

Felt Carpets

Rock Carpet Series
authentic, handmade and unique



Carpets change our homes - and in the most beautiful way imaginable!

We have been decorating them with carpets ever since people have lived in dwellings. At first it was animal skins that lay on the floor of nomadic tents. Later, felt carpets were used as floor coverings and wall panelling, especially in Mongolian yurts. But felt carpets also have a long tradition in Anatolia. Felt from the Early Bronze Age (approx. 2600 BC) was found here as the oldest evidence of this technique to date. Nowadays, we use carpets in all areas of our homes. Carpets keep our feet warm, protect the floor, create a frame for certain areas in the room and even have a sound-absorbing effect. Carpets are an easy way to make our homes more personal and cosy. In this brochure you will find information about the production of our felt carpets and the typical characteristics of Hermitage Sykaminea carpets. We pursue a sustainable philosophy with the production of felt carpets. It is important to us to recycle the resource wool, which is traded as waste throughout Europe. In addition, we are revitalising a craft that is now almost completely extinct, bringing jobs to the rural region of Northern Lesvos and thus motivating young people to stay in the region.

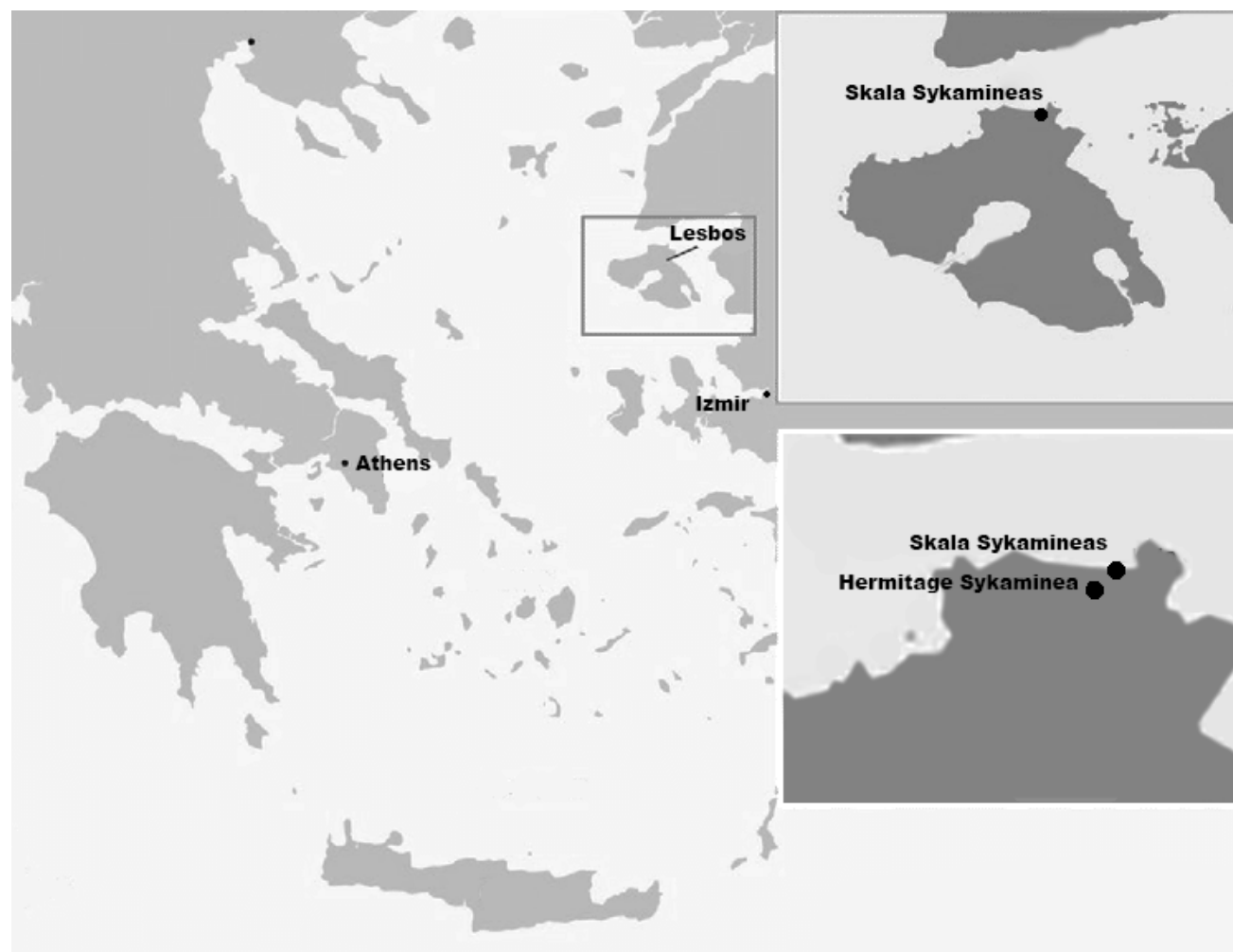
Areas for your home

Our carpets are not only suitable for the floor but are also beautiful to look at on the wall thanks to their motifs.



On the floor, the carpet's warm and cosy surface provides a pleasant surface that invites you to lie down directly on the floor.



