

Métis Hooked Rugs

Like other Métis art, hooked rugs were usually made up of colourful flower designs, surrounded by rounded leaves and tendrils. The rugs were made from recycled clothing that was cut into thin strips. Then using a rug hooking tool, the strips were looped through a piece of burlap or jute, until all the holes were filled, eventually making the flower designed rug.

Three women, who were sisters, known for their rug hooking skills in the Qu'Appelle region are Florence Desjarlais, Agnes Paulis, and Adeline Pelletier dit Racette. Florence sewed commercially in the valley. She made wedding attires, sewed floral designs on dresses and purses, and sold her creations through craft stores. Agnes is remembered for sewing uniforms for the RCMP and the Salvation Army, and known for her high quality work. Adeline continues making hooked rugs and is renowned for her floral designs. Adeline's daughter Margaret Harrison is also known for her seamstress work.

Margaret learned the skill of rug hooking from her mother as part of her history, and is choosing to revive this artwork and teach it to young Métis women. She remembered her grand parents trading rugs with farmers for food, eggs, butter, and pork, and that family members would go to different areas to sell their rugs of all different sizes.

References:

Aen kroshay aen tapee avec mi gineey: Métis Hooked Rugs. (Video)
Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2002.