows in top crafts hubs such as the Rufford Crafts Centre and the Harley Gallery, both in Nottinghamshire. But for Jan it’s a heart and soul thing. ‘I like to know where my work is going and want my clients to feel really special,’ she says. ‘I hope they feel the tranquility and all that time and patience that has gone into making the piece unique for them.’

H&A BURSARY AWARD

Our Talent Around Britain series, in association with the Crafts Council and sponsored by flooring specialist Amtico (0800 667766; amtico.com), will feature six designer-makers for whom this is a second career, and award one with a £5,000 bursary this autumn. Meet the winner in the December issue of *H&A*.