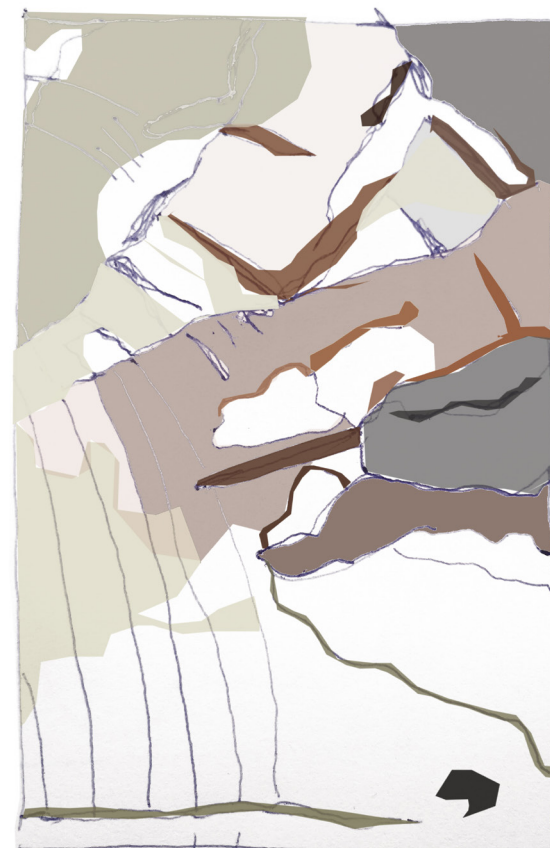
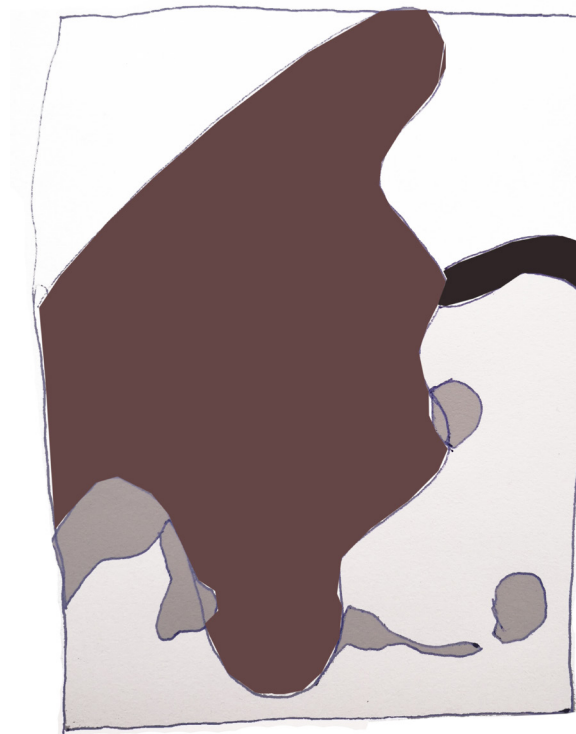


Wool from the island of Lesbos

The rural regions of the island of Lesbos are sparsely populated and the population lives primarily from sheep farming, fishing and olive growing. Most young people move to the city, so that many estates are no longer farmed and the villages are slowly dying out. There are around 300,000 sheep on Lesbos, but wool is traded as waste here, as in most regions of Europe, as it is not financially viable to process the resource. As a result, the tradition of wool processing has died out. We have set ourselves the goal of reviving this tradition.

Our design

The starting point for the designs of the rock carpet series are fossils found on the island. The majority of the drawings for the carpet motifs were created in the Petrified Forest in the west of the island, where fossilised tree trunks that are around 20 million years old can be found. The drawings in simplified, abstract form later served as the basis for the motifs of the carpets. We based the colour scheme on the natural colour of the sheep's hair - white, grey, brown and black. In this way, our carpets give an impression of Lesvos and bring it into your home.



Detailed view





We manufacture on request

The perfection of our carpets lies in the 'non-perfection' of the hand-made unique piece. Hermitage Sykaminea felt carpets combine the art of traditional felt processing with modern design made by artisans to create an innovative product from the island of Lesvos. Different individual patterns and colours or irregularities give the carpet its unique, natural character. Wet felting the unbound fleece with warm water and soap is the traditional, handcrafted processing of the wool. In combination with warm water and soap, the scales in the uppermost cuticle layer of the hair stand up. Simultaneous rolling causes the individual fibres to penetrate each other. The raised scales wedge into each other to such an extent that they can no longer be loosened. The workpiece shrinks considerably, resulting in a solid textile fabric. The final shape can be worked seamlessly from a single piece. As fulling felts are made from animal fibres, they are a natural product that is biodegradable. After shearing the sheep, the individual steps in processing the wool are divided into washing, plucking, carding and felting the wool. For the production of yarn carded wool is spun on a spinning wheel. It takes one person about three weeks to make a 100% ecologically processed carpet measuring 200cm x 140cm x 1cm from the rock carpet series.



Care

A felt carpet is durable and easy to care for. If it is vacuumed regularly and washed in cold water from time to time, it will look beautiful for years. To prevent moth infestation, we recommend spraying the carpet regularly with lavender. As with all carpets, we recommend professional help if the carpet is very dirty and needs to be cleaned or repaired. Specialised equipment is required to clean such a carpet properly.

Properties of felt

Elasticity: Felt is stretchy, pressure-elastic and resistant, so that hardly any creasing occurs. **Insulation:** On the one hand, felt is sound-absorbent and on the other, it insulates against heat and cold. **Absorbency:** Wool felt can absorb, store and release liquids. **Low flammability:** Wool felt is generally not flammable. Even when directly exposed to fire, the material will only char from approx. 320 °C.



Hermitage Sykaminea

The Hermitage Sykaminea is located in an olive grove on the slopes of Mount Lepetymnos in the north of the island of Lesvos. It was founded in 2016 as a place of retreat. It was restructured between 2020-22. It became a meeting place for crafts, architecture, design and art. Since then, the Hermitage has been combining design and craftsmanship and producing objects that impress with their naturalness.